



This newsletter is dedicated to retiring Dean, Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun after nearly four decades at VSU.

GREATER!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Special Celebration for Special Person! — 2

The Spring Semester in Pictures — 3, 4, 5, 6

52nd Annual Awards Show — 6

Biggest Stage — 7

Curb Side Appeal — 7

On the Radio — 8

AI Ready RVA — 8

More Pictures — 8, 9

It's a Wrap — 10

University of Chicago — 10

Thank You — 10

Night to Remember — 10

A lot of people — 10

Fashionista — 10

Impact — 11

Yet More Pictures — 12 to 16

Experiential Learning — 17

Yet More Pictures — 18, 19

Globe Trotters — 20

Student-athletes — 20

Message from the Dean — 20

"Beyond his many professional accomplishments, Dr. Omojokun has been a steadfast mentor, an inspiring educator, and a trusted leader whose passion for excellence has encouraged generations of students, faculty, and colleagues to aspire to greater heights. His commitment to service, scholarship, and institutional advancement reflects the very spirit of Virginia State University."

On behalf of Virginia State University, I extend our deepest appreciation to Dr. Omojokun for his exceptional service and offer heartfelt congratulations on this well-earned retirement."

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President

"As we celebrate you, we also acknowledge the depth of what you leave behind: a college transformed, a university strengthened, and a community better because of your vision, your determination and your care."

Dr. Tia A. Mimmis, Provost

Special Celebration for Special Person!

This publication has long documented the achievement of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business including during the tenure of Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun including the last issue and because of it frequent readers know that subsequent to 37 years Dr. Omojokun will retire as Dean. The aforementioned preceding issue profiled the Dean for his many contributions and this issue will not repeat what can be read there but instead convey the College's and indeed the University's gratitude! To that end, the College in partnership with the Office of President and Provost installed a worthy tribute for the outgoing Dean in Singleton Hall.



Also of note, the University hosted a retirement celebration for Dr. Omojokun attended by 250 persons all of whom had stories related to Dr. Omojokun's generosity. To say the least, Dr. Omojokun left a legacy but because his heart is forever at VSU he will continue to support the College as Dean Emeritus.

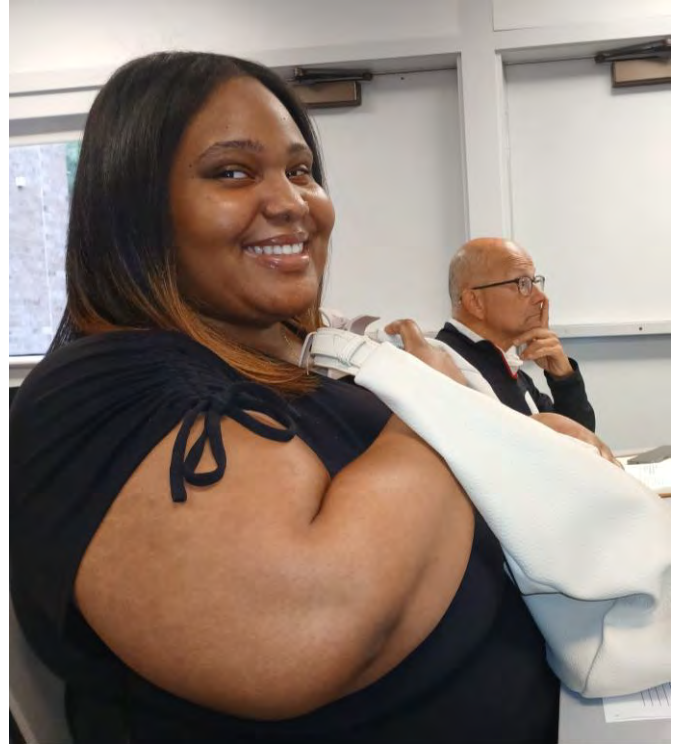
Readers surely are curious relevant to who will succeed (not replace) the Dean and it is important to share that candidates for the job applied and the process includes a lot of deliberation as one would expect. Many many persons have weighed in on their recommendations for the future of the College and a special thanks to students who convened a town hall to solicit input from their colleagues, to alumni who offered advice, to faculty/staff who opined and to industry that participated in a focus group in Richmond to develop recommendations.

The future is bright for the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University and everyone is 1) grateful to Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun and 2) appreciative for the opportunity to continue the legacy for the benefit of the College's customers, i.e. nearly 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students in what has become recognized as a Greater place to study and to learn business.

