

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI
MAGAZINE
Fall 2019

**2019 NATIONAL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Alumnus
Rodney Robinson
Class of 2000





President Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.

On February 1, 2019, President Abdullah celebrated his three-year anniversary at VSU. In October, the VSU Board of Visitors Rector Huron F. Winstead,'89 announced that the Board voted to extend President Abdullah's contract until June 30, 2024.

C O N T E N T

FOUR

APPOMATTOX OVERLOOK

SIX

MR. & MISS VSU

SEVEN

VSU EXCELLENCE

EIGHT

*PREEMINENCE WITH
PURPOSE*

TEN & ELEVEN

*FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE
VSU FACTS*

TWELVE

ATHLETICS

FOURTEEN

CHAMPIONS

SIXTEEN

*COVER STORY - 2019 NATIONAL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR*

EIGHTEEN

TROJAN 10 UNDER 10

TWENTY

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

TWENTY-ONE

GIVING BY THE NUMBERS

TWENTY-TWO

YEAR OF EXCELLENCE

TWENTY-FOUR

CLASS NOTES

TWENTY-SEVEN

TROJAN COUPLES

TWENTY-EIGHT

FOUNDER'S DAY 2019

C R E D I T S

VSU Board of Visitors

Huron F. Winstead, '89, Rector
Charlie Hill, '66, Vice Rector
Thursa Crittenden, Secretary
Dr. Valerie K. Brown, '78
Pamela Currey
Dr. Daryl C. Dance, '57
Michael Flemming

Raul Herrera
Jennifer Hunter
Paul Koonce
Xavier Richardson
Glenn Sessoms, '76
James Stegmaier
Wayne Turnage
Gregory Whirley, '74

Contributing Writers:

Charmica Epps, '13
Kionne S. Johnson, '12
Reshunda Mahone, CFRE
Pamela Tolson Turner

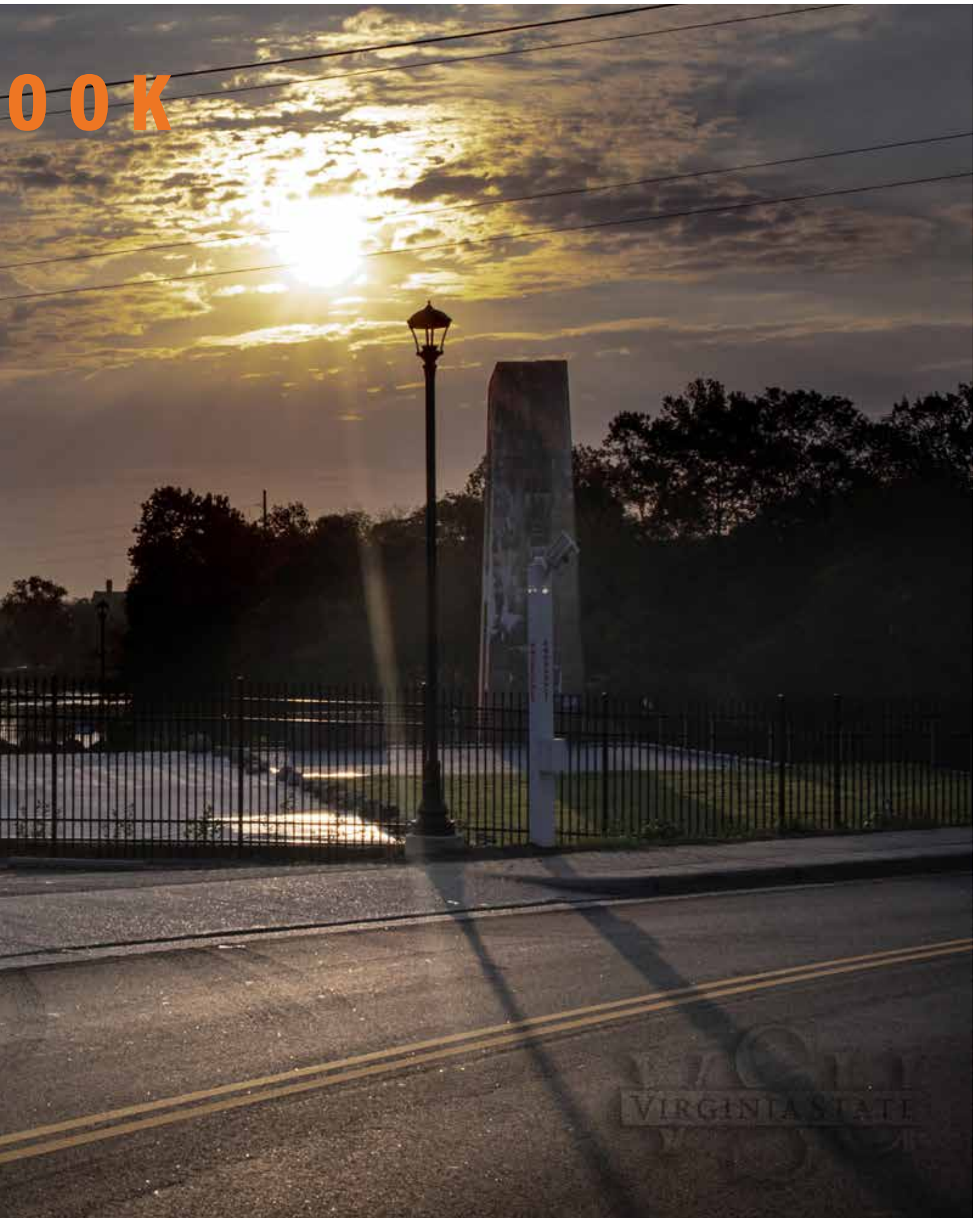
Contributing Photographers:

