

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



VSU Earns Top Ranking!

From the Editor

Virginia State University is the number one, public, master's level HBCU in America.

Go back and read that again.

Virginia State University is the number one, public, master's level HBCU in America.

Are you surprised? Perhaps you shouldn't be. Those of us who have been a part of these exciting times, and those of you who have visited and kept up with campus events over the past few years, have seen this coming. The signs have been everywhere, but, like your own child, you never see how quickly they grow. Some years ago, the vision included new academic programs, new buildings, a sense of accomplishment and pride among our alumni that would translate into ever-increasing levels of support. Today, that vision is a reality.

Vision. The word is popular around campus these days. The vision represented by President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.; the Boards of Visitors who have charted the course; and the administrators, faculty, staff and students who demonstrate daily, not only the greatness of today, but the possibilities of tomorrow.

These possibilities are exemplified by the important research conducted by VSU faculty. In the past year, VSU researchers have been awarded nearly \$9.4 million in grants. This issue will examine projects that are saving lives by bringing more minorities into the medical field, and sciences in general; that are saving the planet by developing more environmentally friendly batteries; and by reaching across the globe to teach budding Ethiopian entrepreneurs sound business practices. It's certainly not difficult to envision the positive impact of this research on future generations.

More and more, our alumni and friends view support of Virginia State not as a gift, but an investment. Our lofty U.S. News ranking is due, in no small part, to the increased level of giving among alumni. Those who have lived and learned "On The Hill" understand these are heady times! The new Engineering and Technology Building opened in late fall, work is steadily progressing on the Gateway 500 residence hall and dining facility, Rogers Stadium boasts a new President's Suite. Our alumni are indeed savvy. More and more are giving to VSU, at nearly twice the level of the average public HBCU. While we are truly grateful for this support, we need you to engage your own vision. Not of what your gifts do today, but where they'll take Virginia State in the future.

One alumna who sees the potential is Angela Avant. A partner at KPMG, she returned to campus to impart her experience to inspire today's business students. Two other loyal supporters, Loretta and Harold Braxton, translated vision into action by directing gifts made in honor of their Golden Anniversary to their namesake endowment that provides scholarships to deserving mathematics majors.

Yes, this year we're Number One. However, now that we've reached this pinnacle, it's more important than ever that you, our alumni and supporters, share our vision; to see not what Virginia State is today, but what it can be tomorrow.

Thomas Reed
Editor

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VSU Named Top Public Master's Level HBCU in America

U.S. News & World Report (USN&WR), in its first-ever ranking of 81 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), named Virginia State University the top public HBCU in the country among master's-level institutions; fifth best public HBCU overall; and 15th best HBCU, public or private, in America.

USN&WR had previously ranked VSU as the number one, public HBCU in the Southern Region – Master's Level in its 2008 Best Colleges in America rankings.

In its HBCU rankings, *USN&WR* used the same 11 broad categories as in its "Best Colleges" survey. These categories represent six, more specific areas: peer assessment, financial resources, graduation and retention, student selectivity, faculty resources and alumni giving. In the HBCU rankings, the 81 schools were compared to one another. Of these 81 institutions, 39 were public.

According to study authors Robert J. Morse and Samuel Flanigan "*The U.S. News* rankings system rests on two pillars. It relies on quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable

indicators of academic quality, and it's based on our nonpartisan view of what matters in education."

In 2004, VSU adopted a long range strategic plan that included, as one of its primary goals, a rise through the *USN&WR* rankings. VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. said

*"We set out with
a very ambitious,
yet eminently
realistic, vision"*

—President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.

the *USN&WR* ranking validates the Plan's mission. "We set out with a very ambitious, yet eminently realistic, vision," he said. "Three years in, we have completed nearly

one-third of our goals and shown significant progress on another 40 percent of our measurable action items."

President Moore said the cornerstones of VSU's continued success are enhancing the school's academic offerings and attracting top students. "This past year, we graduated our first doctoral students, our first nursing students and our first students in two new master's programs," he said. "We instituted creative financial aid initiatives, specifically the Low Income Families with Talented Students program, which allows us to compete with any school in the Commonwealth for Virginia's best students."

For a complete list of the *USN&WR*'s HBCU rankings, visit http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/brief/t1_hbcu_brief.php. ☈

VSU Surges in U.S. News Rankings

Virginia State University gained 19 spots in the 2008 *U.S. News & World Report's* (USN&WR) annual ranking of America's best colleges and universities. VSU's ranking of 75 among master's universities in the Southern Region made the University the highest ranked, public, historically black college and university (HBCU) and the third highest ranked HBCU in the region.

The region in which VSU was placed includes 119 peer institutions

representing 12 states. The *USN&WR* evaluates schools in 11 broad categories that represent six, more specific areas: peer assessment, financial resources, graduation and retention, student selectivity, faculty resources and alumni giving.

In 2004, VSU adopted a long range strategic plan that included, as one of its primary goals, a rise through the *USN&WR* rankings. At that time, VSU ranked in the Fourth Tier of the rankings. In the ensuing

The Power of Clean

VSU Professor Develops Green Battery

In the electronic age of digital cameras, PDAs and iPods, one can't avoid using batteries. Batteries power our television remotes, cordless telephones and radios—necessary parts of the daily routine. However, when batteries become old and no longer power our gadgets, we pull out the spare set and toss the old ones in the trash.

Old, household batteries thrown in the garbage end up in landfills where their toxic metals leak into the soil and water, contaminating the environment, our food and water. Shahzad Akbar, VSU computer engineering professor, together with other researchers, have developed an environmentally friendly battery.

This past summer, Akbar and a team of scientists at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory worked to convert chemical energy into electricity using nanotechnology.

"This was a really cool project," says Akbar, who is environmentally conscientious. "I was able to work with world renowned scientists and use state-of-the-art equipment to further a mission that will protect our planet."

To reach their goal, Akbar used an electric beam evaporator to create electricity from a renewable



Photo courtesy of Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education

fuel, methanol. Instead, new nano-constructed materials would be used to react with the methanol and oxygen to produce heat. This process allowed the team to generate electricity without using conventional combustion, thus reducing the amount of emissions and pollutants in the air.

Akbar's participation in the research was supported by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Education Institutions Faculty Summer Research Program. The program is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

"I hope to continue research that benefits our way of living," says Akbar. "It is truly rewarding and I am proud of this work." ☈

three years, the University has risen to the middle of the Third Tier.

"Based upon the scores of other HBCUs, it's clear that VSU is the highest ranked, public HBCU in the Southern Region," said VSU Provost Dr. W. Eric Thomas. "This validates our strategy of increasing enrollment without sacrificing the quality of incoming freshmen; of nurturing students to keep them in school;

and of providing the financial and academic resources to attract top quality faculty."

The categories in which VSU experienced the greatest gains were: Faculty Resources, 28 spots; Student Selectivity, 12 spots; Financial Resources, 10 spots; and Alumni Giving, 13 spots.

According to VSU Vice President for Development, Robert L. Turner, Jr., these last two categories point to broad

acknowledgment of the University's success. "Alumni, corporations and local governments are witnessing VSU's success with its aggressive strategic plan," he said. "They're seeing tangible results on their support and recognize VSU as an investment with positive returns." ☈



VSU Facilitates Mentor/Protégé Partnership

Virginia State University (VSU) and Owens & Minor, a Virginia-based, FORTUNE 500 company and the nation's leading distributor of name brand medical and surgical supplies to the acute-care industry, will work together in an innovative partnership to provide business mentoring services to MAC Medical Supply Company, Inc., a certified, woman-owned medical supply manufacturer and distributor. Owens & Minor has enrolled Chicago-based MAC Medical Supply under its U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Mentor-Protégé Program.

