VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



Athletic competition at Virginia State University dates nearly to the day the school opened its doors over 125 years ago. When the first students arrived in 1883, one brought with him a football and the games were on.

In 1884, the athletic program was unofficially launched with the formation of football and baseball teams. In 1903, two faculty members, William A. Rogers and James T. Phillips, accepted the additional responsibilities of coaching VSU's first sports teams and the VSU Athletic Program was officially born.

Over time, the program grew. Track and tennis were added in 1920, and basketball was added in 1924. In 1923, VSU joined with other African-American institutions to form the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association (now the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association or CIAA).

Women's athletics began in 1931, although the formation of women's intercollegiate athletics wouldn't officially be recognized at VSU until the 1970s. In 1931, Lucille "Teacha" Frazier formed women's teams that competed in field hockey, soccer, basketball, softball, tennis, volleyball, archery and hiking. Trophies were awarded in each sport to the respective All-Stars at the end of the season.

Through the early years of the athletic program, VSU's teams were known as the "Hilltoppers," because of the campus location on the tallest hill in Ettrick. During the 1920s, however, the VSU sports teams adopted the now-familiar "Trojan" moniker.

From 1923 through the 1950s, the Trojans owned the CIAA, and the period became known as "The Golden Age of Trojan Athletics." Coaches such as Harry "Big Jeff" Jefferson and Tom Verrell captured many championships in football, baseball, basketball and track.

VSU produced such athletic luminaries as John Borican, once called "The Worlds Best All-Around Track Athlete,"



and Wilmer Fields, who became a star with the Homestead Grays of the Negro Baseball League. This year, the CIAA honored Borican and former Trojan athlete and long-time booster Jona McKee with induction into the conference Hall of Fame.

Women's athletics formally returned to VSU in 1977, with the formation of volleyball and basketball programs. VSU almost immediately became well-known for producing top-notch female student-athletes such as basketball start (and current U.S. Army Brigadier General) Sheila Baxter. Now, VSU boasts one of the CIAA's premier women's programs, winning this year's tennis championship and finishing as runner-up in both softball and track.

Another bright spot in Trojan athletics came in the form of the VSU cheerleaders, known as the Woo-Woos. Under the guidance of Dr. Paulette Johnson, the cheerleaders have gained national fame as the class of the CIAA cheer squads.

Now, with recent upgrades in athletics facilities, which in the past five years have included opening an on-campus softball field, a new tennis complex, a new playing floor in Daniel Gymnasium, a new football practice field and extensive renovation of Rogers Stadium, VSU's Trojans are poised for another Golden Era of athletic excellence.

This issue's From the Editor column is written by special contributor Jim Junot, VSU's Sports Information Director

Features

5 China Trip Showcases Engineering Talent **7**

Spring 2008 Commencement

12 Class of 58

16 Kappa Mentors Smooth the Ride 25 Museum and Cultural Center

Departments

4 *News from University Avenue*

18 Alumni Profile

12 Alumni News & Notes

23 Development News Virginia State University A Magazine for Alumni and Friends Volume 8, Issue 1 Summer 2008

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VSU Gains Approval for Ph.D Program; First of Its Kind in Virginia

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia recently approved Virginia State University's (VSU) request to launch the Commonwealth of Virginia's first Ph.D. program in Health Psychology. The program is slated to begin in Fall 2008 and will be led by Dr. Oliver W. Hill, Jr., chair of VSU's psychology department.

The venture marks the first-ever Ph.D. program at VSU, although the university has offered the Ed.D. in educational administration and supervision since 2002. VSU currently has a Master of Science Degree in Psychology.

"Health psychology is the fastest growing area in psychology and no one else seems to be offering this type of doctoral program," Dr. Hill said.

The Ph.D. program will consist of a clinical track that will propel students toward state licensure and a behavioral community health sciences research track. Students in the program will work closely with The Center for Preventive Health Research on Children and Adolescents (CPHR).

In the two-track Ph.D. program, doctoral students will focus on researching the interaction between physical and psychological health and will closely examine health disparities in minority communities. "Doctoral students will attempt to identify the source of those disparities and come up with interventions to help solve those problems," Dr. Hill said. "We want to help produce practitioners and prepare them to have a positive impact in this field."

The university plans to enroll eight students in its first class and triple the class size over the next several years. VSU will partner with community agencies and organizations such as the City of Petersburg, the Petersburg Department of Social Services, Southside Community Hospital and Central State Hospital to provide doctoral students with hands-on experience. "We are very excited," Dr. Hill said. "This is going to have such a positive impact on the university community."

VSU is hoping to draw research funding for its inaugural Ph.D. program from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NIH recently awarded VSU a \$4 million biomedical research grant to support an initiative aimed to reduce health disparities. The NSF awarded VSU a three-year, \$1 million grant aimed at increasing minorities in the sciences.

"This new Ph.D. program represents Virginia State University's mission to integrate the highest level of instruction, research and public service in an effort to positively impact our local, national and even global community," said VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. "We are extremely eager to bring new doctoral students aboard and continue our school's immense accomplishments."

The Ph.D program is part of VSU's 20/20 Vision Plan, a set of long-range goals aimed at placing VSU onto the list of top tier universities nationwide. Last year, U.S. News & World Report named VSU the top public, master's level HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in the country. This past year, VSU awarded doctorates in education to the university's first doctoral students and graduated the university's first nursing students. **#**

VSU Launches New Master's Degree Program in Fall; Will serve as a 'Golden Opportunity' for Students

Virginia State University will begin offering a new Master of Science degree in Plant Science in Fall 2008. The program will further the professional training of students in the field of agriculture through extensive coursework and research components.

The M.S. in Plant Science will encompass all aspects of plant life and

integrate concepts of information, from the molecular to the ecosystem level. The program will educate students in concepts and research methods in field and horticultural crops, soils and natural resources. Students will also have access to VSU's 416-acre Randolph Farm, which includes 130 acres of irrigated cropland; 18,500 square feet of



From left to right. Asheli Cherry, Gymama Slaughter, and Melodie Poarch.

China Trip Showcases Engineering Talent

Student engineers at Virginia State University are making their presence known around the world.

In May, students within VSU's Center for Biosystems and Engineering (CBE) traversed thousands of miles to Shanghai, China for the 10th World Conference on Biosensors where more than 800 professional engineers and researchers presented their works and ideas on biosensors.

A biosensor is a device that detects, records and transmits information about a biological process, such as blood pressure, of an individual or the physiological alteration or presence of various chemical or biological materials in the environment.

Asheli Cherry, from Atlanta, GA, and Melodie Poarch, from Prince George, VA, presented their project titled: An Impedimetric Biosensor Based on PC 12 Cells for the Monitoring of Exogenous Agents. The students research ways to use organism-based biosensors to detect chemical threats.

Continued on next page-

greenhouse and high tunnel facilities; and laboratories.

"The main thing is to open doors for the master's student," said Dr. Glenn Chappell II, coordinator of the new program and assistant professor of plant science in VSU's department of Agriculture and Human Ecology." The new master's program will add educational background to practical experience, and will increase students' worth in the field. It's a golden opportunity." Dr. Conrad Gilliam, professor and chair of the department of Agriculture and Human Ecology, said the new program will allow students to conduct research that could assist farmers in the Southside Virginia region who may have limited resources.