Lorenzo Cheatham, '16
Kiersten Jefferson
Reshunda Mahone, CFRE
J. Karmen Piland

APPOMATTOX OVERL

The Appomattox River Overlook is located on the site of the former Simms Hall, an industrial building constructed in 1938 on the foundations of an 1800s silk mill. Simms Hall sustained structural damage in a 2016 fire which prompted its demolition. The site today offers pristine scenic views of the Appomattox River and the wildlife that lives along its banks.







Mr. & Miss VSU

29th Mr. Virginia State University

Fredricks Sanders | Major: *Business Management* | Hometown: *Charlotte, NC*

What is your platform?

My platform is L.E.T.S. (Leadership, Excellence, Truth and Service). I want to prepare my fellow students to lead with excellence while becoming transparent with honesty.

What does Virginia State University mean to me?

Virginia State University means a great deal to me. Members of my family first attended the University in the 1920s. VSU is my home away from home and I will forever be true to the ORANGE and BLUE.

VSU EXCELLENCE

Darius Holeman

Junior, Business Management Major

Durham, NC

Extracurricular activity:

Catcher for the VSU Baseball Team

- Won first place in prompt speaking at the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda STATEWIDE competition in Glen Allen, VA
- Competed on a NATIONAL stage in the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda competition in San Antonio, Texas, and won first place in business sustainability

What does Virginia State University mean to you?

I am a changed person because of VSU. Coming to VSU for my education was one of the best decisions of my life.



91st Miss Virginia State University

Dayana Lee | Major: *Sociology* | Hometown: *Virginia Beach, VA*

What is your platform?

C.R.E.A.T.O.R.S. (Community Resilience and Empowerment through Artistic Rejuvenation Therapeutic Outlets and Stimulation) I want to create a positive outlet for students to alleviate stress and practice mindfulness.

What does Virginia State University mean to you?

Virginia State University means the opportunity to create something bigger than myself. It's a place of opportunity for me to grow as a woman and as a young professional.



PREEMINENCE WITH PURPOSE



STRATEGIC PLAN

The University's five-year strategic plan centers on sustained excellence. Preeminence with Purpose sets forth the next chapter in the University's continued growth by focusing on six areas: Student Opportunity and Access, Academic Excellence, the Holistic Development of Students, Enhancing the Land Grant Mission of the University, the VSU Brand and Financial/Operational Effectiveness.

VSU is dedicated to using a holistic approach to academic excellence and student success and engagement. This plan emphasizes leadership and professional development, career planning, and experiential learning. It focuses on developing student leaders who are more engaged with their learning, have the soft skills necessary to be successful in their careers, and are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and disposition to be globally competitive while remaining civically engaged.

This bold and forward-thinking strategic plan is the culmination of the University's principles of shared governance. The planning and structure of this plan considered the voices and visions of alumni, faculty, the local community, staff, students, and other internal and external stakeholders. The exchange of ideas led to this comprehensive plan which is inclusive, equitable, and diverse, yet ambitious and forward thinking.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the strategic plan or visit www.vsu.edu/strategicplan.





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1

Increase Student Opportunity and Access to Higher Education

PRIORITY 2

Sustain Academic Excellence

PRIORITY 3

Provide a Transformative VSU Experience that Supports the Holistic Development of Students

PRIORITY 4

Define the VSU Brand and Tell our Story

PRIORITY 5

Increase and Diversify Financial Resources and Enhance Operational Effectiveness

PRIORITY 6

Enhance the Land Grant Mission of the University

Back at VSU



For the 2019 fall semester, the Office of the Provost re-introduced an updated FRST 101 (freshman/first-year experience) course for all incoming freshmen. In addition to retention, this course is designed to meet the objectives of the University's Quality Enhancement Project (QEP) submitted during the University's Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation visit. SACSCOC reaffirmed the University's accreditation for the next 10 years in December 2018.

"The first-year experience course is intended to support the holistic development of our student leaders by establishing a foundation for sustained academic excellence," said Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Provost Donald E. Palm, III, Ph.D.



ACCREDITATION

Virginia State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masters and doctorate degrees.

2018-2019 VSU FACTS



COLLEGE & PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS

AACSB

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business

ABET

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology

ACEND

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

ACPHA

Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration

ATMAE

Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering

NCATE/CAEP

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education/Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

CSWE

Council on Social Work Education

NASAD

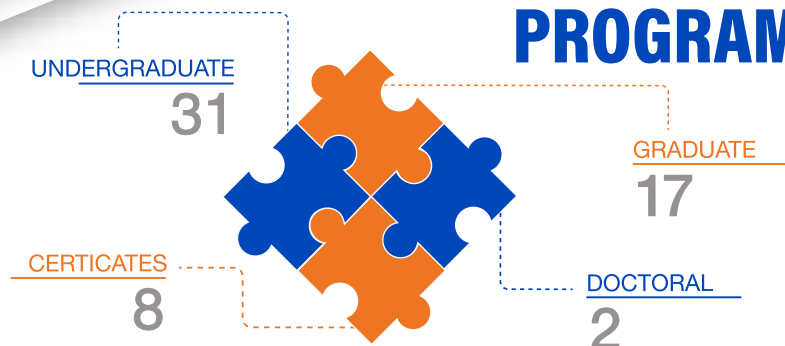
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

NASM

National Association of Schools of Music



DEGREE & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS



DEGREES AWARDED

	Numbers	Percentage
Total Degrees	824	100%
Bachelors	672	82%
Masters	113	14%
Certificates	20	2%
Doctorates	19	2%



DID YOU KNOW?