Under the three-year agreement, VSU will serve as the Development Assistance Provider to Owens & Minor and MAC Medical Supply, working closely with both companies. For MAC Medical Supply, VSU will identify the company's business and market profile and will assist in developing business, marketing and market penetration plans. For mentoring company Owens & Minor, VSU will assist in establishing performance

benchmarks for MAC Medical Supply and will also monitor progress toward these benchmarks. VSU will also help MAC Medical with the following additional services: developing publications, developing and implementing a training program for MAC Medical Supply employees, and creating a strategic business and marketing plan. Dr. V.K. Mummalaneni, chair of VSU's department of marketing and management, will serve as project director. VSU Provost Dr. W. Eric Thomas will serve as Principal Investigator.

The DoD Mentor-Protégé program was created by the U.S. Department of Defense in 1991 to encourage more women- and minority-owned businesses to become defense department contractors and vendors. DoD prime vendors, including Owens & Minor, work with the protégé companies, nurturing them with infrastructure and business development, training, increased sales opportunities and sharing of resources. ☈

Ribbon Cut on New Engineering and Technology Building



In late fall, VSU formally opened its new Engineering & Technology Building. The facility will house the mechanical/electrical engineering, computer engineering and manufacturing engineering programs of the School of Engineering, Science and Technology. It features four multimedia classrooms, 30 engineering laboratories, a 126-seat instructional auditorium, faculty offices and support spaces. VSU received a \$21.7 million GOB bond for design and construction of the facility. ☈



VSU Researcher Recognized for Volunteerism

Dr. Steven Pao, food safety microbiologist in Virginia State University's Agricultural Research Station, recently received the Bronze President's Award for his volunteer efforts to assist the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The ninth largest country in the world with a population of approximately 15.2 million, Kazakhstan is located in Central Asia, south of Russia and northwest of China.

Pao visited the country under the auspices of the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Volunteers for Prosperity is an interagency initiative established by President Bush's Executive Order 13317. It encourages international voluntary services by highly-skilled Americans supporting major U.S. efforts to promote health and prosperity around the world.

During his two-week deployment in November 2006, Pao provided Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system training to governmental inspection officials, and laboratory and food industry professionals. He also conducted on-site consultations on HACCP implementation and laboratory practices, and assessed and made recommendations on inspection and laboratory operations.

In its 2007 annual report, Volunteers for Prosperity cited Pao for his efforts in assisting the Ministry of Agriculture to build a comprehensive food safety management system that will help ensure the safety of food produced and allow the country to participate more



fully in the global marketplace.

Pao returned to Kazakhstan for a second stint in August 2007 on another two-week volunteer assignment. Working with the Phytosanitary Department, he trained governmental officials and laboratory

personnel on HACCP implementation, food safety procedures, modern detection techniques, laboratory equipment requirements, and evaluation methods based on national and international standards.

Pao has been recognized previously for his volunteer services to improve food and agricultural communities in Central America. In 2005, he conducted practical training sessions on food microbiology to quality assurance laboratory representatives from the government, universities and private companies in El Salvador.

That same year, he also visited Nicaragua where he worked closely with industry and regulatory laboratories, and lectured on laboratory certification programs at the University of Central America. ☈



Program Aims to *STEM Exodus* of Minorities from the Sciences

By Janae Johnson

When children are asked "what do you want to be when you grow up," common answers include "an astronaut," "a doctor" or "a nurse." Too often, though, minority children are stymied in the pursuit of these science-based careers. Virginia State University, working closely with area schools is embarking on a long-range solution to the under-representation of minorities in these fields.

As a part of a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Virginia State University created the Trojan—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program (VSU T-STEM), aimed at increasing the number of minorities in these disciplines.

Recently, VSU T-STEM implemented a focused program to directly assess and address the impact of a VSU/ Petersburg community coalition on the mathematics performance of minority students. This project is the first step in a long-term partnership among VSU; the Algebra Project, a civil/educational rights program; and the Petersburg School

Districts. The project will create a "K through college" model of intervention, with the ultimate goal of increasing African-American performance and participation in STEM majors and careers.

Petersburg students have the lowest Standards of Learning (SOL) pass rates of any Virginia school system





on tests in math and science. The dropout rate in Petersburg is 6.9 %, again the highest of all local districts and more than twice the average state rate. Thus few students from this district achieve the academic background necessary for success in a STEM major in college.

In addition to under-prepared African American students desiring a career in a STEM field, there is a much larger pool of students that would never even consider pursuing a science related major because of a weak background in mathematics or general lack of interest.

"Our goal is to increase the number of graduates from an average of 70 to more than 105 by the end of the grant," says VSU Provost Dr. W. Eric Thomas, who serves as the Principal Investigator for the project. "The T-STEM program will have a significant, positive impact on VSU's strategies improving the quality of science and mathematics education."

Both lack of preparation and lack of interest are major factors in the under representation of African Americans in STEM professions. VSU's program will address both issues. In addition to serving those students that have already made it to college, albeit under prepared, the program will create a comprehensively trained team of academic and community leaders to support each other

through STEM activities, develop target interventions and address critical needs to spark interests in students to pursue a career in the sciences.

Training for VSU T-STEM faculty and teachers from the local school district will be provided by the Algebra Project. The Algebra Project, an educational/civil rights organization founded by Dr. Robert Moses, has a demonstrated ability to develop a system that has been extremely effective in teaching mathematics principles and reasoning to low-performing African-American students.

The Algebra Project has started an intervention with Petersburg, funded by the local Cameron Foundation, which will begin with the middle school grades, and then move through high school, and down into elementary schools. These interventions will be supplemented through teacher and community leader training and mathematics and science bridge programs for students that will be held at VSU during the summers.

These programs level the playing field for minorities to compete in the job market. Childhood dreams of being a doctor or an astronaut become more realistic with programs like T-STEM that pay special attention to the development of minorities in science fields. ☈

VSU Receives \$4 Million NIH Biomedical Research Award

The National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced the award of a \$4 million research grant to support a Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) program at Virginia State University. The aims of the five-year NCMHD-RIMI program are to reduce health disparities by providing resources to institutions that prepare significant number of minority students and faculty in biomedical sciences.

VSU-RIMI program objectives are to build research capacity for biomedical research at VSU, to promote the participation of faculty and students in biomedical and behavioral research and to enhance academic programs in biomedical sciences and health disparities.

The program proposes four major cores: administrative, shared resources/infrastructure, faculty developmental research and academic enhancement. The RIMI research

core consists of three subprojects related to diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and internal parasite infections.

The RIMI program will include a VSU team headed by Dr. W. Eric Thomas, Provost and Principal Investigator (PI); Dr. Larry Brown, Associate Dean, School of Engineering, Science and Technology, Program Director; Dr. Ali Ansari, Acting Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Research and Outreach; and co-PI's Dr. Godwin O. Mbogwu, Associate Dean, Research; Dr. Omar Milton Faison; Dr. Glenn Harris; Dr. Brian Sayre; and Dr. Joseph Tritschler.

With the RIMI program, VSU anticipates to double the research productivity within the five years of the project period, which could be measured in the number of publications, funded proposals, number of students entering graduate school and total number of faculty participating in biomedical research. ☈

Small-Scale Private Animal Health Care in Ethiopia Made Sustainable

Using small agribusiness management training provided through an assignment by VSU Farmer-to-Farmer Program, volunteer Dr. Jerry Nolte in March 2006, helped animal health product supplier Tekaligne Abebe increase sales by 32 percent and net income by 37 percent in just three months.

Nolte traveled to Ethiopia in March under Virginia State University's (VSU's) USAID-funded Farmer-to-Farmer Program. One of VSU's major activities in Ethiopia is contributing to the success of the USAID-funded Ethiopia Dairy Development Project being implemented by Land O'Lakes (LOL). VSU's volunteer US agribusiness development experts provide hands-on business development training to EDDP-selected input suppliers. The aim is to increase suppliers' profitability and the quality, volume, and sustainability of dairy production in Ethiopia.

Abebe operates an animal health care service and drug supply business in the Chancho District of Ethiopia. Trained as a veterinarian, he has a total of 16 years professional experience in animal health care, the last 10 years as a private vendor. Land O'Lakes selected him as a lead animal health care provider to be targeted by EDDP to improve service delivery to smallholder and commercial dairies in the Chancho District.

Although he had extensive experience with managing his business, Abebe had never had formal training in the fundamental techniques of business management. He spent a total of 52 hours in group and one-on-one training with Nolte. With this training, he established a computer spreadsheet-based accounting system to track income and expenses and manage inventory. At the same time, Nolte evaluated Abebe's pricing practices and discovered that he was marking up his products by 25 percent. The resulting high prices were making it difficult for Abebe to attract buyers in competition with black market suppliers operating in the district. Nolte advised Abebe to reduce his mark-up to 10 percent and focus on maximizing volume of sales rather than profit per unit. Increasing his customer base would also help him increase sales of his veterinary



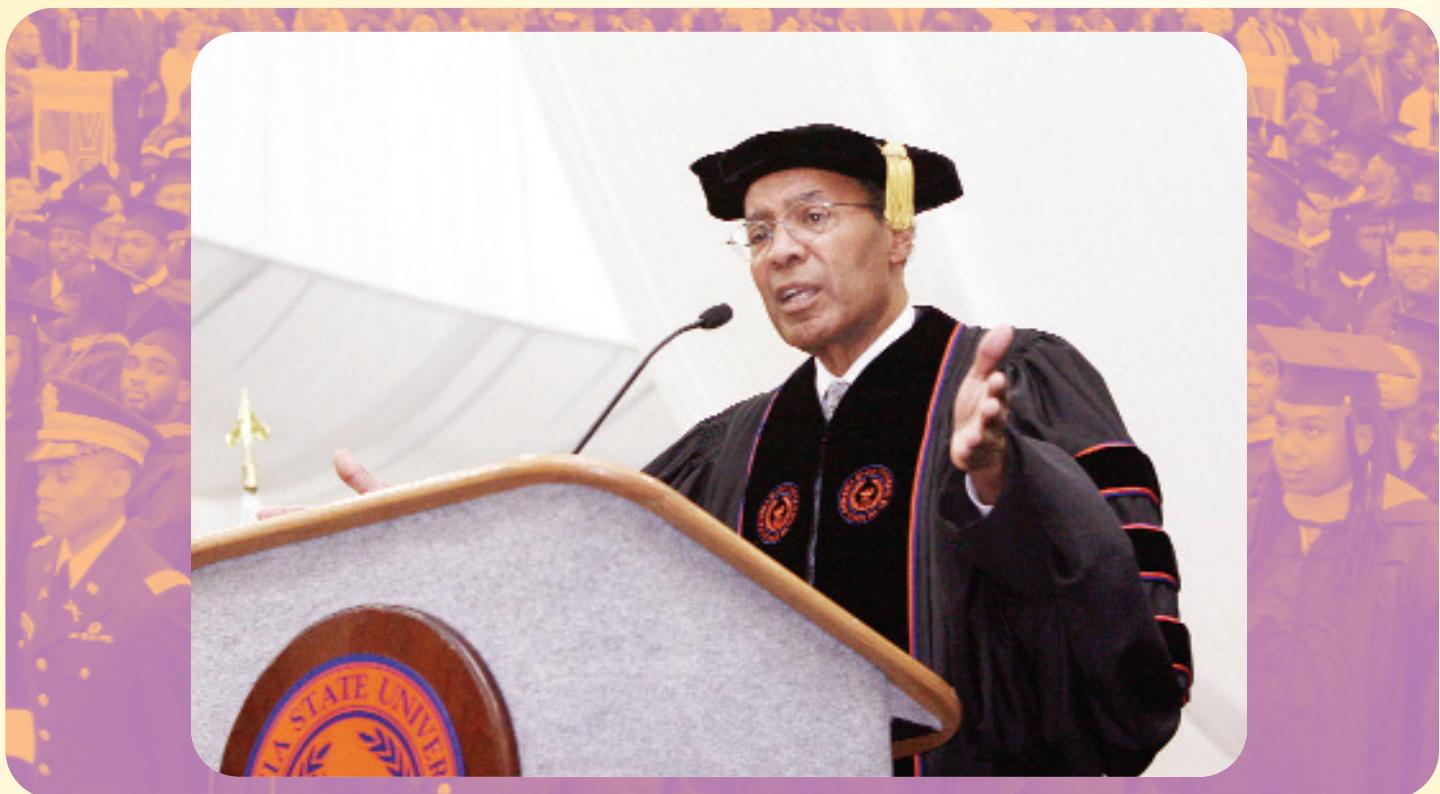
Dr. Jerry Nolte (l) and Tekaligne Abebe

services. Nolte also advised Abebe to join with other vendors in the district to buy supplies in bulk in order to reduce transportation expense and qualify for bulk discounts.

Results achieved:

- Adebe is using a computer spreadsheet to manage his business income, expenses and inventory.
- Adebe persuaded other nearby veterinary service providers to join him in a buying club. The buying club succeeded in buying products on behalf of all members and negotiating volume discounts with suppliers, as well as reducing its members expenditures for transportation.
- Adebe increased his gross income from drug sales and health care services by 32 percent – from 25,200 Birr during the first quarter of 2006 – prior to Nolte's visit – to 33,275 Birr during the second quarter of 2006, immediately following Nolte's visit.
- Adebe's net income increased 37 percent – from 4,993 Birr to 6,856 Birr – in the same period.
- Including Adebe, Nolte provided training to a total of 44 input suppliers – 11 feed dealers, 20 animal health service providers, and 13 artificial inseminators – including 3 women. It is likely that many of these also increased their sales and profits making use of the training Nolte provided. 

Fall 2007 Commencement



"Value Yourself" Dr. Poussaint Tells Graduates

Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint brought a message of value and optimism to Virginia State University's Fall Commencement. He told the assembled graduates and their families and friends "you're here because you're not quitters." The noted psychiatrist and media analyst, perhaps most well known for his collaborations with Bill Cosby on several books and *The Cosby Show*, told graduates to "take care of yourself, your mental health and physical health."

Dr. Poussaint implored graduates to give back, to their new alma mater, but more importantly, to future generations. "You must carry yourselves and your children forward," he said. "Everyone has a responsibility to make a difference in their lives."

Citing a statistic that 80 percent of inmates are drop-outs, he said that, by earning a degree, the freshly-minted VSU alumni were protecting themselves against many of society's ills.

VSU honored Dr. Poussaint by bestowing upon him an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. The university also honored its two highest ranking graduates: Yawavi Assiobo, an accounting major from Richmond, who graduated with a 3.808 GPA; and Shanieka Jones, a criminal justice major from Amityville, NY, who graduated with a 3.796 GPA.

Fall 2007 Commencement



ALUMNI PROFILE

Alumna Encourages Students

Angela Avant Helps Others Realize Their Potential

"If you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything that your mind can imagine," Angela Avant '81 recently told a group of VSU business students. "In order to succeed, one must first believe that he or she can."

This fall the School of Business hosted the first Angela Avant Day, which served as an opportunity for students to interact with prominent alumni in their field of study.

"I was quite honored and humbled that a day was held in my honor," admits Avant. "When I approached Singleton Hall and read 'Angela Avant Day' on the banner, I felt proud. I am rarely speechless, but I was at that moment."

Avant is a proud graduate of the School of Business, where she studied accounting and finance. She is one of a few black women who hold the rank of partner at KPMG, a global company that provides audit, tax and advisory services to a wide-range of clients.

While on campus, she visited several accounting classes and met with VSU's chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). "I enjoyed meeting with the students," says Avant. "They are truly an extraordinary group of leaders and I believe they will excel in the industry."

According to Avant, while students must work hard to excel in the classroom, however, what they do outside is equally important. "When I was a student, I had a campus job, was in the band and pledged a sorority,"

she recalls.

"I gained invaluable social and personal skills being involved in clubs and organizations."

She believes the ability to work with people and keeping a positive attitude will help students succeed.

"I always tell students they must have a team-player attitude. That often makes the difference between good and great leaders."

Avant has made it a priority to give back to VSU. Remembering her days on the Hill motivates her to help today's students. "As a student at VSU, I learned so much. The faculty and staff did a tremendous job preparing us for the workforce. Now, I am able to return the favor."

Avant met with members of the business faculty to discuss funding support from KPMG. During the luncheon, she presented a \$6,000 check to the School on behalf of KPMG. "This is the start of a wonderful partnership with VSU and KPMG. I know our efforts will be most beneficial to our students," says Avant. ☈



Note: Angela Avant will deliver the keynote address at the 2008 Founder's Day on Thursday, March 6.

ALUMNI NOTES

Clarence C. Gray, III '43 was recently designated "Distinguished Archon" by the Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Willie J. Bradley '49 was recently presented the "Alpha Distinguished Award of Merit" by the Virginia Association of Alpha Chapters –Area VI during ceremonies celebrating Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Founders Day. The year 2007 marks Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's 101st birthday. Bradley joined the Beta Gamma Chapter in 1947. He is current president of the VSU Alphas.

Calvin R Swinson '58 was appointed to the Idaho Commission on the Arts, the state's principal arts and cultural agency, by Governor C. L. Butch Otter to a four-year term, beginning August 1, 2007. The Commission has 13 members.

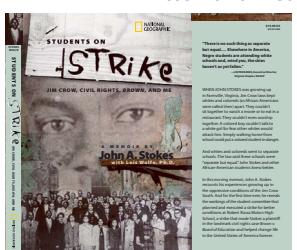
John A. Stokes '59 has authored *Students on Strike: Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Brown and Me*. *Students on Strike* covers historical information that has never been done so extensively under one cover until now. Stokes, an original Brown v. Board of Education Plaintiff, has written a far reaching publication that

depicts enumerable concepts/ truths that have been hidden from the public for decades.

Students on Strike is a must read! Discover and uncover little known historical facts. And come face-to-face with the recollections which many persons in the know still cannot talk about.

Students on Strike is available at Borders, Barnes & Nobles and Books-A-Million, or online at Amazon.com and other websites for discount shopping.

Stokes is available for book talks, formal lectures, or book signings at your convenience. This is a great opportunity to network with education, church, civic, and other special interests groups or organizations in search of an authentic and uplifting original American story experience. For bookings, contact Stokes at (301) 306-5577 or by email at jastokesbrownvsboard@verizon.net.



Willie Wright '59 was featured in the Fayetteville, NC City View Magazine as one of 14 Movers and Shakers in the city. The selections were based upon nominations by non-profit organizations in Cumberland County.



Dr. Sandra Mobley '62 was inducted into the Toastmasters International at its District 66 Conference held in Roanoke, VA in November.

Gerald Barbour '65 was ordained as a deacon at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, NY on June 24, 2007. Barbour is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Abyssinian Credit Union, Vice-President of the Men's Chorus and President of the Abyssinian Scholarship Ministry. He has a Master of Public Administration Degree from Pace University. He is retired from the Westchester County, NY Department of Social Services where he was a Senior Employment Counselor. Mr. Barbour is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the Greater New York Chapter of the Virginia State University Alumni Association and lives with his wife Beverly Brown-Barbour in Yonkers, N.Y.

Annie Randolph Pollard '65 was recently appointed to the King & Queen County, VA Planning Commission. She serves on a commission of 10 members to develop and administer policies affecting the county's land resources and infrastructure. She recently completed sessions designed to classify her as a certified community planner. Annie is a retired science teacher and a former President of the Virginia State University National Alumni Association. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She and her husband, Percy Pollard '66, recently celebrated the birth of their seventh grandchild, Destiny Lynn Pollard, born in Northern New Jersey in November 2007.

Andrew A. Venable '68 was presented the Doctor of Humane Letters Degree honoris causa at the Cleveland State University Commencement exercise on

Sunday, December 16, 2007. The Board of Trustees and Faculty of Cleveland State voted to award this degree in recognition of Brother Venable's significant commitment to public service and his contribution to the community as an educator representing "the People's University." Venable currently serves as Director of the Cleveland Public Library.

Fredene Oliver '69 '78

was selected twice for inclusion in the 10th and 11th editions of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2005-2006* and *2006-2007*. *Who's Who* honors a select 5% of the nation's premier educators. The 10th



Edition selection, noted that a successful former student identified her as making a difference in his or her life. The 11th Edition recognized her for the impact she made on her students. This honor is reserved only for educators who not only teach but inspire their students to greater achievements.

Charles Finley '69 has been named the 2007 Virginia recipient of the Dr. John M. Davis Distinguished Educational Achievement Award.

Glenn Sessoms '76 has been named Leadership Memphis (LM) incoming board chair for 2007-2008.



The current vice president of the FedEx Memphis Hub Day Sort, Sessoms manages some 3,500 employees, four directors, 25 senior managers and 150 managers. The Memphis Day Sort Operation launches approximately 90 aircraft and sorts 830,000 packages daily. The operation also is responsible for moving the United States Postal Service volume for the U.S. His next logistic goal is to move Leadership Memphis to even greater heights.

Ms. Vernell Kilpatrick '77 from Fort Story is a member of The Hampton Roads Joint Military Services School Liaison Committee that recently received the Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award in a ceremony in Kansas City, MO. Awarded by the Military Child Education

Coalition, the honor comes with \$10,000 to help defray costs associated with outreach efforts. The group collaborates on a number of high-profile initiatives and, in September, worked to pass the High States Testing Reciprocity for Mobile Military Students, ensuring students are not forced to re-take similar exams each time they move.

Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale-New Haven Health System have named **Kevin A. Myatt '77 as Senior Vice President of Human Resources.** Myatt had served as associate vice chancellor and chief human resources officer at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville, TN.



Jeffery Dunn '80 was featured in the Plainfield, NJ Star-Ledger. Mr. Dunn is executive director of a for-profit business incubator called the Business One Stop Service. His company provides resources and solutions to help businesses achieve their short and long term goals.

Gracie Brooks Quarles '80, a teacher at Louisa County Middle School, was recognized by the Virginia Association for Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (VATFACS) as the organization's 2007 Teacher of the Year. The Louisa County School Board recognized Gracie's accomplishment at the October 2, 2007 board meeting where a framed picture of Gracie with an inscription about her honor was presented to her to be displayed at Louisa County Middle School.

Davida Harrell-Williams '90 was recently named Administrator of the Year at Norfolk State University. Ms. Harrell-Williams is the Director of Auxiliary Services at NSU. She is responsible for managing the Spartan Ticket Center, printing services, copy management, the fitness center, Spartan Card operations and facilities rentals.

John W. Piercy, III CCO, '95 was promoted to Assistant Social Work Supervisor Secured Facilities at Central Office within the New Jersey Department of Corrections. He is responsible for the implementation, facilitation, and

oversight of the Reentry program in all 14 state facilities.

Raymond "Ray" Whitaker, Sr. '96 M.Ed. was recently elected to the Essex County School Board representing the Essex South District. Whitaker taught in Essex County for 22 years before joining the county school system administration. In 1997, he was promoted to principal of Essex High School, the first black to hold this position.

Jamaal O. Bailey '98 was recently named Deputy Executive Director of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at the 101st Anniversary Convention in Orlando, Florida. Bailey was initiated a member of the Beta Gamma Chapter at Virginia State University and has been a member of the fraternity since 1997.



Sherida Gholston M.Ed. '98 was recently selected to participate in the North Carolina Community College Leadership Program. Ms. Gholston is the Director of Student Support Services at Halifax Community College.

Michael D. Jackson '98 is the new Assistant City Manager for Mount Ranier, MD. Jackson has over 10 years of success in budgeting, personnel management, inventory accountability and problem solving.

Brian K. Schaeffer '02 has been named postmaster for Blytheville, AR

Sister and brother **Tamekia Johnson '03 and Franklin Johnson, Jr. '04** received master's degrees from Averett University this past October. Both were members of the Trojan Explosion Marching Band while students at VSU.

Christina S. Draper M.A. '05 has been named to the Richmond (VA) Top 40 Under 40 List. She serves as director of the African American Heritage Program for the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Through her faculty position with the University of Virginia and



her affiliations with groups — including the Richmond Public Library, The Black History Museum & Cultural Center, the American Association of Museums, VMFA, Hampton University Museum, and an appointment to the board of the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville by Gov. Tim Kaine — Draper works tirelessly to preserve the art and history of the state she loves.

DeMarcus Merritt '05, '07 has been named Sports Information Director at Shaw University. Merritt was a student assistant and then a graduate assistant in the Virginia State University Sports Information Office.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund has hired **Mr. Christopher Binns '07** as its new Program Career Counselor. Binns has experience in working with mentoring programs that prepare young men for their future career goals.

Former Virginia State University men's basketball player **Avis Wyatt '07** signed a two-year contract with the Amsterdam Astronauts of the FIBA Europe league. Wyatt, from Petersburg, VA, led Virginia State with a 17.1 points per game average and is the all-time Trojan leader in blocked shots.

Dr. Sheila B. Bailey M.Ed. recently received the James T. Micklem Award of Excellence from the Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education. Dr. Bailey is the director of student services for Hopewell Public Schools.

The Rev. J. Rayfield Vines, Jr. M.Ed.

has been named President of the NAACP Virginia Chapter. Vines, a veteran of the civil rights movement, plans on moving the NAACP back into activism. He also wants the organization to focus on early childhood education, opportunities for black businesses and protest against payday lenders. 



CHAPTER NEWS

The **Agriculture Alumni Chapter** held its 26th Annual Recognition Banquet in November. Dr. Clinton Turner, President, opened the banquet with greetings. President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.; Dr. W. Eric Thomas, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Alma Hobbs, Dean of



the School of Agriculture; Ronald Howell, President of Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRRs); and Charlyne Jackson-Fields, President of the VSU Alumni Association also extended greetings. Guest speaker Neal Noyes, Executive Director of the Virginia Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission, gave an update on the status of the Commission. Four alumni were honored for their efforts on behalf of student scholarships. They are Fredrick Custis '73, Michael Piercy '79, and Van Petty '73. The Chapter has contributed more than \$100,000 toward their endowment in the University Foundation.

The **Baltimore-Metro Chapter** of the VSU Alumni Association held its annual Christmas Dance on December 7. Proceeds from the event go toward the Chapter's Endowment fund. The chapter also had its annual slots trip in August at the Philadelphia Parks Slots. These proceeds also go to the scholarship fund.

The **Charles City County Chapter** continues to give back to their community. During the Thanksgiving holiday, they presented two families in need with Food Lion gift certificates. They also had a sock drive and distributed over 100 pairs of socks to two nursing homes during Christmas.

The Charles City County Chapter's main focus is to recruit Charles City County students to attend VSU. The Chapter encourages its members to contribute to the Charles City County Fund at VSU which awards students from Charles City County scholarships. The recent recipient of the scholarship was Christopher Richards, a sophomore Accounting Major.

The **Greater Petersburg Area Alumni Association** held its Third Annual Solomon Awards Program in November. The event was held at Jones Dining Hall.

Four sets of parents were recognized for assisting their children in pursuing college degrees even though the

SAVE THE DATE: *May 9-11, 2008* **Reunion 2008-A Trojan Tradition**

Reunion 2008 will celebrate classes ending in "3" & "8," including our Golden Anniversary Class of 1958. Plans are already under way for a terrific Trojan weekend! Alumni Weekend is a great time to reminisce with old friends, recapture fond memories and renew ties to Virginia State. Registration materials for all alumni in reunion will be mailed in late February.

Class Coordinators

Class of 1943	Class of 1963	Class of 1976	Class of 1993
Ellalee Fountain Flowers Arthur "Pickles" Young	Areva Walton Boyd Brenda Fowlkes Arnetta Thompson Jones Pauline Boxley	Kitty Chaney James Gibson Dr. Harold D. Jones Dr. Stanley Jones Mary "Annette" Duncan Rose Lucious Shuler	Reginald Pasteur Class of 1998 Renee Crews
Class of 1948			Class of 2003 TBD
Dr. William C. Jones Col (RET) Jona McKee	Francis Ball Gladys Fitzhugh Pemberton Wilson Seaborn	Dr. Richard Oliver Christine Patterson Charlene Boone Quander Orestes West Diane Wilson	
Class of 1953	Class of 1968	Class of 1983	
Aurelia Ellis Craighead Joyce C. Crump Fred D. Green Edith Parham Harris Phyllis Jackson Glasker Shirley Tutt McCoy Calvin R. Swinson Edna Thompson	Phylis Jones Adams Shirley Kennedy Paul Garner	Rolaunda Harris Miles	
Class of 1958	Class of 1973	Class of 1988	
"50th Reunion Class"		TBD	

Consider making a gift in honor of your class.

For more information about contributing to your class endowment contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 804-524-6935 or alumni@vsu.edu. Keep checking the Alumni page at www.vsu.edu for up-to-date information.

parents did not obtain an education above high school. These parents are identified as "ordinary parents who possessed extraordinary wisdom." Parents recognized were:

Mrs. Pearl E. S. Stewart Bonner (Posthumously)
 Mrs. Clara G. Lesane
 Mr. & Mrs. Percy Everson, Sr. (Posthumously)
 SFC Samuel* & Mrs. Aecha Kim Northington
 *deceased

Twelve children from these unions received bachelor's and master's degrees from VSU, totaling more than 57 years of study at VSU. Emcee for this event was Mrs. Raymon Bessix, VSU Alumna. A commentary highlighting the event was done by Ms. Annie Jackson Ellison, VSU Alumna. More than 100 well wishers attended. Funds from this event will go toward scholarships for deserving area high school graduates who attend Virginia State University.

The **Greater New York Chapter** celebrated its 20th Anniversary at a gala dinner dance in November. The event was attended by

165 alumni and friends who helped the chapter celebrate as they honored four Loyal Daughters (Martha Brown '55
 Mary Coleman '58

Audrey-Miller Sydney '60 Barbara (Booker) Winborne

'60) who had the vision and fortitude to reactivate the chapter after a number of years of inactivity. Two Loyal Sons (Theodore Charity '52 and Lemuel Copeland '57) were honored for their many years of dedication and continued commitment to the chapter. Music for the festive occasion was provided by versatile jazz artist Eddie Pazant '60 and his orchestra.

The Virginia State University Concert Choir visited Philadelphia in November. Along with performances at local high schools, the choir, under the direction of Ms. Johnnella Edmonds and Mr. Buckner Gamby, performed for members of **The Greater Philadelphia Chapter**. The choir presented a well-rounded repertoire of musical works that demonstrated the superb skills of the singers,



L to R: Honorees Mary Coleman, Barbara Winborne, Audrey-Miller Sydney and Martha Brown

the conductor and the accompanist. Alumni from 1934 through the 1980s attended, gathering before the benediction to sing VSU's Evening Song with the Concert Choir. Presiding over the program was Gloria Toxey Jones '70. Dr. Mildred F. Johnson, President of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter Ms. Edmonds with a dozen orange roses.

The **Richmond Chapter** is proud to announce it has more than 120 financial members as of November 30. Stephanie Smith, Chapter Membership Committee Chairperson, and Jimmie Stevenson are leading this year's effort to exceed last year's record setting number of 143 members in the Richmond Chapter. The chapter's goal of 200 members is coming close to reality.

The **VSU Richmond Pre-Alumni Chapter** has been re-activated. Through the efforts of the Richmond Alumni Chapter and the Office of Alumni Relations, over 20 students have joined the Pre-Alumni Chapter. Book scholarships were awarded to two Richmond students at the Richmond Alumni Chapter's Annual Christmas Party in December.

The Chapter's Annual Scholarship Dinner/Dance will be held on March 22, 2008. This is a fun-filled social event to raise funds for student scholarships.

The **Military Alumni Chapter** via the Robert M. Hendrick, Jr. Endowment Scholarship Fund provided three scholarships to VSU students in the Fall Semester. They are Derrick Johnson of Clinton MD, a junior majoring in criminal justice; Latoya Felton of Portsmouth, VA, a freshman, major undecided; and Chandle Clark of Woodbridge, VA, a senior majoring in independent studies. Total award of scholarships was \$5,086.

The Military Alumni Chapter and the ROTC celebrated 60 Years of Leadership Excellence at VSU with a dinner in Jones Hall followed by words of wisdom and encouragement from Major General Dennis L. Via '80. The event concluded with a Hall Of Fame Induction of COL (Ret) Ronald Robinson, LTC (Ret) Veronica L. Baker, LTC (Ret) Napoleon Booker and 1LT Ruppert Sargeant (posthumous).

The **Tidewater Chapter** held its annual Trojan Round Up in November at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norfolk. VSU Board of Visitors member and Norfolk City Councilwoman, Daun S. Hester, gave an inspiring and informative keynote address detailing the State of VSU.



CHAPTER NEWS

Alpha Reunion—A Time for Fellowship and Giving

The Fourth Annual Alpha Phi Alumni Reunion was held at Virginia State University in October. The reunion dinner was a roaring success. The Alphas presented President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. a large ceremonial check for \$10,000. However the total amount was raised to over \$27,000 before the evening was complete. The goal of the effort is to establish a \$100,000 scholarship fund at VSU. It will be funded solely from tax-deductible gifts. Every graduate member is asked to donate \$100 or more each year for 10 years. Alpha Phi is made up of leaders that excelled during undergraduate days and continue to do so today. As such, they are doing something special in support of the Alpha Phi Chapter initiates and the Alpha Phi Scholarship Fund.

Four years ago, brothers from the late 50s, and early 60s started efforts to regain contact with line brothers with whom they had no contact for a long time. As they began this endeavor, it grew to an effort of a "reunion" of sorts for all Alpha Phi Chapter alumni brothers and Virginia State University alumni during the homecoming weekend festivities.

Even though it's called "Alpha Phi Chapter Alumni Reunion," the event brought together present and past Alpha Phi members, alumni of VSU initiated into alumni chapters, Kappa men in the Tri-City area and any other Kappa who wished to attend. The event not only served as a reunion, but an annual drive for a scholarship fund to assist current Alpha Phi brothers at VSU.

The reunion acknowledged brothers in the areas of lifetime achievement, 50-year brothers and a legacy award as well. Lifetime Achievement honorees were Dr. James M. Reeves, Sr., Retired Chairman of the Music Department, Norfolk State University; Lt. Gen. (ret.) Alonzo E. Short; Dr. James G. Townsel, Professor, Meharry Medical College; Dr. Porcher L. Taylor, Jr., retired US Army and retired Vice President Student Affairs VSU; Dr. Jerome E. Bartow, retired Sr. Vice President, Hartford Insurance Company; and Dr. Preston M. Royster, U.S. Commissioner of Education, Region III, Chairman, African American Adoptions Agency. The first annual Alpha Phi Legacy award honoree was Brother Thomas Moorehead, owner BMW and MINI of Sterling, VA.



Pictured left to right, VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Brothers Dr. Preston M. Royster, retired Airline Captain William E. Bailey and Lt. Gen. (Ret) Alonzo Short.

The following brothers were awarded certificates for joining Kappa Alpha Psi 50 years ago: William T. Atkins, Jr.; Ernest J. Collins; Franklin R. Dillard; and Herman L. Fitzgerald, Jr. Brothers Ronald L. Thompson and Harry Johnson tied for first place in the "best haberdashery" category representing Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Alpha Phi Polemarch and undergraduate Board of Directors (Region 3) Eastern Province representative Brother Jeremy McClendon won the outstanding undergraduate award. Brother James M. Reeves who was some 80 years young in age was the elder statesman in attendance.

Donations are still being accepted, and should be made payable to the Virginia State University with Alpha Phi Scholarship in the memo line. A few dedicated Brothers worked hard to plan the Alpha Phi Alumni Dinner as well as to establish an Alpha Phi Scholarship Fund. This is monumental in that it creates a legacy for every Brother made at Virginia State University since 1935.

Members of the planning committee are Harold T. Amaker; William E. Bailey; Herman M. Bell; G. Frank Boyd; Charles A. Brockett; Clarence F. Nelson, Jr.; Starrie D. Jordan; Michael L. Rainey; Preston M. Royster; and Ralph Snyder. ♫

Three Trojans Serving 48th Combat Support Hospital (CSH)



Three Trojans are representing the orange and blue while defending the red, white and blue as members of the

Army Reserves 48th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) headquarters in Fort Meade, MD.

Colonel Charles K. Johnson, a Caroline County native, serves as a dentist in the reserve unit. After graduating from VSU in 1971, he went on to obtain a doctorate in Dental Surgery from the Medical College of Virginia in 1976. In addition to operating his own private dental practice in Richmond, Virginia, he is a member of the Virginia State Board of Health as the Virginia Dental Association Representative.

A native of Portsmouth, Lieutenant Colonel Felicia D. DeLoatch is a pharmacist with the unit, and graduated from VSU in 1987. In 1995 she graduated

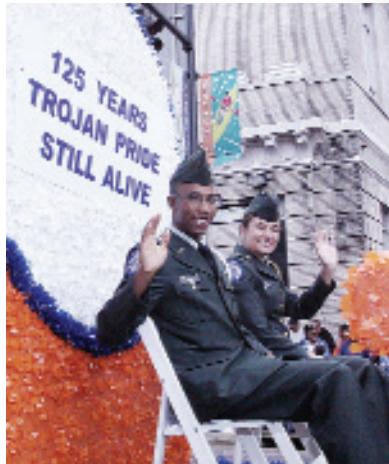
(Pictured from left to right) Colonel Charles K. Johnson, '71; Lieutenant Colonel Felicia D. DeLoatch, '87; and Second Lieutenant LeQuan M. Hylton, '04 serve together at the 48th Combat Support Hospital headquarters at Fort Meade, MD.

Corporation in Ahoskie, NC. DeLoatch is a resident of Suffolk, VA.

The youngest Trojan of the group, Second Lieutenant LeQuan M. Hylton, serves as the Executive Officer (OX) of the Patient Administration Division. Hylton is a 2004 graduate of VSU and 2008 Mater of Business Administration graduate of Averett University. He is employed with the Department of Defense assigned to the Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) at Fort Lee, VA. The former Martinsville, VA residence has made Richmond, VA his current home. ♫

from Xavier University College of Pharmacy with her doctorate, and currently works as a pharmacist with the Wal-Mart

Homecoming 2007





DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Rain Fails to Dampen Golfers' Enthusiasm

Neither rain, nor wind, or a new course could stop the Loyal Sons and Daughters from their appointed round (of golf) at the 13th Annual Presidential Scholars Golf Tournament. Playing in a day-long downpour, teams of hearty golfers braved the elements on the links at Lake Chesdin Golf Course and enjoyed the day, despite Mother Nature's lack of cooperation. President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. and the Development team, led by Vice President Robert L. Turner, Jr. send a sincere "thank you" to this year's golfers and sponsors. ☯



COUPLE'S ANNIVERSARY IS "GOLDEN" TO VSU

When Loretta and Harold Braxton planned their 50th wedding anniversary, they decided that, instead of trinkets or other gifts, they would have well-wishers support Virginia State University.

Giving to VSU isn't new to the Braxtons. The couple established an endowment with the VSU Foundation in 2004. Each year, the Loretta and Harold Braxton Endowed Fund provides financial awards to deserving students, majoring in mathematics, who carry at least a 3.0 grade point average.

The Braxton's unique fund-raising "event" – their 50th anniversary, proved especially golden to VSU.

Responding to the couple's request, more than 100 donors made gifts totaling nearly \$5,600 toward the endowment.

Dr. Loretta Braxton enjoyed a long and distinguished career at Virginia State. She retired in 1992 as Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics. Dr. Harold Braxton served for many years as Director of Religious Affairs and Dean of the then School of Humanities and Social Sciences. He retired from VSU as Distinguished Professor in the Department of History and Philosophy, also in 1992.

VSU is truly grateful to supporters such as the Braxtons, who chose such a special milestone in their personal lives to make such a "Golden" gift. ☯

ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT AT VSU

Virginia State University encourages our Friends to direct their investment in VSU through the establishment of an endowment with VSU or the VSU Foundation. We are most appreciative of the abundant generosity, forethought, and affection for Virginia State that is clearly demonstrated through perpetual support. Endowments provide continuous support of Virginia State University, into perpetuity.

The minimum amount required to establish an endowed fund is \$10,000 and the minimum time frame to fulfill that obligation is two years. Awards cannot be made from the endowment until it has been fully established and has earnings, after having been invested for one year. The name of the fund and the restrictions therein are established with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which must be approved by the VSU Board of Visitors or the VSU Foundation Board of Trustees once the minimum establishment amount has been received.

Building the University's endowments is a top priority of President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. Endowments at Virginia State University help us aim higher to achieve our educational mission more effectively. As well, VSU

receives a dollar-for-dollar match from the Department of Education, Title III Endowment Challenge Program on any new dollars contributed to endowments.

Administrative Fee

The VSU Board of Visitors passed a resolution at their January 16, 2004 meeting to authorize the application and collection of Administrative Fees on locally held University funds, as well as a one time set up fee applied to gifts to endowment effective January 1, 2003. The annual administrative fee consists of 1% of the total fund balance of locally held accounts, including endowments. The one time set up fee for gifts that establish or add to an endowment is 2.5% for such gifts received in fiscal year 2004, and 1% for such gifts received thereafter, and collected at the close of the first twelve months following receipt of the gift. All fees are collected prior to distribution of earnings.

For more information on Endowments at Virginia State University, please contact Joy Haliburton, Assistant VP for Development, at (804) 524-6986 or by email, jhalib@vsu.edu. 

TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Since its inception, Virginia State University has remained steadfast in its commitment to provide a quality education to all who would come eager to work hard and study rigorously. At the beginning of the 2006/2007 academic year, many freshmen from low-income households were provisionally accepted to VSU. The University's Administration worked up to the first day of classes, attempting to raise funds for financial aid that

would allow all of the eligible students to remain. Unfortunately, dozens of those students were sent home, merely for lack of resources.

You can help prevent students from being turned away this fall by giving to the 2007/2008 Tuition Assistance Fund Drive. The Tuition Assistance Fund provides direct aid that helps students stay in school, which is why your support is crucial to our efforts to raise \$50,000 by September 15, 2007. Every gift to the Tuition Assistance

Fund, regardless of its' size, is truly appreciated and will help more students achieve their dream of a college education.

Higher education remains the passport to the ultimate American Dream. At VSU, we are proud to be the vehicle that will transport our students into the future with confidence, a quality education and a sense of mission. With your help, we can make a difference! Please give to the Tuition Assistance Fund. 

Yes, I would like to help a deserving VSU student fulfill their dream of a college education!

Please print

NAME _____ CLASS YEAR _____

SPOUSE _____ CLASS YEAR _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

My employer is a matching gift company. To increase my gift, I am enclosing a completed matching gift form.

Mail to:

VSU - Office of Development
P.O. Box 9027, Petersburg, VA 23806

Gift Information:

Enclosed is a gift in the amount of:

\$100 \$150
 \$200 \$250
 \$_____ (Other)

Please make check payable to
Virginia State University.

Charge my gift to:

() Visa () MasterCard
 DISC () AMEX

Card # _____

Exp ____ / ____ / ____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

What Your Will Reveals About You

Your will says something about you. First, it says that you care about your loved ones. You want to make it easier for them by taking care of legal matters relating to the transfer of your estate. You want your affairs handled smoothly and without undue inconvenience to those who will be experiencing grief.

Second, having a will means that you have sought to conserve your estate. You can reduce taxes and probate costs by designating what things will go where and who will be responsible for handling the details. The cost savings resulting from a carefully constructed estate plan means that more of your estate can go to family members and other beneficiaries.