Dr. Gilliam said the program will al so prepare students to advance to a Ph.D program in Life Sciences and Agriculture that the university is currently designing. "We will eventually use this as a feeder to train students for the doctoral program that we will hopefully start in 2010," Dr. Gilliam said.

The new Master's degree is part of VSU's 20/20 Vision Plan, a set of long-range goals that will guide the university to the year 2020. **#**

China Trip, continued from previous page

Cherry and Poarch were the only undergraduates to present their work at the conference. And as a result, the students now have new international savvy on the latest science and technology themes and research projects.

Gymama Slaughter, director of VSU's Center for Biosystems and Engineering who initiated the program last year, led her students to Asia to expose them to international research and to help boost the presence of under-represented students – mainly young women and minorities – in the rapidly changing field of science and technology.

In addition to Cherry and Poarch, Slaughter works with four other undergraduate research associates: Jessica Brigance, Rochelle Harris, Nadine Jerome and Dwayne Waddey. Besides researching and developing technologies of integrated circuits, the team conducts in-vitro testing of enzyme and organism based biosensors.

The CBE is a research center in VSU's Department of Engineering & Technology which aims to nurture students' interest and performance in the area of biosensors.

The intended outcome: that students' work will have far-reaching exposure and impact around the world. \Re

Glover Lends Celebrity Support to Algebra Project

Award winning actor and activist Danny Glover recently visited VSU to discuss his involvement with the Algebra Project, a national mathematics literacy effort aimed at helping low-income and minority students achieve necessary mathematical skills.

The Algebra Project at VSU began as a part of a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF,) Virginia State University created the Trojan— Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program (VSU T-STEM), to increase the number of minorities in these disciplines.

Founded in the early 80s by Dr. Robert Moses, the Algebra Project has developed a system that has been extremely effective in teaching mathematics principles and reasoning to low-performing and low-income African-American students. The program also includes teacher training, curriculum development and community involvement activities to schools seeking to achieve a systemic change in mathematics education. The Algebra Project reaches approximately 10,000 students and 300 teachers per year in 28 local sites across 10 states.

At VSU, Glover spoke about his desire to help the city of Petersburg's students gain academic success and mathematics education reform. In one of his many visits to this area, he compared the Petersburg Public Schools system's resources with that of areas along the gulf affected by hurricane Katrina in 2005, and noted that both were in need of new system of support.

He stressed that it was time for a communal outreach of educators, including parents, teachers, school administrators and law makers who understand the importance of mathematics education in providing long-



President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. and his daughter Joanna with Danny Glover.

term economic success and stability. He agreed that programs like the Algebra Project and historically black universities, like VSU, are necessary to spark academic renewal in teachers, curricula and, most importantly, students.

Recently, VSU T-STEM implemented a focused program to directly assess and address the impact of a VSU/ Petersburg community coalition on the mathematics performance of minority students. The project is the first step in a long-term partnership among VSU, the Algebra Project and the Petersburg School system. The project will create a "K through college" model of intervention, ultimately increasing African-American and minority performance and participation in mathematics.

In conjunction with VSU, the Algebra Project has started an intervention with Petersburg, funded by the local Cameron Foundation, which will begin with middle school grades, and move through high school, and down into elementary schools. These interventions will be supplemented through teacher and community leader training and mathematics and science bridge programs for students that will be held at VSU during the summers.

Glover pledged to remain involved with the Algebra Project at VSU and congratulated professors, administrators, students and staff for their dedication to the Petersburg community and its students. \Re

spring 2008 Commencement

Actor and activist Edward James Olmos, fists pumping and voice raising to the high rafters of the Richmond Coliseum, invited those attending VSU's Spring Commencement to look down upon those assembled on the floor of the building and "look at the future. Look at the pride and commitment they've given all of us!"

Equal parts political stump speech and inspiration, Olmos, VSU's first Hispanic Commencement speaker, told the new graduates they are part of a political change in the air. "The responsibility you carry is making sure everyone you know votes," he said. "Do not go uncounted."

Olmos closed with a poem by Michael Josephson "What Will Matter." The poet wrote "how will the value of your



days be measured? Not by what you bought, but by what you built. Not by what you learned but what you taught. Not by how many you know, but how many will feel a loss when you're gone."

"Choose to live a life that matters," Olmos urged the newly-minted graduates.

In addition to conferring almost 600 degrees, including the school's first Master's of Criminal Justice, VSU honored several faculty members and alumni. These included: An Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Olmos; Alumnus of the Year to Dr. Porcher L. Taylor, Jr.; Faculty Emeritus to Mr. Barry Fox, Mrs. Yvette Robinson, Dr. Keshau Srivastava and Dr. Michael Sugg; and Distinguished Faculty Emeritus to Dr. Jean Cobbs.







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ATHLETICS

VSU MEN WIN CIAA ALL-SPORTS TROPHY

Virginia State University has been awarded the C.H. Williams All-Sports Trophy from the CIAA.

The C.H. Williams All-Sports Trophy salutes the successful overall men's sports program in the CIAA for 2007-08.

VSU won the men's titles in Cross-Country, Baseball, and Golf in 2007-08. The men's track and field finished third in the indoor championships and second in the outdoor championships.

Peggy Davis, the Director of Athletics at Virginia State University, has been named the CIAA Athletic Director of the Year, the CIAA announced on Tuesday in Durham, N.C.

This is the second consecutive year that Davis has won the award.

During this past season, Davis has been at the helm of a VSU sports program which won four CIAA championships (men's crosscountry, golf, women's tennis and baseball).

The men's sports programs were awarded the C.H. Williams AllSports Trophy for overall excellence.

Five VSU head coaches, Dr. Linda Person (women's tennis), Les Young (men's and women's crosscountry),

Torrie Lashley (softball), Jeff Hamilton (golf) and Merrill Morgan (baseball) were named CIAA Coaches of the Year. 発

EBONY HONORS AD PEGGY DAVIS

Ebony Magazine has honored VSU Athletic Director Peggy Davis in a "Salute to the Leading Women of the CIAA." She was selected for the honor in her role as a woman in athletic administration.



In 2007, the CIAA recognized Davis as Athletic Director of The Year. In her five years of leadership, VSU's athletic program has seen tremendous improvements in facilities, academic achievement and on-field success.

Davis is vice president of the CIAA Executive Committee and is a member of the CIAA Tournament Committee. She is also a member of the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators, National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. **#**



MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

Virginia State University's men's crosscountry team, fresh off their 2007 CIAA Championship, has been named Academic All-Americans by the United States Track & Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA).

The Trojans had a team grade point average of 3.01. A team GPA of 3.0 or higher is needed for a cross-country squad to be listed as All-Americans. \Re

BORICAN, MCKEE NAMED TO CIAA HALL OF FAME

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association selected two Virginia State University legends to be inducted into the John B. McLendon, Jr., Hall of Fame on Friday.

John Borican, who ran track for VSU, and Lt. Col. Jona McKee, who was President of the VSU Athletic Booster Club for 41 years, will be inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame on Friday, February 29, in Charlotte, N.C.