VSU is ranked as the No. 19 HBCU on the 2019 U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges rankings. VSU was also ranked as the No. 8 public HBCU.

Virginia State University is the #1 producer of African-American graduates in computer engineering.

In 2018, VSU was named the HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest, an online blog site which reports on the news of HBCUs.

TUITION AND FEES



	Undergraduates		Graduates	
	Virginia	Non-Virginia	Virginia	Non-Virginia
Tuition and Fees	\$9,056	\$20,307	\$11,647	\$22,331
Room and Board	\$11,208	\$11,208	\$11,208	\$11,208
Total	\$20,264	\$31,515	\$22,855	\$33,539

OUR CAMPUS

18 Academic Buildings
 11 Residence Halls
 231 Total Campus Acreage
 412 Acre Agriculture Research Facility

ATHLETICS

NCAA Division II
 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)

Mascot: Trojans

17 Men's and Women's Varsity Teams
 2019 CIAA Women's Indoor Track Champions
 2019 CIAA Men's Basketball Champions
 2018 CIAA Men's Cross Country Champions



FALL 2018 ENROLLMENT

	Numbers	Percentage
Total Students	4,385	100%
Undergraduates	3,996	91%
Graduates	389	9%
Females	2,519	57%
Males	1,866	43%
Full-time	4,075	93%
Part-time	310	7%



ATHLETICS



Six New Members inducted into the Athletics Hall and Wall of Fame

On February 15, 2019, the Virginia State University Athletics Department, in conjunction with the VSU Athletic Hall and Wall of Fame Committee, inducted six new members into the Hall and Wall of Fame. The six new inductees were: (left to right)

Terrance Whittle, '93 | Hall of Fame | Baseball Coach

James Hill Jr., '68 | Hall of Fame | Women's Basketball Coach

Kelly Daugherty, '94 | Hall of Fame | Volleyball

LTC (Ret.) Claude Wood, '77 | Wall of Fame | Avid Contributor

Michael Jacobs, '70 | Hall of Fame | Football and Wrestling

Linwood Hart, '65 | Hall of Fame | Football and Track

The Class of 2019 was honored for their outstanding accomplishments and dedication to Virginia State University Athletics.



Student-Athletes partner with Samaritan's Feet International to Donate 300 pairs of shoes to Petersburg Elementary Students

The Athletic Department's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) teamed up with Samaritan's Feet International to give 300 students a new pair of shoes and athletic socks. The giveaway took place at Cool Spring Elementary School in Petersburg, VA on April 30, 2019.



Each elementary school student received a pair of new shoes and socks with the help and support of representatives from VSU's SAAC, the Commissioner of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Jacqie McWilliams, representatives from the campus community, and President Abdullah.

Coach Johnson



Head Men's and Women's Track and Field/Cross Country Coach Wilbert Johnson has hit the ground running since he joined Virginia State University. He has guided each of his teams to a CIAA Championship and earned Coach of the Year honors in both Cross Country and Track and Field.

In 2018, he coached the Men's Indoor Track and Field team to its first CIAA championship since 1981 and the Men's Cross Country team to its first championship since 2008.

In 2019, he coached the Men's Cross Country team to its second consecutive CIAA championship and the Women's Indoor Track and Field team to its first CIAA championship since 2012.

For all of his hard work and dedication, Coach Johnson was named the CIAA Coach of the Year four times in the following sports; Men's Cross Country (2017, 2018), Women's Indoor Track and Field (2019), and Men's Indoor Track and Field (2017, 2018).

Coach Blow



Head Men's Basketball Coach Lonnie Blow, Jr. won numerous "Coach of the Year" awards during the 2018-2019 season. In his fifth season, Blow guided his team to 24 regular season wins (a school record) including the 2019 CIAA Championship and the NCAA Division II Playoffs, where his team won its first-round game against Notre Dame College.

In recognition of his team's hard work, Coach Blow earned the following honors and recognition: The 2018-2019 Clarence "Big House" Gaines College Basketball Coach of the Year (his first), BOXTOROW Coach of the Year (his third), 2019 NABC Coaches' Division II All-District Co-Coach of the Year (his first), and the 2019 CIAA Coach of the Year (his fourth).

CHAMPIONS

Men's Basketball — 2019 CIAA Champions, CIAA Northern Division Champions

Women's Volleyball — 2019 CIAA Northern Division Champions, CIAA Champion-Runner Up

Women's Indoor Track and Field — 2019 CIAA Champions

Men's Indoor Track and Field — 2019 CIAA Runner Up

Men's Outdoor Track and Field — 2019 CIAA Runner Up

Women's Tennis — 2019 CIAA Northern Division Champions

Men's Cross Country — 2018 CIAA Champions



Athletic Booster Club

Established in 1963, the Athletic Booster Club has been the team behind VSU Athletic Teams. Members of the Athletic Booster Club cheer on the men's and women's athletic teams, volunteer their time and talents to student-athletes and support the VSU Athletics Department with financial contributions.

