



the College of Business

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This newsletter is dedicated to the newest student organization, i.e. Real Estate Club at Virginia State University.

**GREATERS!**

*"Peer-to-peer learning is invaluable, and that's why student organizations like the Real Estate Club play such an important role at VSU. They help students explore career interests, build networks, and grow together outside the classroom."*

*Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President*

*"The Real Estate Club at Virginia State University represents a bold and timely addition to the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. By connecting students with industry insight, investment knowledge, and professional networks, the club strengthens our commitment to practical, forward-thinking education. We are especially proud of the club's student leadership, including its president, Devin Darling, whose initiative and vision exemplify the entrepreneurial excellence we strive to cultivate. It's an exciting step in preparing our students to lead in a competitive and evolving marketplace, in the true spirit of GREATERS."*

*Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost*

*"The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business prioritizes student success, active learning and student academic organizations."*

*Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean*

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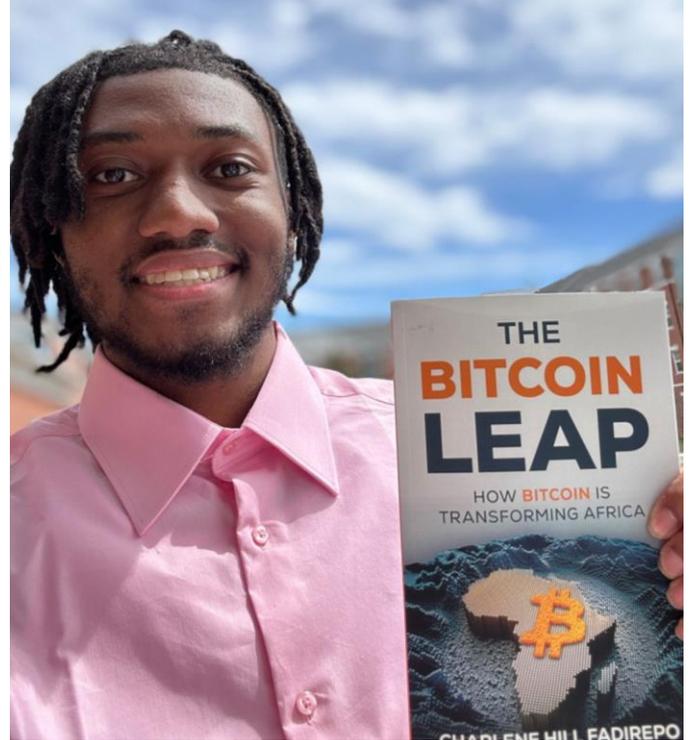
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## 2025: THE SPRING SEMESTER IN PICTURES



Aniya Omopariola and Shelby Moore visit the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.



Mekhi Johnson attended the College's Leadership Retreat.



