



This newsletter is dedicated to President Makola Abdullah on celebrating eight years at Virginia State University.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Spring Semester in Pictures — 2, 3, 4, 5

He is a winner! — 5

Singleton Runway? — 6

50th Annual Awards Show — 6

Coming Soon — 7

Morocco — 7

More Pictures — 7, 8

It's a Wrap — 9

Founder's Day — 9

Altria — 9

Focus and Fabulous — 9

PricewaterhouseCoopers — 9

Governor's Mansion — 9

Impact — 10

Yet More Pictures — 11, 12, 13, 14

Photoshoot with President — 15

Big Easy — 16

State Capital — 16

Message from the Dean — 16

GREATER!

"The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University has no greater friend than President Makola Abdullah. Our students, faculty and staff are very fortunate to call President Abdullah our champion. From the moment he arrived, President Abdullah has been unwavering in his support of the College of Business. From accreditation to our new Masters of Business Administration, said support has been the difference maker."

Congratulations to President Makola Abdullah on his 8th year anniversary at Virginia State University and on behalf of all our students, faculty and staff, alumni and industry stakeholders; I wish him many many more!"

AND

"Congratulations to Dr. Tia Minnis, the new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs!"

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean

2024: THE SPRING SEMESTER IN PICTURES



Jasmine Pierce was out of state for the Trojan Explosion band.



Marquis Mason participated in a conference in Richmond.



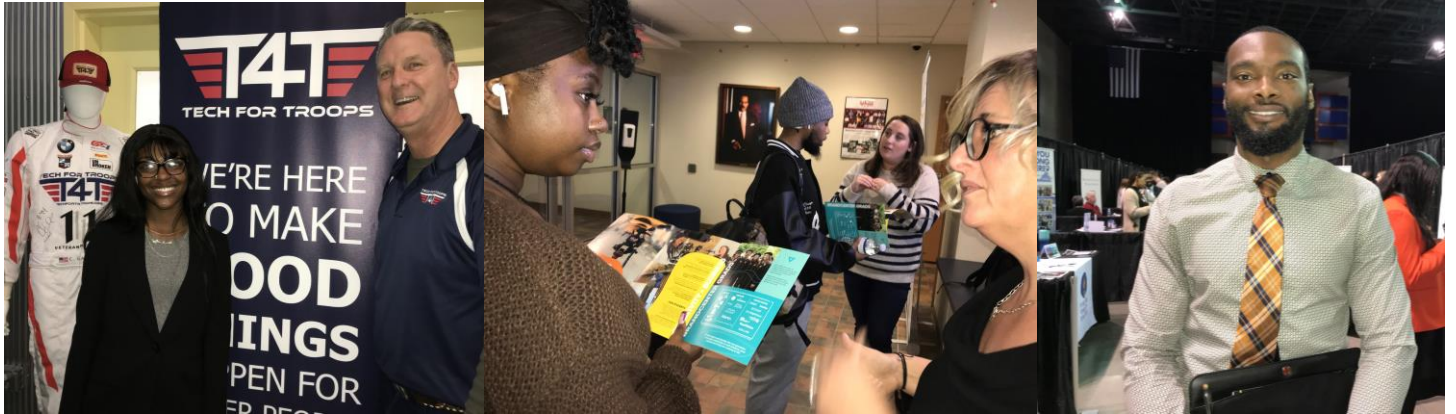
Katheryn Moore attends a TMCF conference.



Kameron Lawrence poses for a pic. (above)



Indacia Turner is awarded a scholarship in Richmond.







The College hosted Jaylen McPherson's band to perform in Singleton.



Demara Harris returned as an alum to visit with Indacia. Above.

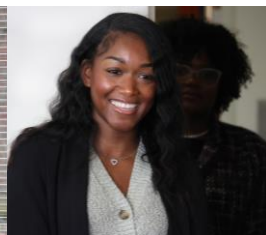
Sam Hayes guest taught.

Tania Judkins poses for the camera.

Art Wharton teaches accounting. Below.



Tiara Clark manages the room, Khalib Robinson presents, Naomi Cross is all smiles, Chantel Williams guest teaches and Monique Simmons visited Keiter. Below.



He is a winner!

Congrats to Isaiah Aminzia (Marketing major) on winning an entrepreneurship award from the Metropolitan Business League at their annual awards show. Aminzia was honored relevant to his business Lovely Lawns. Only a freshman, Isaiah is years beyond his age. Already managing staff, payroll, clients, etc. Aminzia is an entrepreneur through and through. At the awards show, he was celebrated for his accomplishments and acknowledged for his business acumen and for his determination and for doing it all while in school!



Singleton Runway?