Founded by LTC (Ret.) Jona McKee, '53, the Athletic Booster Club celebrates 56 years of their dedication and support of the athletic programs. Under the leadership of Mr. Ellis Hargress, '79, president of the Athletic Booster Club, the organization has over 100 members from across the nation. During the September 14, 2019 football

game, the members of the VSU Athletic Booster Club presented President Abdullah a check for \$153,000 representing the total contributions from the organization during fiscal year 2019.



To learn more about the VSU Athletic Booster Club, visit <http://vsuathleticboosters.org/>.



2019 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Virginia State University (VSU) has a history of producing phenomenal teachers and educators. Its founding name, Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, dates to an era where teachers were trained and educated and set the standard for others to model in education. VSU alumnus Rodney Robinson, '00, met and exceeded that standard when he was selected as the 2019 National Teacher of the Year.



Rodney teaches history at Virgie Binford Education Center, located inside the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center within the Richmond City Public School system. As a history teacher, he focuses on helping students become productive citizens while embracing their opportunity for a second chance. During the announcement of his selection as National Teacher of the Year on "CBS This Morning," Rodney shared this about his students. "There's no difference. They like cheesy, teenage stuff, shows like 'Teen Wolf' and 'Hanna' are their favorite, but they just made mistakes and they're paying for them." He goes on to share, "But America is a country of second chances and in order for them to achieve and get that second chance, they deserve a quality education like everybody else."

Rodney grew up in King William County, Virginia watching his mother care for children in her home daycare. He observed how his mother treated all of her children the same, with love and

kindness. "She always taught us that every child deserves the proper amount of love to get where he or she needs." This was Rodney's first lesson in equity. Growing up in a predominately white high school, he faced the challenge of identity. "I was on the honor's track and they told me I was different than the other black kids, and those other black kids were my friends and my brothers and so it created a sense of lost identity with me," shared Robinson.

There were quite a few men in Rodney's life who influenced him after graduating from high school to attend VSU. Growing up in a rural and small county, he remembers his first day on campus as an "exciting and nervous time" and VSU's family atmosphere made him feel welcomed.

While at VSU, Rodney majored in history. "My grandfather, he was a World War II and Korean War veteran, and I really felt like studying history, especially that time period, would give me a connection to

my grandfather," shared Rodney. While attending VSU, Rodney was a member of the History Honor Society but outside of class, he spent much of his time working a full-time job at Circuit City and Kings Dominion. "I worked full time to help pay for school and to help my mom." He continues, "Certain people always say, 'Was it hard working full time and going to school?', I mean yes, but it was also good because Virginia State understood. They really nurtured and understood I was a first-generation college student and that I may need an extra day on an assignment or make sure I get the notes because I didn't make it to class. That type of environment made it work."

During his matriculation at VSU, he encountered professors and classmates that wanted more than to see him succeed in the classroom. They supported Rodney outside of class as well. "I remember Dr. McMichael and a couple of guys came into Circuit City and brought a bunch of stuff from me so I could get the commission." The



support from classmates and professors kept Rodney progressing. “Dr. Derrick Phillipson, my history professor, just refused to let me give up on myself. He came to my dorm room when I missed class. He pushed me. It was the first time that I had someone that told me that I was selling myself short and really pushed me to reach my best potential.” VSU professors left a lasting impression on Rodney and constantly reminded him that he could be black, an educator and successful.

After graduating from VSU in 2000, Rodney began teaching 7th-grade history at Richmond City Public Schools at just 21 years old. In 2015, Rodney began teaching at Virgie Binford Education Center to better understand the school to prison pipeline. Having served Richmond City Public Schools for the last 19 years, Rodney believes in helping his own. While other schools, jobs, and school systems may seem easier, he firmly believes you have to support your own. “I felt a sense of loyalty to them to pass down the lessons I learned.”

Rodney earned his master's degree in educational administration from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2011 but has always loved working in the classroom and with students. “I have a platform and I can possibly do more for the students with my platform outside of the classroom than I can do inside the classroom. To stay in the classroom right now would be selfish.” As the newly selected National Teacher of the Year, Rodney will travel the country sharing his message about his platform on economic and cultural equity on all levels of education.

“One of my platforms is economic equity and making sure all kids no matter where they go or where they live have the resources they need to be successful.” In addition to economic equity, Rodney's platform also brings light to cultural equity, which focuses on having students see teachers that look like them, think like them and value their culture. “When I was on Capitol Hill, I made a point to bring up, if you want

to increase diversity in the teaching pipeline you need to invest in HBCUs,” he shared. Rodney has seen several of his students follow his footsteps in becoming educators and teachers, and plans to be an advocate for building diversity through historically black colleges and universities.

“I feel right now it's important to elevate my voice and elevate those kids' stories and I can be a better help outside the classroom than I can inside. I am just taking this journey and seeing where it takes me. I will always take the job that's the best position to advocate for my kids.”

