



This newsletter is dedicated to our industry partners invested in retaining talent in the Greater Richmond Region.

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GREATER!

““With the help of our dedicated faculty, staff, and students, we continue to position ourselves as one of the best universities, period.”

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President

““When students decide to continue their education at Virginia State University, it is a testament to the idea that greater happens here.”

Dr. Donald Palm, Provost

““The College of Business is directly contributing to RVA. I am proud that our students are regularly giving back, networking, hosting employers on campus, and flying the VSU flag all over town.”

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean

2022: THE FALL SEMESTER IN PICTURES



Kenneth Bittner is a leader in the College of Business and a dedicated patriot.



Shannon Lee and Nigel Stewart are senior leaders and both accomplished.



MonDaiNai Kess and Jaycee Lowe attended the HBCU Marketplace in Baltimore.



Kirsten Curran attended the FARE conference in Columbus, Ohio.



Jasmine and Jada Pierce participated in the Girls For A Change conference with Angela Patton.

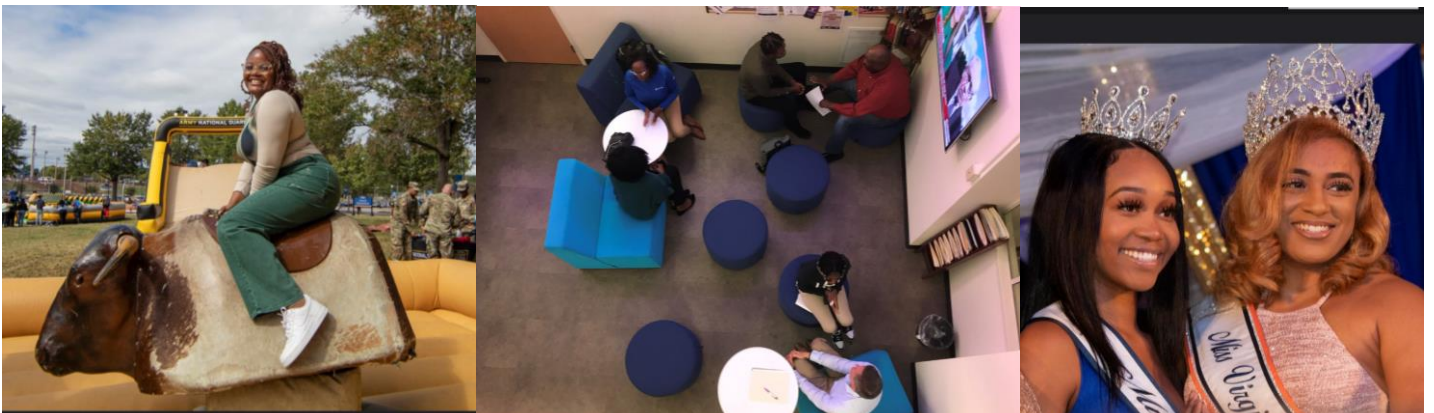






Marquis is always all smiles including in particular when hosting guests. Yun Lee is excited to welcome Destinee and Zykira to the College of Business. Above.

Heaven rides the bull. Students participate in what a bird's eye view of individualized instruction look like. Destiny Henderson is a queen. Below.



Omari along with Mariaja and Nylan and Jazmyne are all smiles, Tiara and Liyla along with Nigel and Folake embrace, Emani and Danielle and Scott pose. Below.



Plant Something

An important element of sustainability for any student group regards continuity and because students matriculate in four years realizing in inevitable transition(s) it is all that more important to think about legacy. For students in the College's American Marketing Association (AMA) this semester, legacy meant planting trees on the campus of Virginia State University for future students to benefit from sitting in the shade. Among the College's most popular student organizations, AMA this semester had a group of approximately thirty active students led by Jauslynn Israel (Management major).



Partnership for Petersburg

Students in the College have had an opportunity now on three occasions to participate in what constitutes an exciting new plan led by Governor Glenn Youngkin. Amounting to more than forty initiatives, the Partnership for Petersburg aims to improve the quality of life for persons in Petersburg. An invaluable partner in that plan is Virginia State University and undergrads along with faculty and staff are a principal resource. A big thanks to the Governor for his leadership.