Borican, who will be inducted posthumously, was touted by Life Magazine as "America's Greatest Track and Field Athlete" in 1941. He held six world records at the time of his death in 1942. He was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Virginia State University Hall of Fame in 1980. Borican led VSU to three CIAA Championships in Track and Field (1936-38) and was captain of the 1938 CIAA Championship Football Team. In 1938, Borican was the only member of an HBCU to win an individual medal at the Penn Relays, taking the 400-meter hurdles in a time of 53.6 seconds. Borican was also an artist. Three portraits of VSU Presidents are currently on display in the Board Room of Virginia Hall on the VSU campus.

McKee was President of the VSU Athletic Booster Club for 41 years and also lettered in football and track for the Trojans. He was named to the All-CIAA Honorable Mention Team in 1950-51. McKee entered VSU in 1949



Jona McKee and Shirley Barron, niece of John Borican, with President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. at the CIAA Hall of Fame induction ceremony

and was on the 1952 CIAA and National Championship Football Team. He was inducted into the VSU Hall of Fame and the Virginia State College Military Hall of Fame. He has published numerous papers on youth unemployment and was awarded the Bronze Star, the World War II Victory Medal, FEDA-Korean ST, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Battle Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and has received a Presidential Unit Citation. **#**



MUJAHID EARNS ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

Virginia State University's Aishah Mujahid finished sixth in the women's triple jump at the NCAA Division II Track & Field Championships, held at Mankato, MN. Mujahid jumped a distance of 11.73 meters. The sixth-place finish also meant Mujahid earned All-American status for herself. **#**



ALUMNI NOTES



With Undaunted Leadership, VSU Class of '58 Sets Record

When **Calvin R. Swinson** called upon the Virginia State University

Calvin R. Swinson classmates who graduated with him in 1958, and they vividly remembered him although they hadn't talked in 50 years – he was overjoyed.

> His popularity at VSU had withstood five decades, and Swinson, now 72, was hoping that same popularity of being a Trojan football player; a Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. brother; and an academic scholar, would translate into major donations for the university.

> Swinson, CPA, who majored in accounting at VSU, served as lead coordinator of the class of 1958 Reunion Committee. The group contacted peers across the country and urged them to contribute to the class' endowment.

> "Hearing them respond to me as if it were only yesterday they had seen me was wonderful," says Swinson, who is married to Macey Prince Swinson and has a stepson and a step grandson. "Just hearing several of them talk about how I motivated them was great. There were times when I'd call people to talk for only a few minutes and it ended up lasting over an hour. It's all about personal relationships."

With Swinson's leadership, the persistence of his eight-member reunion committee that met for weekly updates every Wednesday since September, and the generosity of about 70 alumni of the class of '58, this year's Golden Anniversary class reached the university's goal of \$50,000 in less than one year.

In fact, the class exceeded its goal, presenting the university with a check for \$60,255 during Alumni Weekend in May. It's a feat that has set a precedent for other classes.

"We did it in nine months," Swinson proudly says."Most classes take years to raise that much. This shows a lot of hard work and commitment on the part of the committee. It was a great cooperative effort."

Swinson, often traveling between his home in San Francisco and another in Boise, Idaho, didn't mind the hours spent heading up committee meetings and connecting with former friends over the telephone. It was, after all, an effort to raise money for his alma mater.

"This winter has been very long and gloomy in Boise. So the days when it was gloomy outside, I was inside working on the class reunion. That really kept me going," Swinson says. "It has been one of the most pleasurable experiences in life, actually a dream job."

And that says a lot, coming from a licensed certified public accountant who was one of the first African Americans to work for a major accounting firm and several Fortune 500 companies before going into private practice in the '70s.

Before becoming a successful accountant, Swinson served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Finance Corps and received his master's degree in business administration from New York University's Stern School of Business.



Under his leadership, the committee got over half of the class to donate, with 48 members donating at least \$1,000. Swinson says several people who were not in the class of '58 also

contributed. Everyone contributing at least \$1,000 will have a brick with his or her name inscribed on it and placed around a bench donated by the class of '58.The class is still working on reeling in more donations, Swinson says.

Swinson says a commitment to developing future leaders was the driving force behind the contributions.

"Part of earning big money is giving," Swinson says. "Some of us don't have a history of giving, but we have to change that mentality, because if we don't give, no one wins. We have to take a leadership position and that's what I tried to do with this class reunion."

In addition to Swinson, the class of '58 Reunion Committee included: Aurelia E. Craighead, Joyce C. Crump, Phyllis J. Glasker, Fred D. Green, Edith P. Harris, Edna C. Thompson and Shirley T. McCoy.

From sending out emails and holding weekly telephone conference calls, committee members, who live on the East and West coasts and the Midwest, used today's technology to reunite with classmates.

"I think that's one of the most significant things about this process," Swinson says. "We did it totally the hitech way. We never met in person once throughout the process."

> However, despite the fact that technology has evolved since Swinson and his classmates studied at VSU, the class of '58 will always appreciate its old-school Trojan experience, he says.

"What brought us back together is the strong bond we developed over 50 years ago. It's a sense of history that could go overlooked,

but we choose to not let that happen," Swinson says. "We stand committed to continuing the sense of giving and history at Virginia State." 発 Lincoln University of Missouri recently honored **Dr. Thomas D. Pawley, III '39**

with the school's Drum Major Award. Dr. Pawley grew up on the VSU campus, where his father was a



professor of English. Dr. Pawley has won many awards for his plays and poetry. He has been honored by many universities and professional societies for his extensive contributions to the performing arts.

George C. Crawley '56 recently received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Crawley has dedicated his life to serving the city of Norfolk, and was eventually promoted to assistant city manager in 1982, a post he would hold for 14 years. After retiring, Crawley returned to public service in 1997 as assistant executive director for community building with Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Active in the community, Crawley is the founder, president and chairman of the board of The 200+ Men Inc., a regional organization of African American men who work to improve access to opportunities in education, economic development and community betterment.

Mrs. Marvis Atkins Hazel '59 has been nominated twice by students in Who's Who Among American High



School Students, The National Dean's List and The Chancellor's List as a teacher who has had a great

influence on their academic career. Mrs. Hazel's biography has been twice published by Who's Who Among American Teachers for these nominations. She is currently a parttime Title I Reading Teacher in Newport News, VA.

William P. Bobo, Jr. '63 was recently re-elected to a three-year term on the Huston-Tillotson University Board of Trustees. Bobo of Buffalo, NY was also re-appointed chair of the investment committee. Bobo, Managing Partner of Alteren, joined the board in 1993 and has guided the University's million dollar endowment funds through difficult periods of market growth. His involvement in a business incubator in the early 90s, work with Abbott Laboratories where he was employed, and his connection to Huston-Tillotson graduates sparked his interest in the University.

Ngoma (the artist formerly known

as Cordell Hill) '67 now living in Harlem, NY returned to Richmond to do a guest feature performance at the Richmond Poetry Slam event in May at Artspace Gallery Zero. Ngoma is a performance poet, multiinstrumentalist, singer/songwriter and paradigm shifter, who for over 40 years has used culture as a tool to raise sociopolitical and spiritual consciousness through work that encourages critical thought.