Rodney has been published three times by Yale University and has received numerous awards for his accomplishments in and out of the classroom to include Richmond City Public Schools Teacher of the Year, Virginia Teacher of the Year and R.E.B. Award for Teaching Excellence.

The National Teacher of the Year program began in 1952 and is the most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. Selected from 50 state teachers, plus the Department of Defense Education Activity, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.





The University launched its newest alumni recognition award program, Trojan 10 Under 10. The award program recognized the achievements made by alumni who earned their first VSU degree (undergraduate or graduate) within the last 10 years.

Selection criteria for nominees include demonstration of commitment to maintaining a lifelong relationship with VSU; made important contributions to their community through service; and reached remarkable success in their profession.

"The outstanding reputation of our university is built by the accomplishments of our alumni," shared Charmica Epps, director of Alumni Relations. "This program will recognize alumni early in their career who are changing lives and making an impact in their community and profession. Through this recognition, we hope to share the VSU story and inspire our current students who will soon carry the alumni banner."

On February 16, 2019, the inaugural 2019 class of Trojan 10 Under 10 honorees were recognized during Alumni Winter Fest at an awards reception and women's home basketball game.

AneSia Newton, '12 Major: Family Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Fashion Merchandising and a minor in Business Marketing. Career: Fashion and Design Teacher in Petersburg, Virginia.

Jahliel Thurman, '14 Major: Mass Communication and a concentration in Television and Broadcast. Career: Founder of Yard Talk 101.

Joy Hickman, '17 Major: Electrical Electronics Engineering and Technology with a minor in Information and Logistics Technology. Career: Deloitte Consulting.

Keith Lamont Granderson, Jr., '17 Major: Criminal Justice, Career: Special Education Teacher in Hopewell, Virginia.

Chelsea S. Jackson, '12 Degree: Management Information Systems, Career: Enterprise Security Architect for Virginia Department of Transportation.

Vincent Pierson, '11 Major: Sport Management, Career: Director of Diversity and Inclusion Minor League Baseball.

Jhadee Gordon, '17 Major: Accounting and Finance, Career: Audit Associate at KPMG

Brianna C.J. Clark, '12 Major: Family and Consumer Sciences, Career: Graduate Assistant in the Office of the President at Howard University and Assistant Volleyball Coach at Trinity Washington University.

Domica Winstead, J.D., '08 Major: History, Career: Senior Policy Analyst in Legislative Services with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Shardae' Holmes, '09 Major: Biological Science, Career: Medical Scientist in Molecular Diagnostics at Duke University Medical Center.



**THERE'S A BRAND NEW VSU SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE
IN VIRGINIA! AVAILABLE NOW AT YOUR LOCAL VDOT
LICENSE PLATE OFFICE.**



***RIDE WITH
TROJAN PRIDE!***

***"It's Up To You To Make The Roads
Orange and Blue" -Troy***

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION



Donor Profile: Mr. Cody Mitchell, '18

Mr. Cody Mitchell, '18 graduated from Virginia State University in May 2018, and has already given back to his alma mater by making a substantial gift to the Tuition Assistance Fund and the Virginia State University Alumni Association Endowed Fund. Mr. Mitchell is also a member of the Powell Society, which recognizes donors who have made provisions for VSU in their estate plans.

Mr. Mitchell, who double majored in criminal justice and sociology, and minored in cyber security and forensics, is a Deck Watch Officer for the United States Coast Guard. He is currently stationed in Hawaii.

While at VSU, Mr. Mitchell served as the Student Government Association President for the 2017-2018 academic year. He said, "That experience allowed me to grow as a leader and it left a lasting impression of the campus I hold so close to my heart."

Mr. Mitchell continued, "I enjoyed everything from serving as the student representative to the Board of Visitors, hearing student concerns and working with the administration to make proper changes to improve the student experience. I have been able to create lasting friendships and relationships and I thank Virginia State University for all of my experiences. Hail State!"

The Inaugural Cohort of the Hill Leadership Institute at VSU

The Hill Leadership Institute at Virginia State University was established through the generous contribution from alumnus Mr. Charlie Hill, '66, who also serves as the Vice Rector on the University's Board of Visitors.

The Hill Leadership Institute was designed to facilitate the development of world-class, entry-level leaders for the global workplace and their communities.



The inaugural cohort of fellows of the Hill Leadership Institute were inducted on April 14, 2019.

The fellows are:

Bottom Left to Right: Joshua Minaya, Brittany Byrd, Tytiana Christmas, Dejah Entzminger, Briana Byrd, Raissa Tchetchou Kemajou, James Delbrune

Middle Left to Right: Davonne Douglas, Mr. Charlie Hill, Ashanti Day

Back Left to Right: K'Risa Chesterfield and Maurice White

Not pictured: Sabrina Lewis

Marvin Allmond Naming Ceremony

The auditorium in Singleton Hall, home of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, was renamed the "Marvin C. Allmond Auditorium" in honor of alumnus Marvin C. Allmond, '72. The naming recognition ceremony took place on April 26, 2019.

Mr. Allmond (pictured center) currently serves as the managing partner for Allmond & Company, LLC. His firm has provided career opportunities for more than 40 Virginia State University graduates over the last five years.



Mr. Allmond has supported several scholarship funds at VSU including The Marvin C. Allmond, CPA, CFE Endowed Scholarship Fund and The Frasier Brickhouse Legacy Fund.