2026: THE SPRING SEMESTER IN PICTURES



Students planting flowers, trees and bushes around Singleton have become a norm.



Andrina Spriggs attends a conference at Virginia Society of CPAs.



Lauren Parham earned admission to a national student-athlete society.



John Asbury reunites with his intern Hope Woodies.



Students attended an AI Ready RVA conference. (above)

Cameron and Amari network at Virginia Asset Management in Midlothian. (left)







Kathryn and Amyia clean campus.

Christine, Santia, Lawrence and Charles pose for a pic after guest teaching.

Havilah is a big personality.

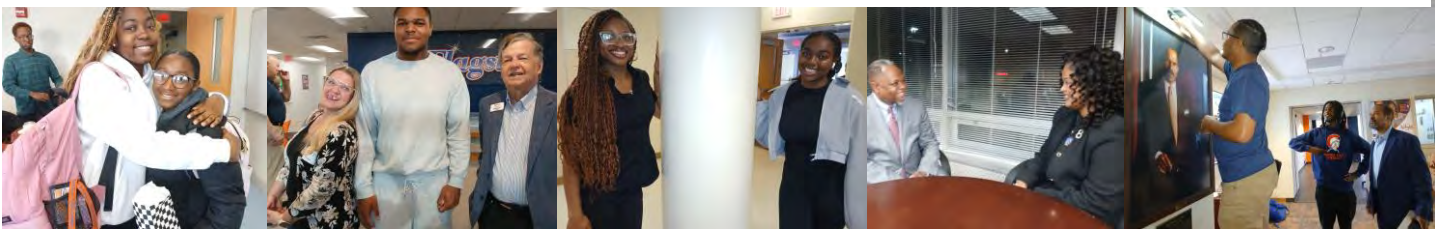
Osak Okunbor returns to guest teach.

Corey Vickers and his mom make a big announcement.

Students keep our green friends alive. Below.



Shamyah and Ariana embrace, Cameron networks, Havilah and Lauryn are stars, Ted and India confer and Chris Henry installs new lighting for our namesake. Below.



52nd Annual Awards Show

Rose Moyenga (Information Systems major) along with three hundred of her colleagues in the College were celebrated for their many accomplishments including academics at the College's 52nd Annual Awards Show. Plaques, certificates, etc. were awarded to students at a sold-out event in a venue that suddenly became for late arrivals standing-room only.

At the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, championing students is a 24-7 mission including social media, digital billboards, paid marketing campaigns, newsletters, video, town halls, etc.



Biggest Stage

Over 14 million persons watched the Grammy's this year and millions more saw marketing relevant to the awards show. A substantial subset of the preceding were introduced to the College's very own Katheryn Moore (Marketing major) when they searched online for information about the Grammys. Specifically, Google profiled Katheryn including her picture prompting hundreds of persons to contact Katheryn along with VSU to alert that they had seen Katheryn profiled on Google for the Grammys. An accomplished marketer and musician, Katheryn had the time of her life in Los Angeles for the big stage!



Curb Side Appeal

Students in the College's Professional Enhancement/Career Launch curriculum again this semester 1) retrieved litter from campus and 2) planted flowers to improve aesthetics around Singleton Hall but also to affirm that the best classroom is an outdoor classroom. Few antidotes are as effective relevant to mental wellbeing as sunlight/planting/a little exercise. It also is an opportunity to give back!