Deloris Gregory Jordan, '69 & '73 was recently promoted to Supervisor,

Leadership Development Specialist, in the newly created Leadership Development Directorate at the Defense Commissary Agency



(DeCA) on Fort Lee, VA. DeCA runs 280 commissaries (military grocery stores) worldwide. Before this appointment, Mrs. Jordan worked in DeCA as a human resources specialist in employee development. In her new role, Mrs. Jordan will assist in the set-up of this directorate. Additionally, she will supervise a staff of training specialists, who in turn, will train employees aspiring to become future managers and executives within DeCA.

Mrs. Jordan has served for several years as the secretary of the Greater Petersburg Area Alumni Association (GPAAA) of VSUAA. She is married to Starrie Jordan, a VSUAA board member.

Sharletta Richardson '70 was

honored by KPBS-TV in San Diego as a



Local Hero in Education during the station's 10th Anniversary celebration of Black History Month. Ms. Richardson spent

nearly 30 years as an educator at Gompers High School, where she led her students to a multitude of drill team, drumline and dance competition victories. Her students have credited her for nurturing their interest in music. With Gompers closed, Richardson now serves as choir director at Lincoln High School.

Celia Younger '70 was featured by the Asbury Park Press as part of the newspaper's Black History Month profiles. Ms. Younger has directed the Educational Opportunity Fund program at Georgian Court University since 1978. She is credited with making the EOF more academically rigorous and increasing community organizations' support. The EOF provides financial assistance and support services to educationally and economically disadvantaged students attending college in New Jersey.

Brenda Stith Finch '71, was recently honored with two awards in the technology arena. In July 2007, Brenda was recognized by Woman of Color magazine for her role in shaping telecom industry technology. In

ALUMNI NOTES

January 2008 she was selected as one of the country's most powerful black



executives in technology and business by the nation's premier black technology magazine, US Black Engineer & Information Technology.

Brenda is currently a Vice President in Global Enterprise Project Management for Verizon Communications.

The American Diabetes Association recently honored **William Allen, Jr. '78** and his wife Dr. Kim Allen for their work in support of the association and community. Mr. Allen, CEO of ALW Sourcing, a national collections and call center operation, serves on the Diabetes Association board and is active in numerous other civic organizations.

Orlando McDowell '78, who played men's tennis for Virginia State University from 1976-78, was inducted into the Delaware Afro-American Hall of Fame on Saturday in Dover, DE. McDowell was CIAA Northern Division men's tennis champion from 1976 to 1978 while at Virginia State and went on to win 66 USTA singles and doubles tournaments. He won two national ATA tournaments, in 1997 and 2002 and played with the team that won the USTA 4.5 national championship in 1995. McDowell also coached four teams that won USTA district titles from 1998 to 2007.

Stephanie Williams-Hayes '88 has been promoted to the Financial Policy Advisor to the President at VSU. In this capacity, Ms. Williams-Hayes responsibilities include generating executive level financial analysis, reports and financial reviews. Additional responsibilities include providing strategic planning and advising the President in the areas of policies and procedures that support the University's vision. Ms. Williams-Hayes had served as the Director of Strategic Management Services and Information Technology Audit Supervisor at VSU. She came to the University after serving 14 years in various key staff positions in the private and public sectors.

Portland F. Wilson '93 has been appointed to Senior Program Analyst within the Department of the Treasury in Hyattsville, MD. In this position, Portland serves as budget analyst and team leader for the annual Financial Report of the United States Government, one of the Treasury's main marketing publications. Before this position, Portland served as a Marketing Specialist at the U.S. Census Bureau where she was responsible for marketing the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal and the upcoming 2010 Census programs.

Jemel Cheatham '94 was recently promoted to Director of Internal Audit for the District of Columbia, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Government Services Cluster. He is now responsible for the audit function for the following agencies: District of Columbia Department's of Motor Vehicles, Public Works, Transportation and Environment.

Kenneth Wyatt '94 & '97 has been promoted to Senior Project Manager at Hussmann Corporation, Ingersoll Rand Division. As Senior Project Manager, Kenneth is responsible for enhancing the alignment of customer relationships and the effectiveness and implementation of processes with the business growth in the Eastern region. Kenneth was previously a Senior **Application Engineer in Ingersoll** Rand's East Region. He has also served as a Senior Design Engineer and has worked in the New Product Design group. Kenneth has been with the Hussmann Corporation since 2000 and has almost 10 years experience in the refrigeration industry.

Paul B. Nichols '95 celebrated 10 years with Bank of America in December 2007. He currently serves as Service and Sales Team Manager. He has also served as the Site Diversity Champion and Site Career Champion.

Nekisha Kee-Bakre '97 launched the Internet radio talk show Living Vivaciously with Nekisha-Michelle in

June. The weekly, 50-minute radio show features guest speakers and focuses on sharing inspirational stories, increasing self-esteem and guiding listeners



to success. It airs live each Thursday evening from 4-5pm PST, 6-7pm CST and 7-8pm EST. For more information, please visit

www.spajamaworks.com/radio.php.

Jamaal Claggion '98 recently graduated from Howard University, receiving a doctorate in Sociology: Criminology and Urban Sociology. Dr. Claggion's major at VSU was Sociology with a concentration in Administration of Justice.

Roy Tatem '98 is chairman of Hampton Roads for Obama Campaign. In his role, Tatem works with community organizations, churches and individuals to recruit volunteers.

Kim C. Brown '01 recently received the Federal Computer Week 2007 Rising Star Award from the Federal



Emergency Management Agency. In a short time, she automated a manual system of storing COTR records and developed a

collaborative platform for the COTR community using Microsoft's SharePoint software. Her work has had a ripple effect, which is manifested, her colleagues said, in greater feelings of cohesiveness within FEMA's COTR community. Brown leads the Federal Emergency Management Agency's COTR Oversight Program. She is responsible for assessing the work and effectiveness of more than 800 FEMA employees who work as COTRs for agency programs and procurements.

Dr. Jack Thomas, MA was recently

named Provost and Academic Vice President at Western Illinois University. Formerly, he was senior vice president for academic affairs at Middle Tennessee State University.



Mr. Robert Mills has written a history of Promise Land Elementary School in Amelia County, VA. In the book, Mills seeks to provide a "historical digest of



the students, teachers and resources, as well as the impact of a segregated public school system on the quality of education provided." 罪



Love on the Hill Part 2

One of the most popular features we've done in VSU Magazine was Love On The Hill, in Winter '05. We had so much positive response, we've decided, like all good love stories, to do a sequel! Did you find love on the hill? If so, please send us your love story. In 500 typed words or less, please tell us how you met your spouse? Your personal love story may be featured in the February 2009 issue of the VSU Magazine. Mail your story to VSU, Office of Alumni Relations, PO Box 9027, Petersburg, VA 23806 or submit electronically to alumni@vsu.edu. Pictures are welcome. All entries must be received by October 30, 2008. Featured alumni will be notified by December 15, 2008. For more information, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 804-524-6935.

Are you a former Miss VSU or Mr. Trojan/Mr. VSU?