Indacia, Phillip, Marquis, Quinton, Jharyta, Chris, Josiah, and Kenneth join Governor Glenn Youngkin along with Attorney General Jason Miyares.

Retain in Richmond

Already recognized for among the best workforces in the country, the Greater Richmond Metropolitan Region is investing resources in efforts to retain talent. An element of those efforts regard ChamberRVA and recurring programming aimed at undergraduates. The premise is that if the region can retain a higher percentage of undergrads from both the area and from out of state that arrive to attend school at places like Virginia State University than even more companies will relocate to RVA. Students in the College are supporting the aforementioned programming including attending planning meetings, interning for leading employers, and this fall participating in a College Jam. Also of note, the College's Minority Small Business Launch Center since July 2021 has helped entrepreneurs launch over forty-one verified/formally registered new businesses creating the same number of jobs. The Center has helped over two hundred others prepare for launch who are in planning or informally operating. Altogether, the Center has awarded one hundred forty small business credentials/certifications including forty-two StartUp VA Completions, ninety-eight VSU Business Certificates To Date, and trained eight hundred ninety-five community and student entrepreneurs along with delivering six thousand training hours. The College is a difference maker for the region.

Most Recognizable Brand

Generally considered either the most recognizable or second most recognizable brand in the world, Coca-Cola hosted Emanuel Harris (Marketing major), Tynese Ramos (Management minor) and Jasmine Pierce (Marketing major) in Atlanta for the Coca-Cola Soar Program constituting a one week scholar institute. Additionally, because of being admitted to the Coca-Cola Soar Program each were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Tynese said of the experience, *"I learned a lot and now I have one of the most recognizable brands in the world on my resume!"* Jasmine added, *"I want to go again!"* Emanuel contributed, *"It was a terrific experience!"*

Remembrance

The College was shocked when unexpectedly a mentor and a friend departed this life. Stephanie Churchill from Morgan Stanley was a champion for students regularly guest teaching, offering advice, taking students' phone calls, and facilitating career opportunities. Joe'l Bowers (Management major) interned for Morgan Stanley said of Stephanie, *"I am heartbroken for the Churchill family, for her husband and children, and for everyone at VSU that benefited from knowing Stephanie."*

More Pictures





Graduation, In their own words

In the weeks immediately preceding commencement, Shannon Lee (Management major) said, *“I am so proud of my tenure in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business and am excited to depart with a career! I began VSU with a different degree but because I met Jonathan Young I changed my major and I am so very glad that I did!”* Kirsten Curran (Management major) said, *“I am so excited for the future. Passionate about entrepreneurship and baking, I know that I will continue to operate my cake business. What I am unsure about relates to if I will return to the Virgin Islands. I know my family wants me to return; I know that they want what is best for me. I love my family. I am fortunate to have them and I am fortunate for my time in the College.”*



Admissions

For the last couple of years Singleton Hall has housed the VSU Office of Admissions but the truth is that the College of Business is highly invested in recruiting secondary school students to VSU. This semester, middle and high school students from Petersburg and Hopewell visited Singleton on two different occasions to be taught and mentored by undergrads and yes to be recruited.

Night Out with Kickers

Davon Bell (Management major), Ruqayah Ebrahim (Management major) and Naiya Ray (Marketing major) participated in Chestfield County Night Out with the Richmond Kickers courtesy of Team Owner Rob Ukrop. They joined Rob and Joe Casey (Chesterfield County Manager) for the win!

TMCF

Students continue to be afforded extraordinary opportunities thanks to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) and the College’s partnership with the VSU Honor’s College. This semester students visited New York City for a conference and gala. The opportunity regarded interfacing with leading employers. Said Indacia Turner (Accounting major), *“With all my heart and the most gratitude, I would like to thank TMCF for the opportunity.”*



HBCU Marketplace

Students visited Baltimore this semester to participate in the HBCU Marketplace and to interface with industry and to share best practices with undergrads from students at other Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Supplier Diversity

The College helped host the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity for a conference this semester attended by regional entrepreneurs.