On the Radio

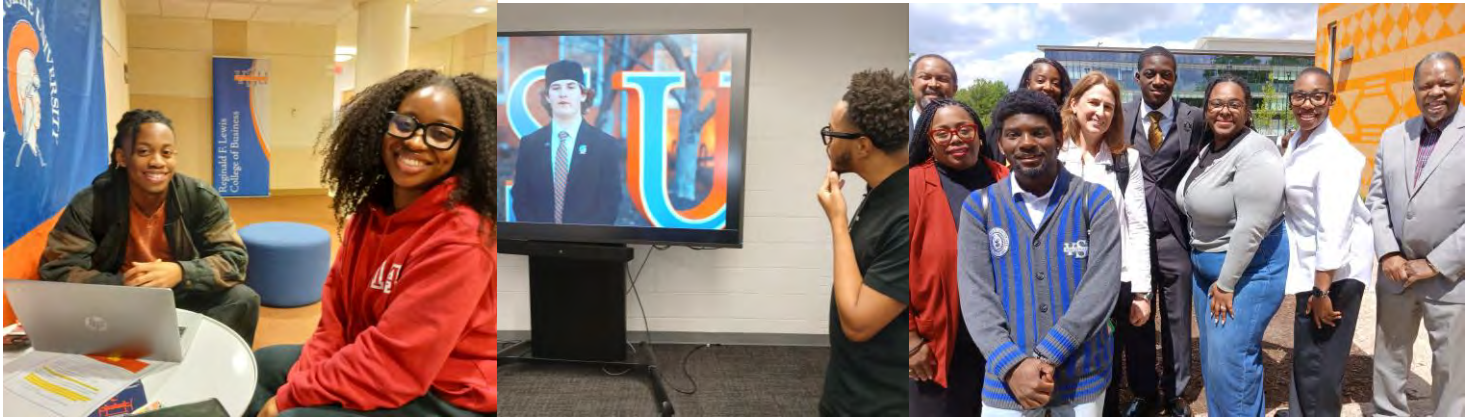
A big College thanks to Will Harris at WVST for hosting faculty/staff/students on the radio to brag on happenings in Singleton. Jonathan Young (Director of Corporate Relations) bragged on air about the College's novel Small Group Role-Play with Industry curriculum that includes more than 250 company participants in a semester and Cameron Davis (Management major) has developed quite the rapport with Harris pertinent to the College's entrepreneurship curriculum. Thank you Will!

AI Ready RVA

The College's initiatives relevant to artificial intelligence have been documented in preceding issues of this publication but a special thanks this semester is owed to Will Willis (Executive Director) at AI Ready RVA along his team for collaborating including guest teaching and hosting students for a conference in Richmond. AI Ready RVA aims to make Richmond a hub for artificial intelligence and the College of Business accordingly intends to help in any way it can. Could RVA become the next Silicon Valley but for AI? Why not!

More Pictures





It's a Wrap

Chloe Williams (Accounting major) like her colleagues are of course celebrated graduation but because she did it in three years she arguably had a little more mixed feelings than most. Yes, Chloe will be attending grad school at VCU and yes Chloe has a job at Tax Solutions Alliance for after her big day but she will surely miss Singleton Hall. Regular readers of this publication know that Singleton is a school within a school and *and* because of the unique culture in the building very special things happen that just cannot be replicated anywhere else!



University of Chicago

Congrats to Dr. Shaun Gao in Information Systems on earning an opportunity to spend the summer doing research at the University of Chicago. Gao has obtained multiple invites to collaborate with other institutions of higher learning.

Thank You

An enormous thanks to Christina Ruffin (Management major) and her colleague on the Student Advisory Board for all of their contributions to culture in Singleton!

Night to Remember

Lauren Parham (Management/HR major) and Brooke McClinton (Information Systems major) joined President Makola Abdullah for a night to remember at The Greater Scholarship Gala. The graduating seniors will attend grad school at the University of South Carolina and Carnegie Mellon respectively.



A lot of people

When Jada Bourne (Marketing major) signed up for the acclaimed Monument Avenue 10k in Richmond someone told her that, “a lot of *people participate*”. Indeed, 27,000 people joined Jada for the big event!

Fashionista

Frequent readers of this publication are familiar with the College’s support of students that model including Taylor Williams (Marketing major) who has developed quite the following. Taylor again participated in RVA Fashion Week and was celebrated in Richmond for achievement both on and off the runway. It should be noted that the College has now had students model in the highly regarded RVA Fashion Week for nearly the duration of the event dating to 2008. However, it’s not just Richmond but instead the College’s students are walking runways all around the world!



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.

Taxes: The College's Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, provided free tax support to an all-time record number of customers.

VSCPA: Accounting majors in the College again visited the Virginia Society of CPAs for a conference and to network with leading professionals.

Real Estate Club: The College's Real Estate Club may just be the hottest new (1 year old) student organization averaging more than thirty students a week in attendance.

NABA: Students in the National Association of Black Accountants teamed with Professional Enhancement to host leading accountants on campus.

Networking: As usual, the College's students were out and about around town attending professional networking events often the only students there from any university.

Expo: The College's students attended Career Service's career expo and benefited from meeting with scores of companies.

Industry Council(s): The College's Industry Council(s) convened in February and continues to provide invaluable support.