If so, The VSU Office of Alumni Relations is looking for you! Please forward your contact information including name, address, phone number, and year you held the illustrious title. Information can be e-mailed to alumni@vsu.edu or mailed to VSU Office of Alumni Relations, PO Box 9027, Petersburg, VA 23806. For more information you may call 804-524-5973.

Congratulations to the newly elected 2008-2010 VSUAA Executive Board:

President, Charlyne E. Jackson-Fields '73, Fredericksburg, VA Vice President, Erenest E. Miller '70, Prince Edward County, VA Recording Secretary, Claudia Lundy '80 - Mecklenburg/Brunswick, VA Corresponding Secretary, Starrie Jordan '81 - Greater Petersburg Area Treasurer, Yvette G. Robinson '72 - Agriculture Financial Secretary, Rachel Hamilton '65 - Dinwiddie County, VA Chaplain, Doris McCray '66 – Columbia, Maryland Parliamentarian, Valerie Jones '70 - VSU Deltas For information regarding membership please contact the newly

elected Membership Chair, Emmett Smith '76, Richmond, VA at emetblue@aol.com or 804-383-3289.

ALUMNI NEWS

At the outset of Col. William Bailey's career as a pilot in the Army's aviation unit in the early 60s, not many

African-Americans were flying in the military, let alone for commercial airlines.

Despite an environment steeped in racism and Jim Crow, Bailey was determined to fly.

Bailey's passion was kindled after one of his older brothers purchased a plane. Resolved to blaze a path few blacks had trod, he served a stint as a pilot in the U.S. Army and later transitioned his aviation skills into a civil career with Continental Airlines. He retired as a Boeing 747 Captain.

Although he'd heard of the Tuskegee Airmen — African-American pilots who flew with distinction during World War II — Bailey, a Virginia State University alumnus and member of the Alpha Phi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., navigated his own way through the maze of what was then a discriminatory industry.

Kappa Mentors Smooth the Ríde between the older and younger generations in hopes of opening doors for minority college students. Studies show that a positive mentoring relationship has a multifaceted impact on the lives of younger people.

The Kappa mentoring program grew out of a Friday night brainstorming session of Kappa alumni during VSU's 2007 Homecoming. The men, all successful in respective careers, debated how they could give back to their alma mater, says Dr. Harold T. Amaker, a VSU Kappa alumnus who is leading the mentoring program.

Their conclusion: become mentors to their young



Col. (ret.) William Bailey (L) and Dr. Harold T. Amaker

He is now one of several mentors in VSU's new Alpha Phi Chapter Alumni of Kappa Alpha Psi Mentoring Program who are reaching out to pull up younger Kappa brothers so they won't have to climb the ladder of success alone.

The program, in its first year, pairs Kappa alumni in various professions with undergraduate Kappa men at VSU to create both professional and personal bonds fraternity brothers who may not be privy to the realities of "the real world."

"There are things going on that they would have no clue about," says Amaker, director of community relations at BMW, who has worked for over 40 years in strategic planning, program design and management and training development within the luxury automotive industry. Before joining BMW, Amaker spent nearly 19 years as a sales consultant with Mercedes-Benz, North America. "We're trying to put a stop to that and help our underage brothers get through that maze of humanity."

Amaker, who serves as dean of the Amaker Sales Institute, says that while most large companies place perceived future leaders on a "fast track" to the top and pair them with powerful mentors, a disparity exists between the tracks taken by whites and blacks.

Citing a study by researcher David A. Thomas, Amaker says the fast track for selected white employees begins early, whereas it may take years for minorities to prove themselves worthy.

"We see so many times, that when kids in other schools get to companies, they hit the ground running," he says. "There's somebody in those companies that take a special interest in them and, of course, they tend to get the better jobs because they had a mentor. We want to give our brothers the same opportunity."

The goal of the mentoring program, Amaker says, is to help younger Kappa brothers focus on building skills and developing careers and self-awareness that will promote growth beyond perceived limitations. "This is a work that I want to see fulfilled by all Kappas," he says.

Building a network of professional support for younger students is crucial to the mentoring process, Amaker says. It also keeps minorities who ultimately succeed from giving up too soon.

Amaker says the mentoring program will provide support in five ways: open doors to challenging assignments to build competence; build trust between the mentor and protégé that can, in turn, enhance selfconfidence; offer quality advice to keep the protégé on the right track; sponsor the protégé for important career opportunities; and support the protégé when he is faced with challenges based on race, gender or ethnicity.

Bailey has already developed a plan for his protégé: network, network, and more networking. That includes connecting his protégé, Isreal Dyson, a rising senior in VSU's ROTC program, with fellow members of The Organization of Black Airline Pilots. The program offers scholarships and programs for young, aspiring aviators.

Dyson, whose goal is to become an aviation officer, says Bailey is keeping him on track by connecting him with military and commercial pilots and giving him insight into the field. He says he hopes other students take advantage of the program.

"There are many things today that can lead younger people astray," Dyson says. "It's great to have someone there that can encourage you and teach you from their experiences."

Bailey is introducing his Dyson to pilots who fly domestic and international routes to provide a diverse look into the industry. His goal is to create a network of support to guide his protégé along a successful career path.

"We want to give back to VSU students," Bailey says. "It was initially tough for us to get into the aviation industry. It still is, but back in the early '60s it was very, very tough. It's an industry that's lucrative and the benefits are massive. I never want a child to look up in the sky, see an airplane and think they can never get there." **#**

The Alpha Phi Chapter Alumni is planning a fundraising dinner at VSU on Oct. 24 honoring VSU alumni and Kappa brothers Dr. Billy Taylor, a renowned international jazz musician; and the late Reginald F. Lewis, one of the country's most successful business leaders.

Money from the event will go toward the Kappa Alpha Psi Endowed Scholarship and a Kappa mentoring internship program.

To become a part of the Alpha Phi Chapter Alumni of Kappa Alpha Psi Mentoring Program, contact Dr. Harold T. Amaker at hamaker@verizon.net.

ALUMNI NEWS

VSU Alumnus of the Year:

Education has always driven Dr. Porcher L.Taylor, Jr.

It's what inspired him to become one of the first Africans Americans to obtain a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in 1972.

It's what led the Navy and Army veteran to become one of the first African Americans promoted to full colonel at Fort Jackson, SC.

And it's what guides his efforts today as a community activist; challenging youth to pursue their education and paying forward his dues through donations to Virginia State University scholarships and endowments.

This commitment to knowledge and alma mater garnered Taylor VSU's 2008 Alumnus of the Year honor. Taylor was presented with the award during VSU's Alumni Weekend.

"It's great to receive such a wonderful award. Virginia State is a great university and it's on the move," says Taylor, who served in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Taylor is a retired Tuskegee Airman, one of the country's first black military pilots during World War II.

Taylor has chronicled his experience of being black in the U.S. military in a published autobiography called Damn the Alligators; Full Speed Ahead. And at 83, Taylor still believes in the power of education. Just as African Americans who served in these three wars helped tear down racial strongholds, so can today's youth, through education, he says.

'Education Will Set You Free'



Erenest Miller '70, VSUAA Board Member & Awards Chair (r) presents the Alumnus of The Year Award to Dr. P.T. Taylor

"Whenever students can achieve education, I'm all for it," Taylor says. "Education will set you free."