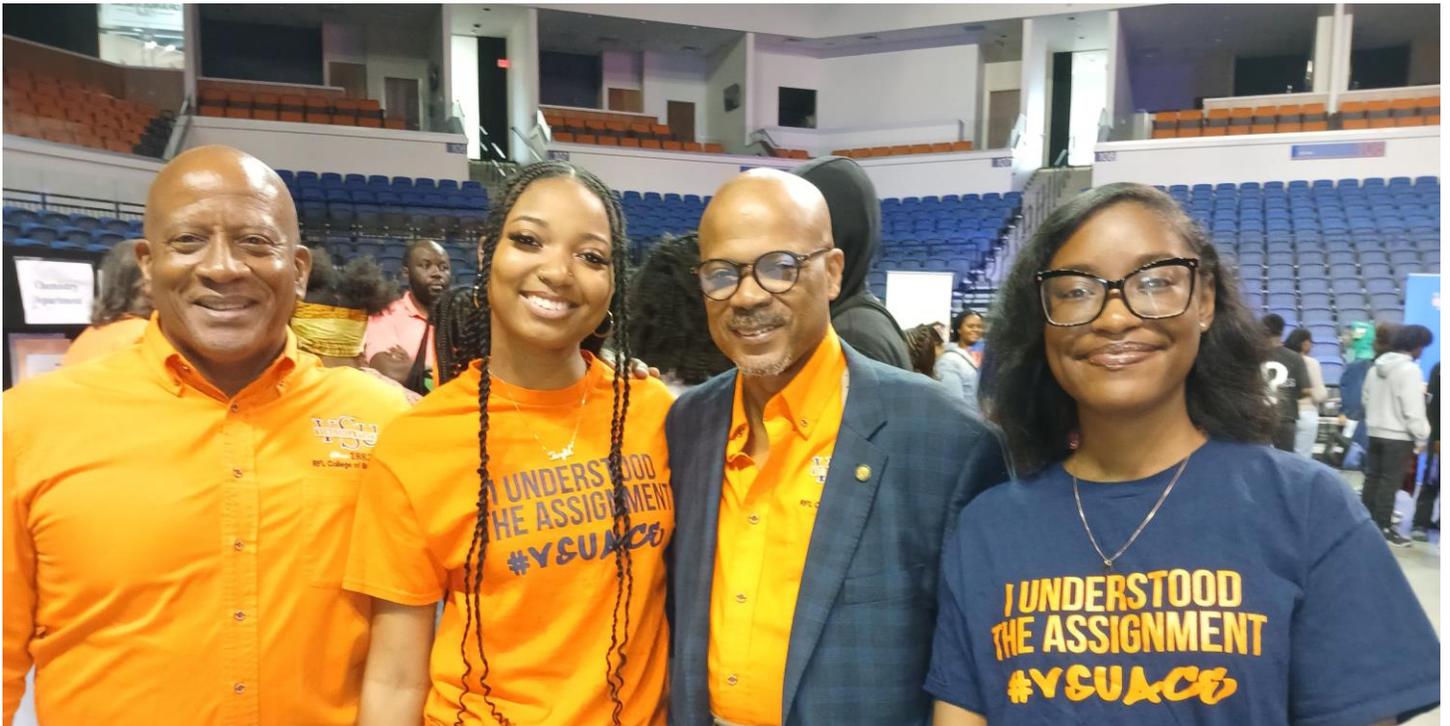
Nakiyah Jones visits with Chuck at a Ray Ferguson real estate networking event.



Taylor Williams models for DC Fashion Week. (above)



Real Estate Club students participated in a VIP tour of the new VSU academic building construction. (left)







FBLA students in the moments before competing at UVA.



Kiersten and Jazmine network in Petersburg.



Jasmine Pierce visited an AMA event.

Geovany and LaDavious work in class.



The window seat in Singleton is popular.



Aniya and Jazmine are good friends. Below.



Jadlynn, Nyla and Kelena host, Kathryn visits Japan's embassy, Aziah and Daniel are working on their phones, Cameron hosts and Brian reviews his answer. Below.



## Halls of Power

A trip to the Hill invariably would lead to visiting with persons of influence but who could have guessed that Kathryn Moore (Marketing major) in her excursion to Congress would bump in to one of the most powerful individuals on the planet. For Kathryn, she heard a lot of clamoring originating from down the hallway and before she could even identify what was happening bumped in to Speaker Mike Johnson and his staff joined by countless reporters. Of the experience with the third person in line to the Presidency, Kathryn said, *"He is from Louisiana and I am from Florida, so we are neighbors!"*



## Curtain Call

For at least as long as the Richmond Flying Squirrels have been playing baseball at the Diamond on the Boulevard students in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business have been attending games. It's why it was so important for the College to participate in what will constitute the final season for a stadium constructed in 1985. Now, after forty years professional baseball will relocate just next door to a new facility, i.e. CarMax Park. Yes, readers can be assured that students in the College will continue to be invited to attend America's pastime but it's why it was so special to capstone a bit of history with baseball, camaraderie and fireworks. Jonathan Young (Director of Corporate Relations) has been taking students for fifteen years to the Diamond reflected on all of the students that have attended over the years and celebrated the relationship with the Squirrels. [continued below]



*"Thank you Parney and thank you Kelly Keenan for affording us the opportunity to be a part of something uniquely Richmond." He added, "The Squirrels have been terrific to us for a long time."*

After the game and fireworks, students would visit Carytown for late night ice-cream. Nadia Jones (Marketing major) said of the experience, *"It was nice to spend time getting to know Richmond and doing it with my colleagues."* Chanecia Porter (Accounting major) attended and brought her son said, *"Max and I had a lot of fun. Max is now friends with all of my friends!"*

Oh! Also of note, students signed the last construction beam to be installed in the new stadium. For VSU students at the Diamond, it was a curtain call!