In addition, Mr. Allmond was instrumental in assisting with restoring the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accreditation for the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business.

Mr. Allmond continues to be a major supporter of Virginia State University through his time, talents and treasure. He is a loyal son of Virginia State University.

GIVING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

\$3,335,785.45 TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED IN FY19

2,334 TOTAL DONORS IN FY19

\$1,078,834.93 TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

21 NEW FUNDS ESTABLISHED IN FY19

198 POWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS

191 1882 SOCIETY MEMBERS

217 STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY THE TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND



Year of Excellence



1- Freedom Classic: VSU vs VUU

2- 2019 HBCU Awards Winners

3- Governor's Visit

4- Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc. Event

5- VSU Day at the Capitol

6- Founder's Day Soiree

7- Honors Induction Ceremony

8- MLK Day of Service

9- Saint Paul's College Day

10- Class of 2023 Induction Ceremony

11- 2018 Fall Commencement

12- Black History Month Breakfast

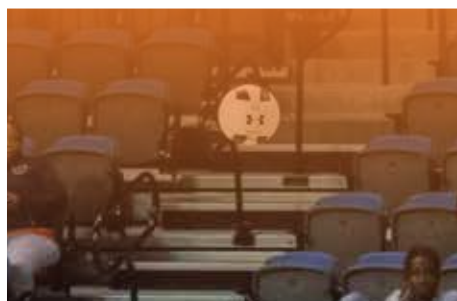
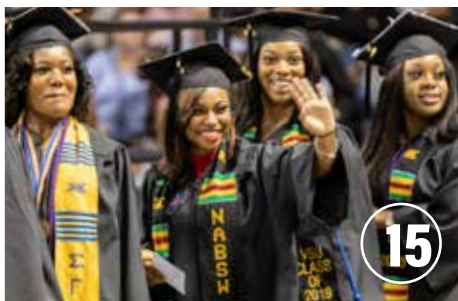
13- 2019 Alumni Weekend