Singleton Hall on the campus of Virginia State University is synonymous with business, industry in the classroom, student camaraderie, and opportunities for career development. And though over the years many of the College's students have modeled both on and off campus prior to this semester Singleton had yet to be the venue for a fashion show. That changed in April when the College of Business partnered with Makeup by Holly Beauty Partners to host an entrepreneurship workshop including a model walk on a runway in Singleton Hall. Models included Emanuel Harris (Marketing major), Faye Izatt (Accounting major), Brooke McClinton (Management Information Systems major), Indacia Turner (Accounting major) and Tony Tucker (Accounting major). Said Brooke, "I am really so very glad that I participated; it was a new experience and a lot of fun getting all dressed up and in makeup." [continued below]



The objective regarded an opportunity to celebrate entrepreneurship and to do it in a way that was fun and celebratory. Students were afforded access to business owners that specialized in makeup, hair, attire, photography, videography, etc. Makeup by Holly Beauty Partners Owner Holly Byrd Miller expressed, *"I was so impressed with how students were so engaged and were eager to learn about putting their best leg forward."* Tucker said the same of his experience as a model, *"I model for Urban Couture on campus so the invite for me to participate in the event in Singleton made a lot of sense. It was nice to put on a show for my colleagues in the College of Business. I think some of the faculty and staff enjoyed it too!"* To that point, Rae Morgan (Administrative Manager for Accounting and Finance) said, *"Everyone looked so nice; it was well done!"* Indeed, job well done to the students and a big thanks to the College's industry partners.

50th Annual Awards Show

Congrats to the nearly three hundred students in the College that were honored in April with receipt of certificates and plaques for their scholastic achievements along with for giving back!

Coming Soon

As soon as fall 2024, the College will offer a Master of Business Administration (MBA). Available in both traditional face-to-face and fully online delivery, Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun (Dean) said, “The approval of the new Master of Business Administration program is a milestone achievement and aligns with our mission to prepare students for success in all areas of business. I am confident this program will equip our diverse population of men and women with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to thrive in today’s ever-evolving world of business.” Prospective students can learn more about the program at <https://www.vsu.edu/gradstudies/masters-degree-programs/>

Morocco

Geoffrey Newton (Management major) this semester became the latest student in the College of Business to visit abroad relevant to academics when he landed in Morocco. Students have now studied abroad in Japan, England, France, Germany, Thailand, Brazil, Mexico, China and Morocco. Affording students opportunities to travel abroad has constituted a priority in the College and made possible via a partnership with VSU Study Abroad and the Honor’s College. Up next for students in the College, hard to say; but it’s sure to be exciting!

More Pictures





It's a Wrap

Janay Samuel (Marketing major) said, *"I will really miss the College of Business because of how many memories I have with faculty and staff and students."* Iyana Logan (Accounting major) agreed, *"I did so much in my time in Singleton Hall that it's a little tough to leave but I am excited to start my career."*



mentored scores of my colleagues. I have a lot of reasons to celebrate. Aysia Franklin added, *"I will forever be grateful to the College for everything! I am glad to graduate but I am even more glad for all of my many experiences."* Scott Hill concurred, *"It was fun but it's time to start the next part of our journey."*



Founder's Day

Kevin McCoy (Management major) was provided the great honor of laying the wreath at the tomb of Alfred W. Harris to commemorate the founding of VSU.

Altria

A big thanks to Fortune 500 Altria for all of their support including guest teaching, financial contributions and for hosting students this semester at their corporate headquarters.

Focus and Fabulous

The College for a long time has partnered with Sharone Reid and her company Focus and Fabulous. Said partnership has included internships, guest teaching and again this semester photoshoots for students. Singleton Hall for a day became ground zero for professional headshots to be used for LinkedIn, etc. A big thanks to Sharone Reid and Focus and Fabulous!



PricewaterhouseCoopers

Dr. Joshua Nyantakyi (Accounting Professor) this semester teamed with PricewaterhouseCoopers relevant to a case study competition that included a couple dozen students. The undergrads were provided hands-on experience that culminated in a presentation to the company's representatives.

Governor's Mansion

Tiara Clark (Management major), Jasmine Pierce (Marketing major) and Nylan Taylor (Marketing major) in February visited the Executive Mansion in Richmond courtesy of Governor Youngkin and the First Lady. The students had an opportunity to share their experience as a college student and Nylan Taylor in particular took the opportunity to engage in a long conversation with the First Lady whom was very impressed.



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.

Students Prepare Taxes: Accounting majors again this semester hosted the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and prepared taxes for scores of persons in the community.

Volunteering at Robotics Competition: An opportunity to get in front of hundreds of K-12 students was not lost on the College and why Management Information Systems majors volunteered at a big robotics event.