Taylor, who lives in Petersburg with his wife, Ann, also a Virginia State University alum, served as vice president for student affairs at VSU and as director of counseling after teaching military science and tactics at the university. After earning his bachelor's degree from what was then the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, AL, he received his master's degree in counseling from VSU in 1961.

Taylor is also a past recipient of VSU's "Friend of the University" award and has been named to the VSU Wall of Fame and the VSU ROTC Hall of Fame.

> While he enjoys spending time with his family and listening to jazz, Taylor is often engaged in community and religious causes, including Petersburg's annual Downtown Churches United Walk Against Hunger, which he has chaired for decades.

> At VSU, Taylor's commitment to education is reflected in the establishment of the Porcher L. Taylor, Jr. VSU Endowment Fund and his contributions to various campus organizations, including: the VSU President's Club; the Col. Robert Hendricks VSU Scholarship Fund; the VSU Military Alumni Association; the VSU Boosters Club; and VSU's Alpha Phi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Scholarship Fund.

He has been recognized for community and military contributions with several top honors, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal. He also received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, an honor shared by former President Gerald Ford and astronaut Neil Armstrong.

Photos that adorn Taylor's home show him rubbing shoulders with President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld during recognition ceremonies for his military endeavors. His home is decorated with military paraphernalia that include photos of him with fellow Tuskegee Airmen and the various uniforms he wore while serving in three wars.

One of Taylor's most memorable moments was when Secretary of State Colin Powell, one of Taylor's heroes, stated that Taylor was one of his own inspirations. "You have lived a full, successful and inspirational life," Powell wrote in a letter to Taylor. It continues: "I will always remember our time together... You were an early role model for me. With best wishes to you, Ann and the family."

Another of Taylor's heroes is his father, the late Porcher L. Taylor, Sr., a civil rights leader and newspaper editor. The way Taylor pressed his four daughters and son toward education is the way his father pushed him. Today, Taylor's son is an associate professor of law at University of Richmond. His daughters have careers at places such as the Federal Reserve Bank and Fannie Mae, Taylor says.

"My parents guided me toward this path of education and it's kept me straight for all these years," Taylor says. "I want to do the same for today's generation."

Mr. Charles L. Tompkins

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy Becomes the 11TH President of the Northern Virginia Chapter

Charles L. Tompkins has been elected President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the VSU Alumni Association. Tompkins is President of C. Tompkins & Associates, LLC, a Management Consulting Company. He also serves on the Chief of Naval **Operations Diversity Senior** Advisory Group (DSAG). He is a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, a member of Beta Nu Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and is an active member of the **Beta Nu Boule Education** Foundation.

In his former position as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Personnel Programs), Tompkins was directly involved in the creation and implementation of programs for over one million people in the Department of the Navy, which included the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps regular and reserve components and their family members. A brief summary of his accomplishments and achievements are as follows: Tompkins was sworn in as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (DASN) for Personnel Programs on March 6, 1995. He had oversight responsibility for a variety of Department of Navy issues,



including: Character, Ethics, and Leadership Development; Minority Representation; Diversity and Gender Integration; Women's Programs; Drug Abuse Prevention; Alcohol De-glamorization, and Equal Opportunity. He has more than 40 years of increasingly responsible management and leadership experience in a variety of executive, administrative, operational, education and training positions.

Mr. Tompkins is a native Virginian and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia State University. He completed the National War College in 1989 and the Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 1994.

Tompkins is married to the former Esther Carita Daugherty of Tarrytown, NY. They currently reside in Alexandria, VA. They have two adult daughters, Ms. Carolyn Tompkins of Alexandria, VA and Ms. Cherylyn Tompkins of New Orleans. ૠ

ALUMNI CHAPTER AND CLASS GIFTS

CLASS YEAR	NEW GIFTS 07/01/07 thru 5/30/08	ENDOWMENT STATUS (Original) 6/30/07	NEW TOTAL
1937	-	\$2,337.22	\$ 2,337.22
1938	-	-	-
1939	-	\$1,460.00	\$1,460.00
1940	-	\$7,360.00	\$7,360.00
1941	-	\$8,650.00	\$8,650.00
1942	-	\$7,845.00	\$7,845.00
1943	\$6,275.00	\$8,760.00	\$15,035.00
1945	\$500.00	\$16,380.00	\$16,880.00
1946	-	\$12,025.00	\$12,025.00
1947	\$150.00	\$32,044.00	\$32,194.00
1948	\$27,980.00	\$35,702.40	\$63,682.40
1949	\$600.00	\$42,740.00	\$43,340.00
1950	-	\$23,437.50	\$23,437.50
1951	\$2,000.00	\$68,230.35	\$70,230.35
1952	\$2,673.32	\$70,425.00	\$73,098.32
1953	12,500.00	\$10,600.00	\$23,100.00
1954	-	\$38,850.00	\$38,850.00
1955	\$5,950.00	\$69,460.00	\$75,410.00
1956	\$3,200.00	\$226,507.09	\$229,707.09
1957	\$7,625.00	\$111,625.00	\$119,250.00
1958	\$58,412.41	\$2,342.59	\$60,755.00
1959	\$4,300.00	\$29,100.00	\$33,400.00
1960	-	\$7,802.84	\$7,802.84
1961	\$1,425.00	\$33,251.80	\$34,676.80
1962	\$3,050.00	\$50,515.34	\$53,565.34
1963	\$21,901.85	\$4,676.32	\$26,578.17
1964	-	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
1965	\$1,800.00	\$36,998.59	\$38,798.59
1966	\$700.00	\$29,489.35	\$30,189.35
1967	\$640.00	\$11,100.00	\$11,740.00
1968	\$40,935.00	\$5,035.50	\$45,970.50
1970	\$151.00	\$8,057.50	\$8,208.50
1971	-	\$7,530.00	\$7,530.00
1972	-	\$5,375.00	\$5,375.00
1973	\$5,575.00	-	\$5,575.00
1975	\$3,000.00	\$10,150.00	\$13,150.00
1976	-	\$8,175.00	\$8,175.00
1977	\$1,500.00	\$6,652.54	\$8,152.54
1978	\$6,800.00	-	\$6,800.00
1980	-	\$2,140.00	\$2,140.00
1981	-	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00

CLASS YEAR	NEW GIFTS 07/01/07 thru 5/30/08	ENDOWMENT STATU: (Original) 6/30/07	S NEW TOTAL
1982	\$1,900.00	\$9,037.50	\$10,937.50
1983	\$1,150.00	-	\$1,150.00
1986	-	-	-
1987	-	-	-
1988	\$175.00	-	\$175.00
1991	-	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
1992	-	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
1993	\$600.00	-	\$600.00
1996	-	\$575.00	\$575.00
1997	-	\$375.00	\$375.00
1998	\$350.00	-	\$350.00
2000	-	\$225.00	\$225.00
2001	-	\$550.00	\$550.00
2002	-	-	-
2003	\$25.00	-	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$223,843.58	\$1,070,193.43	\$1,294,037.01