14- Reginald F. Lewis Day

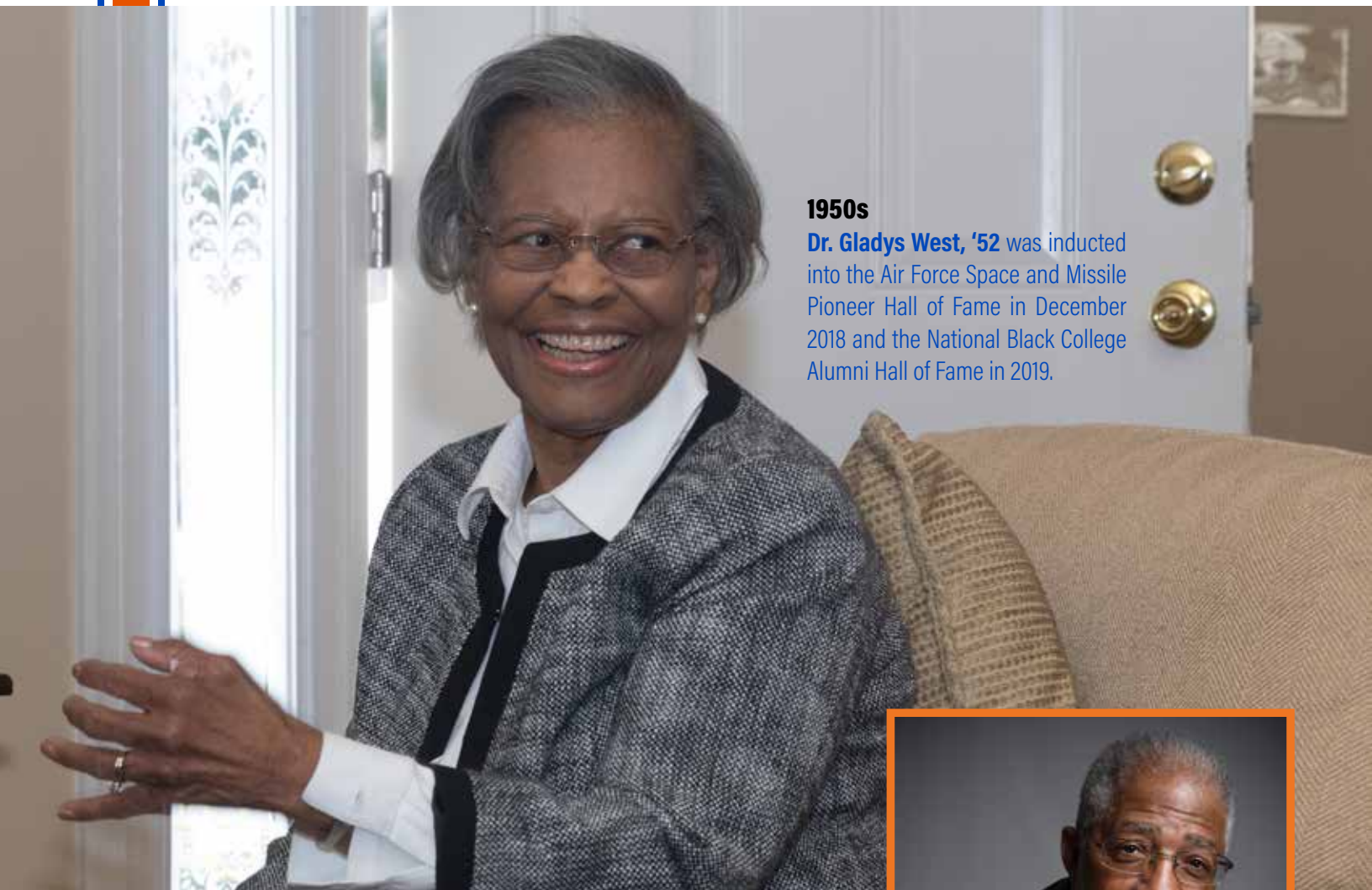
15- 2019 Spring Commencement

16- Community Health Day

17- 2018 Women's Volleyball
Championship Game



Class Notes



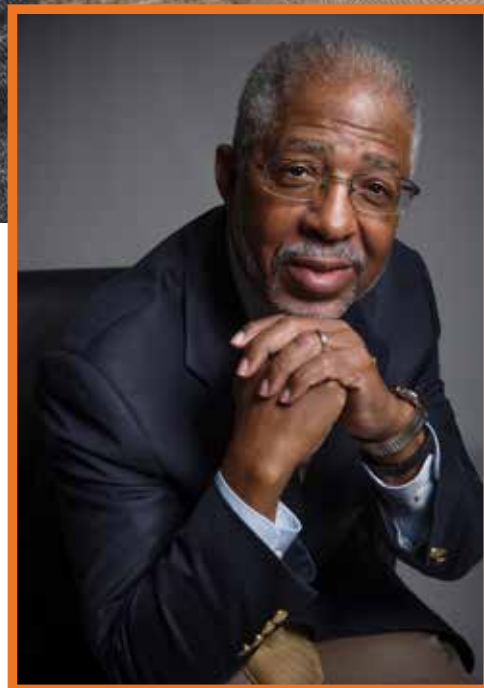
1950s

Dr. Gladys West, '52 was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneer Hall of Fame in December 2018 and the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2019.

1960s

Dr. James H. Stith, '63 was awarded the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who in December 2018.

Gladys Fitzhugh Pemberton, '68 was inducted as a National Honorary Life Member of Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda, Inc.



1980s

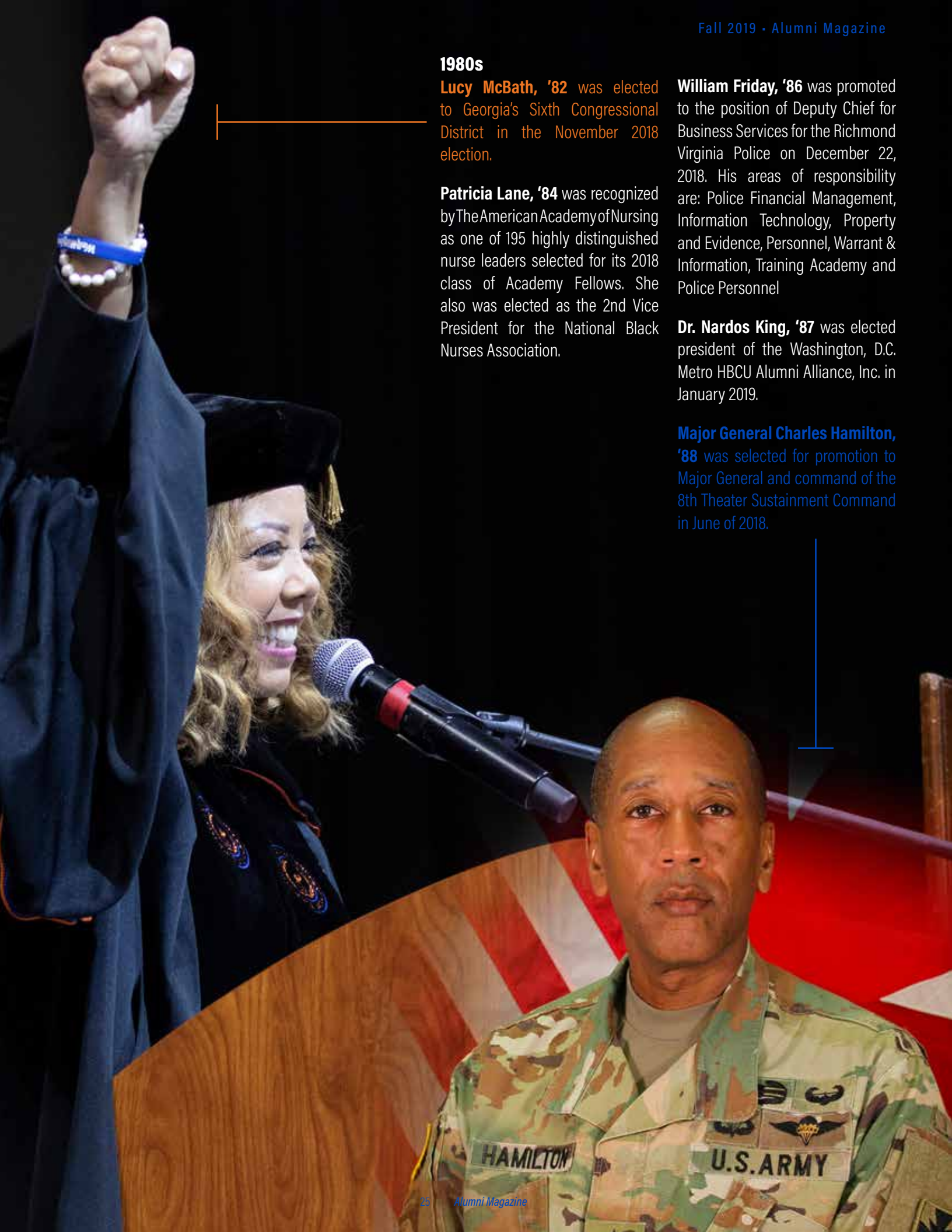
Lucy McBath, '82 was elected to Georgia's Sixth Congressional District in the November 2018 election.