Her Excellency: Marquis Mason (Marketing major) helped host Governor Abigail Spanberger for an event on campus.

Ribbon Cutting: Speaking of Marquis Mason, he helped cut the ribbon for the brand-new residential facility on campus that will house 450 students.

Congresswoman: Lauryn Dildy (Management major) participated in a business roundtable with Congresswoman Jen McClellan.

AG: Katheryn Moore (Marketing major) interviewed Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones in his offices in Richmond.

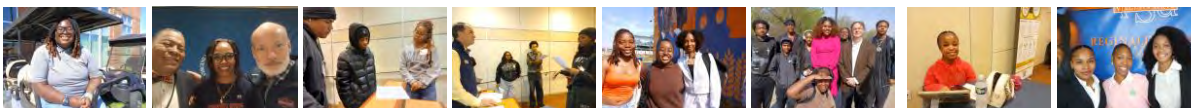
Dev Con: Students in the College participated in the annual Dev Con conference out of state.

Baltimore: The College visited the Charm City for a trip to Under Armour.

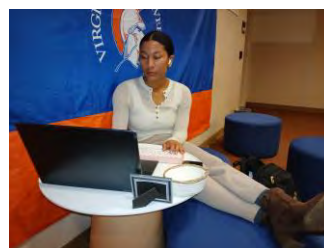
MBA: The College's new M.B.A. ETA Club spent a weekend in D.C. at a conference.

Research: The College's faculty again hosted Faculty Research Presentations and faculty continue to publish and to be recognized by national journals.

Yet More Pictures



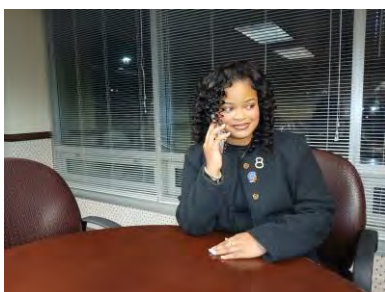






Marketing the M.B.A.

The College contracted with a firm to market the upstart M.B.A. program and the results according to Jonathan Young (Director of Corporate Relations) have been no less than out of the universe. What is particularly exciting is how the marketing initiative is equally driving traffic to the College of Business pertinent to undergraduate admissions. Said initiative is on track to exceed 800k views and 7k clicks. The all-important CTR (Click Through Rate) is an amazing 0.85. The preceding is double what the average campaign should expect! Combined with the College's annual social media impressions of more than 1 million a year, the College of Business will surpass 2 million impressions for the current academic year! Relevant to the M.B.A. program specifically, admissions are exceeding all expectations and by any definition the College's enrollment of nearly 1,000 students (undergrad and grad) merits celebration! Oh, and it's not just social media but the upstart M.B.A. has organized around a new student group championed by Senator(s) Mark Warner and Tim Kaine including a visit this semester to Washington D.C. Relevant to the M.B.A., it could be said that we are just getting started, wait to see what's next!







Globe Trotters

Students including Kyra Royal (Management major), Jada Bourne (Marketing major), Nadia Jones (Marketing major), Jeremiah Moody (Accounting major) and Kiersten Williams (Marketing) traversed the globe to places like Japan, Rwanda, Ghana and Columbia!



Student-athletes

Congrats to the College's student-athletes including the seven inducted in to the National College Athlete Honor Society representing women's tennis, baseball, women's lacrosse, women's softball and women's soccer!



Message from the Dean

I am deeply honored and humbled to receive the Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) degree and to be named Distinguished Professor, Professor Emeritus, and Dean Emeritus by Virginia State University. After earning my Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder, I came to Virginia State University with a clear purpose: to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and to contribute to the growth of the University and the broader community. Over the past 37 years, I have been blessed with opportunities to serve as a faculty member, department chair, associate dean, and dean, and to help advance academic excellence, innovation, and student success. I am profoundly grateful to God, my family, my colleagues, my students, and the many University leaders and stakeholders whose support made this journey possible. I am especially thankful to the Board of Visitors, our President – Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, and our Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs – Dr. Tia A. Minnis, for the extraordinary recognition. Virginia State University has been my professional home and a source of immense pride and fulfillment. My hope is that VSU will continue to grow in strength and impact, empowering generations of students to achieve their dreams and make meaningful contributions to society; and to continue to make Greater Happens.

Sincerely,

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean



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