CHAPTER	NEW GIFTS 07/01/07 thru 5/30/08	ENDOWMENT STATUS (original)	NEW TOTAL
Agriculture Alumni	\$3,735.00	\$102,775.00	\$106,510.00
VSU Alphas	\$2,620.00	\$11,255.00	\$13,875.00
Baltimore Metro	\$2,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$16,000.00
Chicago Area	\$1,000.00	\$21,250.00	\$22,250.00
Columbia, MD	\$4,000.00	\$5,369.00	\$9,369.00
Military Robert Hendrick	\$4,750.00	\$78,520.00	\$83,270.00
Greater New York	\$5,000.00	\$16,290.61	\$21,290.61
Peninsula Chapter	\$7,050.00	\$14,461.00	\$21,511.00
Greater Petersburg Area	\$2,500.00	\$52,500.00	\$55,000.00
Philadelphia		\$11,450.00	\$11,450.00
Northern VA Area	\$10,000.00	\$44,250.00	\$54,250.00
Richmond	\$4,100.00	\$31,301.83	\$35,401.83
Tidewater Area	\$5,430.00	\$76,135.00	\$81,565.00
Washington DC-Metro	\$4,000.00	\$39,500.00	\$43,500.00
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity,I Alpha Phi Chapter	nc \$22,850.00	\$0.00	\$22,850.00
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, In Nu Psi Chapter	c \$21,451.00	\$0.00	\$21,451.00
Total	\$100,986.00	\$518,557.44	\$619,543.44

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

ALUMNI PASSINGS

Deceased Alumni August 2007

Name	Graduation Date	Hometown
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Wilson James Allen, III	1954	Newark, NJ
Artie Gwaltney Bell	1934	Washington, DC
Anita H. Baker	1937	Ettrick, VA
Beatrice A. Beckham	N/A	Monroe, NC
James Elwood Beveridge	N/A	Hampton, VA
Lillian Hill Brown	1955	Waterbury, CT
Marie J. Brown	N/A	Centreville, VA
Linwood Byrd Jr.	N/A	Richmond , VA
Marguerite Christian	1943	Chester, VA
Eldrige E. Crocker, Sr	N/A	Franklin, VA
Col. Ret. Milton Earl Demory	N/A	Olathe, KS
Carolyn Edwards	N/A	Madison, NJ
Shirley A. Fields	1958	Temple Hills, MD
Blanche A. Foreman	1967	Chesapeake, VA
George Franklin	1962	Roanoke, VA
Joy Taylor Gilliam	former faculty	Hopewell, VA
Eva Mae Green	1999	Jersey City, NJ
Mary Gwendolyn Hale	N/A	West Haven, CT
James Hamler	1994	Chester, VA
William "Bill" T. Harris	1942	Richmond, VA
Theodore William Johnson	N/A	Atlantic Shores, V
William Percell Johnson, Jr.	1948	Roanoke, VA
Brian D. Jones	1994	Petersburg, VA
Crenshaw Jones	N/A	Ettrick, VA
John Edward Jones	1949	Suffolk, VA
Mary Ellen Jones	1948	Williamsburg, VA
Virous Jones	1958	Petersburg, VA
Nyasha Keels	1999	Brooklyn, NY
, Herman Cornelius Kelly, Sr.	2007	Petersburg, VA
Helen Audrey King	N/A	Plainfield, NJ
Reginald W. Lewis	1997	Bladensburg, MD
Eunice Odom Lipscomb	N/A	Newport News, V
Elmer T. Myers	1948	Cambridge, MD
Lucille Osborne	N/A	Newport News, V
Muriel Rose Logan Potts	N/A	New Orleans, LA
Lendia B. Richardson	N/A	Brooklyn, NY
June Rose McCown Robinson	1961	Richmond, VA
Joyce Taylor Salley	1954	Richmond, VA
James A. Smith, Sr	1955	Louisa, VA
Gwendolyn Tose'-Rigell	N/A	Williamsburg, VA
Aretha Vinson	2007	Portsmouth, VA
Robert Charles Wagner	N/A	Killeen, TX
Olivia T. Willis	N/A	Norfolk, VA
Bryant N. Wyatt	former faculty	Suffolk, VA
Diyall N. Wyall	ionner faculty	SUTOR, VA

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

VSU HONORS DONORS OF THE YEAR



(L to R): Joy Haliburton, VSU Associate VP for Development; Ann Taylor, Chairwoman, Cameron Foundation; VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.



(L to R): Rodney Butler, VSU Director of Corporate and Government Relations; Julian Marsh, Executive Director, Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority; VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.

Categories and recipients were: Alumni, Anthony Spence '91 of Miramar, FL; Civic Organization, Petersburg Breakfast Rotary, Lawrence Heyd, President, accepting; Religious Organization, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Petersburg, Deacon Charles Cone accepting; Government, Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Executive Director Julian Marsh accepting; Foundation, The Cameron Foundation, Petersburg, Chairwoman Ann Taylor accepting; Corporate, ITT Industries; Faculty/Staff, Ms. Clementine Cone, VSU Vice President for Administration and Finance; and Board of Visitors, Spencer L. Timm of West Chesterfield, MA.



(L to R): Ms. Clementine Cone, VSU Vice President for Administration and Finance; Deacon Charles Cone, Tabernacle Baptist Church; VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.



(L to R): Dr. Weldon Hill, Dean of VSU School of Liberal Arts and Education; Lawrence Heyd, President, Petersburg Breakfast Rotary; VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.



(L to R) VSU Chief of Staff Cortez Dial, Faculty/Staff Recipient Ms. Clementine Cone, VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



The eight students in Cohort IV of VSU's Doctor of Educational Administration and Supervision have pledged to join the President's Club, by contributing at least \$1,000 to VSU's Annual Fund. The students, with VP for Development Robert L. Turner, Jr. are (L - R): John Blackwell, Wendy Lyle-Jones, Joanne Murillo, Diane Harley, Marvin Johnstone, Linda Ampy, Cortez Dial, Dr. Turner (not shown Candace Benn)



H. Michael Ligon, Vice President, The Universal Leaf Foundation, receives a replica plaque from VP for Development Robert L. Turner, Jr. in honor of their donation of \$100,000 to VSU's engineering program.

New Endowments in 07/08

Michael Arthur Clarke Endowed Fund Dr. Vasti DeLoatch Endowed Scholarship Fund Dr. Everette L. & Ruth W. Duke Endowed Scholarship Helen V. Games/VSUAA Endowed Scholarship Fund Clinton W. Green Endowed Scholarship Fund Dr. Albert L. Guy Endowed Scholarship Fund **Renny Bush Humphrey Endowed Scholarship** Almar I. Jones Endowed Scholarship Fund Delores H. & Frankie Jones Endowed Scholarship Fund Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Phi Chapter, Alumni Endowment Fund Maureen Denlea Massey Endowed Scholarship Thomas R. Mayfield & Harriett Mayfield Paige Endowed Scholarship Fund Elis Olsson Endowed Scholarship Fund Petersburg Breakfast Rotary Club Endowment Scholarship Fund School of Agriculture Endowed Chair School of Engineering, Science & Technology

Endowed Chair

School of Liberal Arts and Education Endowed Chair

VSU Heritage Endowment Scholarship Fund

Virginia State University encourages our family and friends to direct their investment in VSU through the establishment of an endowment at VSU or in the VSU Foundation. Endowments provide continuous support of the University, into perpetuity.