Student Wins Scholarship: Like semesters past, a student in the College won the Commercial Real Estate for Women (CREW) scholarship. Congrats to Indacia Turner (Accounting major).

Externship: Not only are students afforded access to internships but also to co-ops and to externships. Regarding the latter, Bob Obiora and Monique Simmons (Accounting majors) benefited from Keiter's.

Fashion Battle: Emanuel Harris (Marketing major) along with his team from Urban Couture won a HBCU Fashion Battle in Maryland beating out other universities.

Pitch Competition: Students again participated in intercollegiate pitch competitions including a visit to the Peach State relevant to an opportunity in Atlanta.

Pop Up Shop: Student entrepreneurs sold their goods and services in Singleton this semester at a Center for Entrepreneurship Pop Up Shop.

Spring Day: Five accounting majors visited VCU to attend the National Association of Black Accountants spring day. Also relevant to VCU, students visited with the RAMS to attend a real estate career fair.

Arizona: Davon Bell (Management major) traveled to Arizona courtesy of the Dream Foundation to visit with the Arizona Coyotes National Hockey League team.

TMCF: Mercy Abiodun (Accounting major), Kendall Jones (Management Information Systems major) and Katheryn Moore (Marketing major) attended the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Devcon Conference.

CIAA: Chris Lawrence (Management major) and Jasmine Pierce (Marketing major) attended the CIAA Tournament in Baltimore.

AI: Faculty and students participated in the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute Conference in Charleston, South Carolina relevant to artificial intelligence and ideation.

Thanks: Five students in their capacity relevant to the VSU Rotary Chapter created and delivered Valentine's Day care packages to custodian and police staff.

Band: Jaylen McPherson (Management major) and his band performed in Singleton Hall for faculty and staff.

Yet More Pictures



Students are attentive in class. Above.

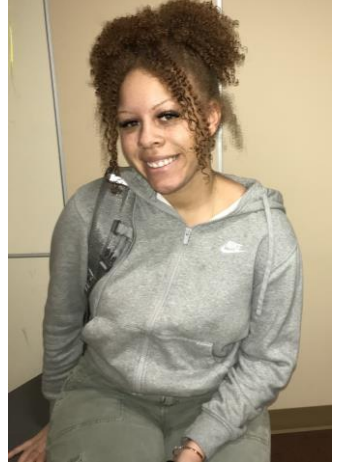


The ladies are all smiles in Singleton. Below.



Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University





Photoshoot with President

What a treat for the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business to host President Makola Abdullah for a photoshoot this semester. What started with pictures kind of in a way turned in to a focus group and/or listening session with the President. President Abdullah spent close to two hours listening and learning about students in the College and undergrads reciprocated by listening and learning from the President. Popular topics regarded how many of the students in the College own and operate businesses, pursuits for after college and how undergrads allocate their time. President Abdullah shared his experiences and the students benefited from his advice and counsel. As always, the President's affable personality and unassuming approach because it is so disarming facilitated a candid exchange that left the thirty business students that participated impressed. Said Naomi Cross (Management major), *"I really enjoyed the conversation with President Abdullah and appreciated how my colleagues and I felt heard. I recognize that he is a very busy person so for him to spend so much time with us mattered."* Sydni Fonlon (Marketing major) agreed, *"I really appreciated how President Abdullah demonstrated in listening to us the way that he did that he genuinely cares about us and not just as students but as human beings."*



Big Easy

Jasmine Pierce (Marketing major) led her colleagues in the American Marketing Association VSU Chapter on a trip to New Orleans to compete against students from all over the U.S. Jasmine along with Yun Lee (Marketing Professor) made the visit happen along with assistance from Altria and from the College of Business.



State Capital

What has become an annual occurrence, students again this semester participated in lobby day at the state capital courtesies of VA21. Students attended workshops and then met with legislators on issues regarding undergraduate concerns.



Message from the Dean

In the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University, the enthusiasm is palpable! We will soon launch a Master's in Business Administration effective the fall semester! I can share with you that all of our stakeholders are excited for the opportunity. It's been a while coming but good things come to those that wait and that put in the hard work to see things through.

I invite and encourage anyone interested in learning more about our MBA to reach and contact us. From students currently enrolled at VSU to graduates of the College to friends and family, we want to initiate a conversation with you regarding why we are so excited about this degree program and how we think it could be a great fit for you!

Now, I would be remiss to not thank everyone who has been so very supportive of this process. From President Makola Abdullah to Provost Dr. Tia Minnis to Director of Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Veronica Shuford to our Board of Visitors to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to our faculty and staff to our students, thank you!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean



Produced by Jonathan Young Photography by Jonathan Young