In the House

Rather than reciting all of the contributions made by industry this semester; instead, the following constitutes a thank you to the organizations that visited Singleton Hall between August and December. Thank you HCA, Wells Fargo, KPMG, Lighthouse Labs, Carvana, Blue Heron Capital, State Farm, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Performance Food Group, Atlantic Union Bank, Thalhimier, Altria, Kearney & Company, Peoples Advantage Federal Credit Union, Defense Logistics Agency, Grass Cutters, Froehling & Robertson, Waffle House, Bryant & Stratton College, Kimley-Horn, Topgolf, Richmond Kickers, Maxxtell Creations, Virginia Council for Private Education, Ettrick-Matoaca Library, Myers and Stauffer, Fulton Bank, UHY Advisors, Chesterfield County Public Schools, Winter HR Consulting, USO, Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America, Bon Secours, The Ridgefield Group, VCU Massey Cancer Center, C&F, Rough Ice, Growing Perspectives, Metamorphosis Consulting, Dewberry, United States Forest Service, Virginia Business Systems, SQL Data Partners, The Yorke Agency, S.L. Nusbaum Realty, Virginia Excels, BandyWorks, Propel Your Career, William & Mary, Solvaria, Focus Investment Banking, Attributes For Success, Office of Congressman Donald McEachin, Orange County Public Schools, Brown Ideal Group, Luxurry Studios, Village Bank, ECS Mid-Atlantic, Comcast, Gilbane, NY Life, Merrill Lynch, Estes, Braxton Byerson, Founder and Owner of Braxton Byerson Enterprises, Anoma Beauty, TowneBank, Bankers Insurance, Virginia Housing, Boys to Men Mentoring, Meadows Urquhart Acree & Cook, Shockoe Wine, PIC Results, Rainmaker Industries Group, Sizemore, Roanoke City Public Schools, GEICO, Aston Carter, Deloitte, Liberty Tax, Austin Brockenbrough & Associates, Richard Bland College, Appomattox Regional Governor's School, Richmond Education Foundation, The Richmond Forum, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Legacy Consulting Group, Capitis Advisors, CodeVA, Richmond Region Tourism, Enteros Design, Audacy, Activation Capital, Big Brothers Big Sisters, James River Financial, Henrico County, TD, Potomac Abatement, CarMax, Virginia Credit Union, Just Let Me Do It, Capital Region Land Conservancy, Evonik, Swift Creek Insurance & Realty, AmKay Photography, Sabot at Stony Point, MdBC, National Transparency Project, Beacon, Papa John's, Clocktower Realty Group, Also, Flemming Academy of Etiquette & Protocol, Korinn Y. Carter Enterprises, Virginia National Bank, Century Construction, HealthEquity, Virginia Farm Bureau, CapTech Consulting, Plush Slippers, Unisys, Digital Moxie, Partnership for the Future, Intact Technology, Northrop Grumman, City of Colonial Heights, Ferguson Enterprises, The Hodges Partnership, Virginia Department of Education, BDO, U.S. Small Business Administration, Owen Printing Company, VACO, Caritas, FastSigns, Enso Media, Mary Kay, Better Business Bureau Day, HRichnetworks, Family Insight, Cleaning For College, Love Mila, Southern Virginia Regional Chamber, On the Mic with Mike, Crystal Clear Financial Solutions, Story, Farm Credit of the Virginias, BeautiCurve Boutique/Collegiate Connections, Mpulse, Quest Business Consulting, Hire 1 Consulting, GemsbyChey, Girls For A Change, County of Chesterfield, Small Business & Supplier Diversity, Soaring Eagles, University of District of Columbia, ABC, Keiter, One Dream Realty Group, Destiny Services, Kids on First, and Church & Dwight.

In the Reginald College of Business our aim is to refine "soft skills", augment career awareness, and develop "real world" skills not often learned in a traditional classroom! In affording undergrads access to industry students depart with more than just a degree but instead a portfolio of persons who can open doors for them and help launch their careers. For that, we can only say thank you!