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

Endowments at Virginia State University help us aim higher to achieve our educational mission more effectively. As well, VSU receives a dollar-for-dollar match from the Department of Education, Title III Endowment Challenge Program on any new dollars contributed to endowments.

Administrative Fee

The Board of Visitors passed a resolution at their January 16, 2004 meeting to authorize the application and collection of Administrative Fees on locally held University funds, as well as a one time set up fee applied to gifts to endowment effective January 1, 2003. The annual administrative fee consists of 1% of the total fund balance of locally held accounts, including endowments. The one time set up fee for gifts that establish or add to an endowment is 2.5% for such gifts received in fiscal year 2004, and 1% for such gifts received thereafter, and collected at the close of the first twelve months following receipt of the gift. All fees are collected prior to distribution of earnings.

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

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY 2006-2007 LEGACY AWARD

Presented in gratitude to Treasured Alumna **Dr. Daryl Cumber Dance, '57** January 23, 2008

Presented in gratitude to Treasured Alumnus **Dr. George M. Hampton, '67** January 23, 2008

Presented in gratitude to Invaluable Partner **Chesterfield County** January 23, 2008

Mr. Ivor Massey, Jr.

of Richmond, VA has pledged \$100,000 to Virginia State University to establish an endowed scholarship in his wife's name.

The Maureen Denlea Massey Endowed Scholarship will go to a student graduating from a Richmond city public school who chooses to attend VSU. The student can enroll in any academic discipline, but must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The scholarship is renewable annually as long as the recipient maintains at least a 3.0 GPA.

The Masseys have a long history of philanthropy in the Richmond area and throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Massey, an investor and businessman, has served as president of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and on the board of the Virginia Capitol Foundation., a group that assisted in the recently completed restoration and preservation of the state Capitol. ૠ

The Virginia State University Museum and Cultural Center (VSU-MACC)

The past few years have yielded unparalleled growth at Virginia State. We are filled with pride over the remarkable U.S. News & World Report rankings, the new and renovated facilities sprouting throughout the campus and new academic programs that are being launched.

Yet another exciting project looms just over the horizon. VSU is preparing to open its first museum of fine arts, culture and history. Tentatively slated to be called the Virginia State University Museum and Cultural Center (VSU-MACC), this pre-eminent museum will be an integral part of a larger undertaking for the city of Petersburg – the creation of a regional arts/cultural hub of national caliber.

VSU is partnering with the Petersburg Area Art League (PAAL). PAAL owns a large historic building in Old Towne, and has agreed to share part of this facility with VSU, to provide a home for the University's new museum. In turn, VSU is helping PAAL raise the funds needed to renovate its building. This unique collaboration is a wonderful example of public/private partnership. This collaboration has been dubbed "Art in Petersburg: A Dual Initiative for PAAL and VSU."

None of this would be possible without generous support from the Petersburg-based Cameron Foundation. The Cameron Foundation demonstrated confidence in the project by approving a \$1.5 million grant toward the PAAL/VSU regional arts center. The entire cost for the construction and rehabilitation for the building is projected to be approximately \$2.3 million. With programs for both VSU students and the public, the two-year cost for the project is nearly \$3 million. Cameron has made half of the grant, \$750,000 a challenge/matching grant, in order to entice other funding sources to share in the vision. Recently, the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation committed \$150,000 toward the renovation of PAAL's building.

VSU-MACC is scheduled to open in January, 2009 with a world-class traveling exhibit – "The Art of Africa" – a collection of Warren Robbins, director emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art. This is a very prestigious exhibit, offered to a handful of HBCUs nationwide.

Other traveling exhibits are in store. Highlights of museum programs that are being planned for the first year include: 1) permanent and loaned collections on exhibit that represent the spectrum of African/African American art; 2) a master series with exhibits and lectures from nationally recognized African American artists; 3) a regional conference to bring artists and the art business industry to the region; 4) a docent program that will teach local volunteers to provide tours to museum visitors; 5) outreach and hands-on education for area school children; 6) a community mural project, n collaboration with PAAL.

The heart of VSU-MACC is to help the School of Liberal Arts and Education broaden the horizons of its students by expanding educational opportunities. The museum will allow the University to create internships and scholarly research opportunities; diversify art history courses; provide exhibit space for the work of students, faculty and distinguished alumni; and draw nationally-respected artists to lecture and conduct hands-on demonstrations in their craft.

To complete VSU's dream of a museum that carries the highest standard of excellence, more funds must be raised. If you are interested in contributing to this wonderful effort, please contact Joy Haliburton, Assistant Vice President for Development, at (804) 524-6986. **#**

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Turn a Fringe Benefit Into a No-Cost Life Insurance Gift

Many people receive life insurance from their employers as a fringe benefit. But, for insurance in excess of \$50,000, tax law requires employees to pay income tax and FICA on the cost of that coverage.

However, when the employee names Virginia State University as the sole beneficiary of any portion of the policy, there is no income tax due on the cost for that coverage. For those who do not need the excess protection, this is an excellent gift-planning option. This plan simultaneously lowers the employee's income tax and employer's income tax with no out-of-pocket expense for the donor.

How much is saved? Your potential income tax savings are based on a table of uniform premium rates and your income bracket. For example, consider a 62-year-old employee – with \$125,000 of coverage provided by the employer – who directs \$75,000 or more of the death benefit to Virginia State University. This employee/donor will no longer pay income and FICA tax on \$1,052 of extra annual income.

Life insurance benefits are easy to contribute. All that is required is that you indicate the change of beneficiary

on a form available from your employee benefits or personnel department. You will also want to contact your payroll office so it can deduct the cost of the excess coverage insurance gift from your IRS Form W-2 at the end of the year.

Other forms of life insurance gifts can also benefit Virginia State University while reducing your income tax liability. You may consider contributing a paid-up policy, for which you can receive a charitable deduction for an amount roughly equal to the cash value of the policy. Or you may contribute a policy even though you are still making premium payments. In many cases you could then take a charitable deduction for your premium payments.

Donors are advised to consult their legal and financial advisors before claiming an income tax deduction.

For more information, provided in confidence and without obligation, contact our Major and Planned Gifts Officer, Keyia Matthews '00 at (804) 524-5315 or by email *smatthews@vsu.edu*. While you will still need to meet with your professional advisor for expert counsel, an advance meeting or two with Keyia will prove useful and could

Powell Society

The Powell Society recognizes those individuals who have made provisions for Virginia State University with a will, life insurance policy or other planned gift arrangement. The VSU Board of Visitors approved the naming of a legacy society in honor of Dr. Clilan B. Powell (CY 1913) and his wife, Lena Dukes Powell on August 3, 2001. Together the Powell's bequeathed more than \$1 million to Virginia State. We are most appreciative of the abundant generosity, forethought, and affection for Virginia State that is clearly demonstrated through planned gifts.

If have already included Virginia State University in your estate plan,

save costs by helping you make the best use of your professional advisor's time. Her services are available to you without any obligation whatsoever.

We hope you'll be able to join us for a **FREE ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2008**. Contact Keyia Matthews for more information.

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

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34

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