## Curb Side Appeal

Students in the College again this semester 1) retrieved litter from campus and 2) planted flowers along with azalea bushes to improve aesthetics around Singleton Hall.

## Dallas, Here We Come

The VSU Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda – Future Business Leaders of America delivered an outstanding performance at ..... Competing against top institutions like UVA, Virginia Tech, William & Mary, George Mason and Christopher Newport, VSU students earned first and second place awards in most events. They showcased their excellence in areas such as accounting, business communication, ethics, cybersecurity, marketing and more. *"I am truly impressed with the outstanding accomplishments of .....* For rest of story as originally reported click here: <https://www.progress-index.com/story/lifestyle/achievements/2025/05/01/virgina-state-unviersity-future-business-leaders-america-competition/83346427007/>

## Charm City

A chartered bus led by the Dean departed Singleton Hall first thing on a Saturday morning in April en route to Charm City, i.e. Baltimore to visit the College of Business's namesake's museum. Upon arrival at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum only blocks from Inner Harbor, students were greeted by Ms. Loida Lewis who extended her welcome. Undergrads would later remark upon arrival back to campus that the experience was among their favorite in their tenure at VSU including the opportunity to meet Ms. Lewis. A common refrain regarded how generous Ms. Lewis was with her time.

## More Pictures





## It's a Wrap

Naomi Cross (Management/HR major) like all of her colleagues is excited to graduate but a bit sad that an important chapter in her life has come to an end. Graduation is bittersweet in that regard but like all new beginnings, another new beginning must come to an end before the launch of a new one. For Naomi, it will mean investing more time and resources in her business. For Emmatta Camba



(Management major) the same regards investing in her brick and mortar salon in New Jersey. For Faye Izatt (Accounting major) it regards starting grad school and for Ameer Blythe (Management major) it is relocating to Memphis for work. Congrats all!!

### Women in AI

Six female students in the College attended a Women in Artificial Intelligence workshop in Henrico; the College is prioritizing training in AI.

### Death and Taxes

Perhaps the only two certainties in life include death and taxes but at least the latter is a little easier for hundreds of persons in the Tri-Cities because of the College's free tax services.

## Real Estate Club

The College's newest academic organization may be the most popular. Started this semester, the Real Estate Club has over sixty members and regularly convenes industry led workshops. A special thanks is owed to Reggie Booker at the Mortgage Bankers Association for a donation and a nudge to launch what though not even a semester old is already the talk of Singleton!



## Leadership Conference

The College again this semester hosted a leadership conference on campus attended by over one hundred students. The keynote speaker was alum Ron Phillips (Executive VP at Sysco). Hope Woodies (Marketing major) said, "*I learned obstacles are but opportunities to redirect*".

## So very Fashionable

The College's investment in fashion has been long documented in this publication including student designers/models/hair stylists/etc. This semester like semesters before students participated in countless opportunities including Taylor Williams (Marketing major) modeling in both RVA Fashion Week and D.C. Fashion Week and Kyra Royal (Management major) styling hair for RVA Fashion Week. Kyra was also invited to style hair for a VCU fashion event.



## Impact

It would be a very very long read if all of the many hundreds of stories that materialize in a semester in The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business were to be told so instead the following page will but include a news-brief to encourage readers to contact the College to learn more.

10k: Katheryn Moore (Marketing major), Patrick Ricks (Accounting major) and Nainette Tucker (Information Systems major) ran in the Monument Avenue 10k in Richmond.