Patricia Lane, '84 was recognized by The American Academy of Nursing as one of 195 highly distinguished nurse leaders selected for its 2018 class of Academy Fellows. She also was elected as the 2nd Vice President for the National Black Nurses Association.

William Friday, '86 was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief for Business Services for the Richmond Virginia Police on December 22, 2018. His areas of responsibility are: Police Financial Management, Information Technology, Property and Evidence, Personnel, Warrant & Information, Training Academy and Police Personnel

Dr. Nardos King, '87 was elected president of the Washington, D.C. Metro HBCU Alumni Alliance, Inc. in January 2019.

Major General Charles Hamilton, '88 was selected for promotion to Major General and command of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command in June of 2018.





1990s

Kimberley Martin, '90 received the Outstanding Adult Volunteer award from the Commonwealth of Virginia in April 2019.

Tara Owens, '92 was appointed as director of athletics at Central State University in September of 2018.

Linette Camp-Crenshaw, '94 was appointed to the Chesterfield County Food Bank Board of Directors in December of 2018.

Colleen Ewing, Ph.D., '95 was appointed director of Virginia Veteran and Family Support Programs at the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in July of 2018.

Jame'l Hodges, Ph.D., '97 was selected and participated in the 2019 NASPA Institute for Aspiring Vice Presidents for Student Affairs in January 2019. Hodges was also named a 2019 HBCU Change Maker by the Woodson Fund. The criteria to be selected as a change maker was based on a person who impacts the lives of others for the sole purpose of improving the greater good.

Cecilia Stith, '99 was honored as Teacher of the Year at Falling Creek Middle School in June of 2018.

Hassel Morrison, Ph.D., '99 was appointed vice president for Student Life at St. Olaf College in August of 2018.



2000s

Cydney Neville, '00 was appointed Councilwoman of the town of Dumfries, VA in June of 2018.

Vedet Robinson, '02 was appointed executive director of the Association of African American Museums.

Latrice Johnson, '05 was appointed as the 2020 Dinwiddie Public School Division Teacher of the Year in May 2019.

Richard Fortune, '10 was appointed as the athletic director of Hampton High School in July of 2018.

Chelsea Garcia, '14 & Wesley Garcia, '14

Current Location: Richmond, VA

How You Two Met: "We met in organic chemistry in Hunter Mac our senior year, summer 2013, at Virginia State. Wesley became my tutor, and from there we got to know each other better and gained interest in each other. With the help of a good friend putting us together, Wesley and I have been inseparable ever since."

Your First Date: "Wesley says Applebee's; I say Olive Garden in Colonial Heights"

Your Why: "When Wesley and I fell in love it was natural, easy, fun, and unexpected! We push each other to become the best we can be for ourselves and each other. We share the same goals and aspirations, and we keep each other grounded. We are so thankful for the summer organic chemistry class that brought us together at Virginia State University!"



TROJAN COUPLES

Did VSU play a part in bringing you and your Trojan together? We are looking for alumni who met the love of their life here on the hill to be featured on social media during the month of February. Interesting in sharing your story? Email alumni@vsu.edu for more information.

Gregory Whirley, Sr., '74 & Pauline Whirley, '74

Current Location: Chesterfield, VA

How You Two Met: "During our time at VSU, we spent a lot of time in VSU's accounting lab, learning accounting and each other."

Your First Date: "Our first date was a movie in Petersburg."

Your Why: "They say that opposites attract, but in our case, we are very similar in many respects. Back then, however, Pauline did a better job of managing her time between work and fun. She always mastered those homework accounting problems. My priorities, on the other hand, had to be realigned. I was a work in progress"

Other Info: "We have been married for 45 years. We have two sons, Gregory Jr. and Duane; and six grandchildren, four girls (Taylor, Alisha, Jordan, and Kamryn) and two boys (Duane Jr. and Christopher). We believe in paying it forward, helping others."





VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
CELEBRATING
EXCELLENCE



Founder's Day 2019

On March 14, 2019, the University celebrated 137 years of excellence during its annual Founder's Day Convocation. Alumnus Linwood Hart gave an inspirational message on leadership during the Founder's Day Convocation. The University was honored to have Kym R. H. Kennedy, the great-granddaughter of founder Alfred W. Harris join in the celebration. The evening concluded with the 2nd Founder's Day Scholarship Soiree where VSU donors were able to meet their scholarship recipients and hear first-hand how their support to VSU made an impact on students' lives.



Save the Date
March 12, 2020
FOUNDER'S DAY



SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2020





Save the Date



ALUMNI WINTER FEST • JANUARY 25, 2020



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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