Third, your will provides insight into your lifetime involvements and concerns. Bequests to family members tell of your love and concern for their welfare. And bequests to organizations speak volumes about your values.

For example, when you include Virginia State University in your will, you reveal that caring for others is worthwhile and you declare your belief in the mission

of the University. Such action encourages those you leave behind to consider how they can help those in need.

Finally, when you include VSU in your will, you affirm that you want us to continue to fulfill the mission of Virginia State University in this world. You reveal your vision for our future! You encourage us to be good stewards of the new resources you place in our hands.

Your will says other things as well about your interests and values and commitments. And because it says so much, you are wise to think it through carefully.

If having a will says so many good things about you, what does the absence of a will reveal?

We in the VSU Office of Development want you to experience the good feelings of having a well-considered and well-crafted will. We encourage you to take care of this very important matter.

If you already have a will, a bequest to VSU can be made simply by adding a codicil that includes the following language: *I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Virginia State University...*

- 1. SPECIFIC BEQUEST:** the sum of \$ _____ (or, the property described as _____); OR,

- 2. RESIDUAL BEQUEST** [of assets remaining after all other bequests have been satisfied]:
 - a.) the rest, remainder, and residue of my estate; OR,

 - b.) _____% of the rest, remainder, and residue of my estate.

- 3. CONTINGENT BEQUEST** [to take effect only if those named as primary beneficiaries predecease you]: If any or all of the above-named beneficiaries do not survive me, then I hereby give the share that otherwise would be (his/hers/theirs) to Virginia State University; OR,

- 4. GENERAL BEQUEST:** the sum of \$ _____, OR _____% (fractional interest) of my estate.

Like many people, you may be uneasy about going to an attorney. Yet, an attorney who specializes in estate planning knows the right questions to ask and the best ways to help you accomplish your goals. These professionals are well-trained and well worth the time and expense they require.

If you need an estate planning attorney, we will assist you with a suggested list of names and addresses of professionals we have worked with in the past. Keyia Matthews, our Major and Planned Gifts Officer, can help you with this. Keyia will provide you with helpful printed material on making a will and supply information on additional ways you can include charitable giving in your estate plans. While you will still need to meet with your professional advisor for expert counsel, an advance meeting or two with Keyia Matthews will prove useful and could save costs by helping you make the best use of your professional advisor's time. Her services are available to you without any obligation whatsoever. You can contact Keyia by calling (804) 524-5315 or by email to smatthews@vsu.edu.

VSU ONLINE COMMUNITY

Have you checked out Development's new interactive website and signed on to the VSU Online Community? If not, you are missing out! The VSU Online Community provides a secure website that helps alumni stay connected. Alumni have the ability to communicate with fellow alumni, create personalized webpages, and review their past gifts to VSU. Free online services include EMAIL FOR LIFE, secure and searchable directories, discussion groups, e-newsletters, online event registration, and advanced online giving options. Login to the VSU Online Community from either the Alumni Relations or Development webpage at www.vsu.edu. The first 125 registrants will receive a signed, limited edition VSU 125th Anniversary poster, and a beautiful 125th Anniversary logo pin.

LOG ON NOW and help build the TROJAN NATION!!

Caring for the disposition of your assets is too important to delay. It's important for you, for your loved ones and for your dear Alma Mater. ☂

(Please complete and return this reply form below.)

Dear VSU Planned Giving Representative,

- I have already provided a bequest for Virginia State University in my will.
- Please send me free literature about making a will.
- Please contact me to arrange for a personal visit.

Name: _____ Class Year _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail this form to: **Planned Giving Officer, VSU Office of Development,
P.O. Box 9027, Petersburg, VA 23806**

DEVELOPMENT BRIEFS

Private Foundation Awards

The Cameron Foundation has awarded VSU a \$25,700 technical assistance grant that will pave the way for substantially larger gifts designated to the creation of VSU's first museum for arts and culture. VSU has embarked upon a collaborative effort with the Petersburg Area Art League (PAAL) to establish what Dean W. Weldon Hill has dubbed "an epicenter of cultural arts" for Old Town Petersburg. PAAL, a well-known local arts group, owns a historic building in the heart of downtown Petersburg. PAAL has reached an agreement with VSU to share space in order to expand its own programs and provide a home for the University's future museum.

VSU's museum is currently scheduled to open in January, 2009, with a special exhibit entitled "the Art of Africa" – a special collection of Warren Robbins, former director of the Smithsonian's African Museum.

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

Foundation has awarded VSU \$30,000 to support public performances of an important compilation of classical piano pieces entitled *24 Negro Melodies*. This collection was composed at the turn of the 20th Century by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, an Englishman of African descent. *24 Negro Melodies* has tremendous historical and musical significance, as the collection represents the first substantial body of classical compositions to incorporate music from African melodies and Negro Spirituals.

Dr. David Shaffer-Gottschalk, assistant professor in the Music Department, will be conducting live public performances/performance lectures in Richmond throughout 2008. A highlight of the grant will be a one-hour program during Black History Month, to be aired on WCVE, the local public radio station for the Greater Richmond area.

A two-disc CD set of Dr. Shaffer-Gottschalk performing *24 Negro Melodies* is available for purchase. Contact the VSU Office of Development at (804) 524-6986 for details.

LIFTS Endowment

One of the newest projects at VSU's Office of Development is the establishment of a permanent endowment for the Lower Income Families with Talented Students (LIFTS) program.

A brain-child of President Eddie N. Moore, Jr., this program is a first-of-its kind effort among state-supported HBCUs that is intended to meet 100% of a qualifying student's financial need.

According to President Moore, "Other schools within Virginia have developed programs similar to LIFTS, but I can't recall another HBCU, particularly a state-supported HBCU, that has put into place such a far-reaching guarantee."

Among other eligibility criteria, a qualifying applicant's family income must be twice below the federal poverty level. Additionally, the applicant must meet specific requirements for GPAs and standardized test scores.

The need for financial assistance from the LIFTS program far exceeds the program's ability to help. This past year only 40% of all qualified applicants received aid. To date, funding for LIFTS scholarships has been cobbled together each year. Clearly, the program needs a dedicated source of funding that can grow for years to come.

The Office of Development is working to identify initial donors to contribute toward a LIFTS endowment scholarship fund. VSU's goal is to raise at least \$100,000 for the Lifts Endowment by January 2009. If you are interested in making a contribution toward the LIFTS Endowment, contact the Office of Development at (804) 524-6986. 



Through Our Own Eyes

The 125-year history of Virginia State University

For 125 years, Virginia State University has stood as a beacon. The road has not always been easy. Today, VSU has grown into a global university, poised to take its rightful place among the nation's elite schools in the 21st century.

Now, this very special DVD is available to alumni and friends. For \$25, you can own this entertaining and educational chronicle of the history of our special place "High Above the Appomattox."



Yes, I would like to own this special chronicle of VSU's history. Please send me ____ copies of *Through Our Own Eyes*. I have enclosed \$____ (please make checks payable to VSU - Through Our Own Eyes).

I would like to charge \$____ to my credit card. Card # _____ expiration: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Please send DVDs to:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ email: _____

**Send payment to: VSU-Office of Development; P.O. Box 9027; Petersburg, VA 23806
To order by phone, please call (804) 524-5559**

2007 Jazz on the Hill



Virginia State University
Development/University Advancement
Alumni Relations
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