NABA: Nine students along with Joshua Nyantakyi (Accounting Professor) participated in workshops hosted by Deloitte in Arlington.

Center for Entrepreneurship: Scores of businesses participated in workshops led by the College's Center for Entrepreneurship and dozens of students participated in the Center's programming.

Industry Council(s): Twenty-four companies convened a curriculum conversation over breakfast at the Embassy Suites by Hilton on Broad Street in Richmond.

New Mom: The College celebrates moms including the newest mom, i.e. Gift Hazel (Management major).

Big Easy: Shelby Moore (Accounting major) and Jasmine Pierce (Marketing major) along with Yun Lee (Marketing professor) visited New Orleans relevant to the College's American Marketing Association (AMA) Chapter.

Book Signing: The College hosted author Christine Carmichael for a book-signing pertinent to business etiquette.

Research: The College again hosted faculty research presentations in Singleton Hall.

New Business: Devin Darling (Management major) launched his real estate business and flipped two homes.

VIP Tour: Student in the Real Estate Club took a VIP tour of the new academic commons building being erected adjacent to Singleton Hall.

Sports Apparel: Brooke McClinton (Information Systems major) and Lauren Parham (Management/HR major) between them earned internships at Adidas and Under Armour respectively.

Fed Reserve: Shelby Moore (Accounting major) and Aniya Omopariola (Marketing major) visited the Fed.

Big Apple: Katheryn Moore (Marketing major) visited NYC for an Amazon Music externship.

K-12: Gabby Gunn (Accounting major) and Justin Francis (Accounting major) along with colleagues in NABA hosted nearly fifty K-12 students for a NABA Undergraduate Bridge Day.

Overseas: Bryan Hobbs (Management major), Amyia Morgan (Management major) and Tavon Massenburg (Information Systems major) earned opportunities to travel overseas to Tanzania and Ghana.

## Yet More Pictures



Chanecia Porter and her son celebrate achievement with Joshua Nyantakyi and Ted Andrews. Above.

Isaac Savage is honored by Hari Sharma as Top Overall Student. Below.



# Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University





## Experiential Learning

The Chinese philosopher Confucius approximately 2,500 years ago said I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I experience and I understand. That truism is as real today as it was two millennia ago. In the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, experience in learning or “experiential” learning is the cornerstone of the College’s small group role-play with industry curriculum. Facilitated by industry, in a semester 250 companies lead undergrads in hands-on exercises pertinent to sales, cold calls, conflict resolution, customer is always right, branding, memos and reports, etc. Born out of an industry focus group now 15 years ago, the objectives regard refining soft skills, augmenting career awareness and developing real world skills not often learned in a traditional classroom. In a semester over 200 students participate in what constitutes an opportunity to build a robust portfolio of industry connections. Students at the end of the semester celebrate all of the practical skills that they developed in 15 weeks though the undergrads are not the sole learners. Instead, a recurring theme regards the industry representatives sharing that they learned as much from the students as the students from industry. Often described as the most rewarding experience in the week, the now thousands of industry representatives are imploring other institutions of higher learning to emulate Virginia State University.







## Miss Virginia

Students in the College had an opportunity to host Miss Virginia Carlehr Swanson in Singleton this semester. Facilitated by industry friend Phillip Noel at McCoy Bennett, Miss Virginia led experiential learning exercises relevant to Presentation, Language, Voice, Eye Contact and Confidence. For students, the best part of the visit was the photo shoot!



## Board of Accountancy

The College hosted the Virginia Board of Accountancy for the group's quarterly meeting affording more than forty students the opportunity to sit in and watch proceedings and even join the accounting professionals for lunch.



## Message from the Dean

I am very pleased that we have once again made Spring 2025 another successful semester for our students, as demonstrated in the preceding pages. Thank you Ms. Loida Lewis for hosting students this semester at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum in Baltimore. What is more, thank you for all of your ongoing support. Our students, faculty and staff, alumni and friends in industry are eternally grateful. Thank you!! We also appreciate the VSU Administration's outstanding leadership and their commitment to ensuring that Greater Happens Here. Hail State!

Sincerely,

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean



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