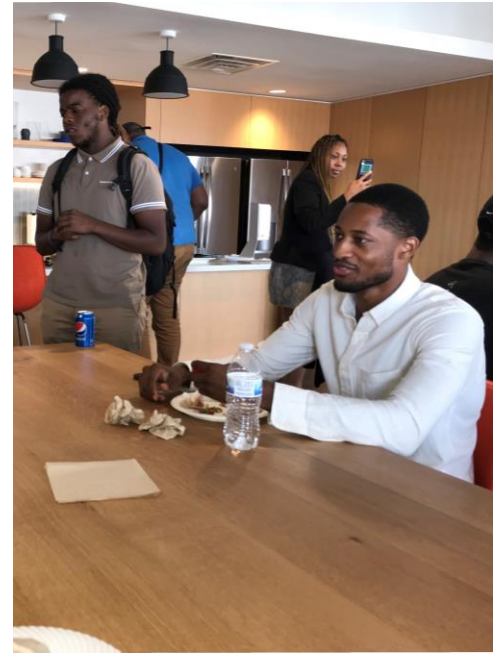
Yet More Pictures

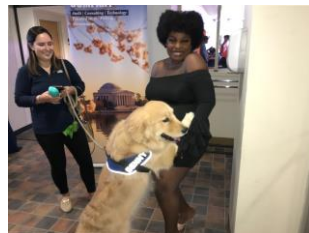


Elianna Benavidez is an accomplished accounting major. Above.



Davon Bell, Ruqayah Ebrahim, and Naiya Ray join Rob Ukrop and Joe Casey along with Jonathan Young for a Kickers game. Below.





NFL Bound

Donnasia Harper (Marketing major) this semester participated in the HBCU Careers in Sports Combine, hosted by the Jacksonville Jaguars. Donnasia said of the experience, *“This gave me the opportunity to create space for me to develop my professional toolkit and connect with sport business professionals and like-minded future executives. I heard from so many amazing and inspiring sports professionals. God shows me every day why he took me through the storm to live moments like this.”*

Donnasia is but the most recent ambassador from the College of Business to work the NFL. Addison Adams (Marketing major and 2022 graduate) participated in the Super Bowl and NFL Draft. Chris Carter (Management major and 2017 grad) is responsible for sales at the Washington Commanders. Together, Donnasia, Addison, and Chris have demonstrated that the NFL is about more than just what happens on the gridiron but instead also what happens in the boardroom.

Students interested in sport should also know that the College’s relationships include Major League and Minor League Baseball, NBA, NHL, NASCAR, etc. In fact, irrespective of a student’s interest the College because of relationships with industry can facilitate match-making opportunities. In the College of Business, it’s not exclusively what you know but also who you know. Now, because of Donnasia and Addison and Chris; students can say that they know someone in the NFL.



Courtesy of Nationwide

The College of Business was well represented this semester at events courtesy of Nationwide Insurance including a National Black MBA conference in Atlanta and a Financial Alliance for Racial Equity (FARE) in Columbus. Students networked, participated in workshops, and competed against undergrads from other institutions.



It's a Float

COVID interrupted VSU Homecoming effective 2020 but for the first time since then the College resumed participation in a Homecoming Parade. The College's student organizations were represented on a float parading the College's many opportunities.



Message from the Dean

Congratulations to all of our students, faculty and staff, alumni, and industry stakeholders relevant to an absolutely outstanding semester! In many regards, the fall amounted to a banner semester for us in The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. Between scholarships, industry giving, internships and jobs, volunteerism, enrollment, faculty and staff on TV and published, conferences and networking, certifications, and launching businesses; the College again demonstrated excellence.

Too many persons to thank for their contributions, I will instead just convey how fortunate I am to work with such outstanding people. I daily brag on our faculty and staff not because they invite it but because I really believe everyone needs to know how outstanding they are in every regard. I celebrate our students probably every hour not because their accomplishments are unable to stand on their own but because it brings me to smile to recite who they are and what they have done! I laud our alumni and industry partners including in my prayers of Thanksgiving not because they are anything less than amazing human beings but because we couldn't do what we do in the College of Business absent their invaluable contributions. Most of all, I thank the VSU administration for the support given to the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business.

To all, I can only say thank you for what you have done and for what I am certain you will do going forward. I am humbled as am I eternally grateful!

Sincerely,

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean

