

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



**A University Transformed.
A Job Well Done**

From the Editor

At some point in the future, the sequel to Dr. Edgar Toppin's *Loyal Sons and Daughters* history of VSU will be written. That exquisitely researched and carefully crafted work covered the birth of this great institution in 1882 through 1992.

It is appropriate that the next "history" of Virginia State University should begin in 1993. Today, the campus glistens with steel heralding ongoing construction and orange and blue clad students demonstrating Trojan Pride with admirable fervor and in unprecedented numbers. Few, however, understand how precarious the school's position was when Eddie N. Moore, Jr. accepted the Presidency, and his challenge of restoring VSU to the glory so eloquently chronicled in Dr. Toppin's book.

With dogged determination and a resolve bolstered by a strength of spirit and family, Moore brought VSU back from the precipice. Consider that, in 1993, VSU was one failed audit from losing federal financial aid. The school's accreditation could very well have been lost soon thereafter. It is remarkable that, 15 years after that dire possibility, *US News & World Report* ranked VSU as the top public, master's level, HBCU in the country. While we may not fully appreciate it now, historians will note this achievement as one of the defining moments of VSU's history, equaled perhaps only by the institution's founding in 1882 and then, in 1923 under President John M. Gandy, when the school's collegiate program was restored.

The articles in this issue of VSU Magazine offer a snapshot of how far Virginia State has come. Inside, readers will learn of multi-million-dollar grants, students making a difference locally and in Washington, VSU's international outreach attracting scholars from around the globe, and affecting lives in far-flung places and how the campus is growing to accommodate the increasing number of students who are making VSU their top choice.

We need help to keep making history. Campaign Chair Glenn Sessoms offers an impassioned plea for alumni involvement to help offset another all-but-certain reduction in state funding. Profiled inside are those alumni and friends who have taken Mr. Sessoms' words to heart, establishing endowments, supporting special events such as the Presidential Scholars Golf Tournament or remembering VSU in estate planning.

Finally, even as this issue serves as a recounting of the remarkable legacy of Eddie N. Moore, Jr., we are reminded that time and history stops for no man, nor institution. In the Trojan spirit, we welcome Dr. Keith T. Miller as the University's 13th President. Dr. Miller brings to Virginia State an impressive resume and vision for writing his own chapter in the University's illustrious history. We will provide a more in-depth introduction of Dr. Miller in the next issue of *VSU Magazine*.

These are truly heady times for Virginia State University. The pride of history made is equaled only by the excitement of things to come!

Thomas Reed
Editor

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VSU appoints Dr. Keith T. Miller as the University's 13th President

Virginia State University's Board of Visitors announced the selection of Dr. Keith T. Miller, President of Lock Haven University in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, to lead the institution.



The Board of Visitors made the selection at the conclusion of a national search. On July 1, 2010, Dr. Miller will replace President Eddie N. Moore, Jr., who will retire June 2010, after 17 years of successful service to Virginia State University.

Dr. Miller began his academic career in 1987 at Fairleigh Dickinson University as an assistant professor in the Management and Marketing Department and as Director of the campus MBA program. In 1991, his last year there, he also served as interim chair of the Management and Marketing Department. Dr. Miller moved to Quinnipiac College in Hamden, CT in 1991, where he spent three years as associate dean of the School of Business.

He later became the Dean of the College of Business at Niagara University, a position he held from 1994 to 2001. During his tenure there, the university was granted accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Additionally, enrollment increased by 20 percent.

Dr. Miller was named provost and vice chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, in 2001. While serving as chief academic officer, Dr.

Miller restructured the academic affairs division to focus on faculty support, learning outcomes and curricular innovation, and helped to expand the opportunities available to students to participate in research activities with university faculty. Under Dr. Miller's leadership, the University of Wisconsin,

Oshkosh, developed and expanded its online programming in business, nursing, and social work; secured many external grants, entered into a number of articulation agreements with nearby two year colleges, and finalized new international collaborative agreements.

During his tenure as President of Lock Haven University, it became the only public institution in the state to require laptop computers. In recent years there has been a 30 percent increase in student community service hours and a 50 percent increase in honors students. Foreign delegations have been sponsored from Hungary, Romania, Kenya, Taiwan, Australia, Mexico, China, and the Ukraine, among others. Lock Haven University is a well-respected, student-centered, public university that currently has the largest enrollment in its history.

Dr. Miller has won numerous awards as he has published or presented more than sixty papers primarily on business related topics. He has served on the editorial boards of various journals and speaks to community, civic and professional orga-

nizations regularly. He served for two years on the Board of Directors of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (now named the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) (AACSB) and served four years on the executive board of the Middle Atlantic Association of Colleges of Business Administration. He was a member of the Oshkosh Chamber Development Corporation Board of Advisor and the Learning for Life Youth Program in Oshkosh.

At Lock Haven University, Dr. Miller was appointed to and has served on the following boards: Clinton County Community Foundation, Pennsylvania Campus Compact (current chairman), the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, AASCU Committee on Policies and Purposes, Lock Haven Kiwanis, and the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace. Additionally, Dr. Miller is the IAUP Representative to the United Nations.

Through the years Dr. Miller has been active in faculty development, enrollment management, service learning, accreditation, small business development, and significant fundraising. Dr. Miller earned a Ph.D., Master of Public Administration, and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Arizona.

Dr. Miller and his wife Nicolette have three children, Phillip who lives in Chicago, Kameron and Kyle.

VSU Launches Department of Mass Communications

Virginia State University (VSU) launched the University's Department of Mass Communications in fall 2009. The Department is led by Dr. Ishmail Conway, formerly associate professor of VSU's Graduate Professional Education Programs.

The venture represents the growth of one of the University's fastest growing disciplines. Since its inception in 2001, Mass Communications has become the largest major within the University's School of Liberal Arts and Education. VSU began a master's level Mass Communications program in 2007.

"VSU faculty, administrators and students will build the VSU Department of Mass Communications program into a globally recognized leader of media learning, practice and research," said Conway, an expert on African-American history and culture, who has 17 years of teaching experience at four universities, including University of Virginia's Curry School of Education and Cornell University. "For 40 years, my work in mass communications has prepared me for this leadership role as the founding chairperson of this department."

Conway has served as a consultant for corporations and public agencies including Owens & Minor and the United Negro College Fund. He received his doctorate from the University of Virginia, a master's degree in media studies and communication management from The New School for Social Research in New York and a bachelor's in mass media arts and drama from Hampton University.

"The future of the Department of Mass Communications is bright," he said. "The faculty, students and supporters will provide the brilliance and intellectual capital to build a program that is respected globally."



Lobbying Day on Capitol Hill

After spending two days lobbying on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, one thing became clear for graduating senior Taimer Singleton. He wants to become a lobbyist.

Department of Mass Communications students Singleton and Jovita Kimbrough were two of 300 students, public relations professionals and community members who swarmed Capitol Hill on Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) Lobbying Day, September 10, 2009, to garner support for the labor reform aimed to protect workers' rights, including employees' rights to join/form a union and gain access to collective bargaining. The national lobby day was spearheaded by American Rights at Work.

Singleton participated in the lobby day with the Virginia Organizing Project (VOP), a grassroots social justice organization, via his VSU Public Relations II course. Singleton also recently completed a social media campaign on healthcare reform for VOP as part of the PR course. With the course's partnership with VOP, students are learning the ins and outs of lobbying their local, state and national lawmakers.

After researching the labor reform legislation, along with its supporters and opposition, touring the U.S. Capitol, holding a press conference and meeting with the staff of U.S. lawmakers, including Virginia Senator Jim Webb, Singleton realized that lobbying is a form of public relations that fits his desire to impact public policy to help those in need.

"Being able to meet and interact with people fighting for similar causes is inspirational and motivational," Singleton said. "I knew very little about lobbying before partaking in the Employee Free Choice Act event in Washington, D.C. Since that lobbying experience, I am now interested in lobbying due to its power to mobilize change within public policy and public interests."

Students Build Future City, Recognized by Engineering Industry

As part of the Virginia State University and the Richmond Area Program for Minorities in Engineering (RAPME) 2009 Summer Engineering Institute (SEI), industry leaders recognized and awarded student participants for their role in designing and building a future city as budding engineers.

Approximately 105 middle and high school students from the region participated in this year's project. Students were assigned to teams and mentored by industry leaders. This year's program focused on civil and structural engineering, mechanical processes, and information technology functions in an effort to augment participants' appreciation for the complexities of designing a future city in which people must work, live and play.

The Summer Engineering Institute is a continuation of 31 years of collaboration between VSU and RAPME, which aims to increase diversity in engineering by exposing middle and high school students to the world of engineering disciplines in a college environment. Each summer, dozens of young students attend three- to five-week SEI courses where they learn and compete on a college campus. Bonds developed during the SEI often lead participants to commit to attending college together and serve as a support system throughout the hardships of earning an engineering degree. To date, more than 3,800 minority students have participated in the program. RAPME also collaborates with Virginia Commonwealth University and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in this effort.

During the ceremony, Dr. Gymama Slaughter, VSU professor of Computer Engineering and program director, recognized students who demonstrated outstanding skills throughout the program, as well as recognized Carrie Langelotti and Austin Brockenbrough & Associates for participating in a leadership capacity in the 2009 SEI.

Student projects were assessed by a panel of judges, including CEOs and senior leadership from regional industry, including Joe Internicola, plant manager at Dupont, which serves as a major contributor to pre-college efforts to increase minority participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines.

With the awareness that students must be equipped to compete in the global market, Dupont and VSU continue collaborative efforts to promote initiatives for pre-college students. Dupont's Bill Fisher Jr., a unit manager at the DuPont Spruance plant, and Lisa Randal, DuPont Spruance communications and community relations manager, met with nearly 100 middle and high school students participating in the VSU Undergraduate Bridge Program to help students explore a future in the industry. Fisher and Randal showcased a fire retardant firefighter suit and Kevlar Army jacket, both made by Dupont. The students got a chance to wear the gear and get a first-hand look at the type of innovation that occurs in the industry.

A 2006 National Science Foundation report revealed that 12.9 million jobs in the United States required a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a STEM discipline and the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that professions requiring STEM training could increase by 70 percent more than the growth rate for non-STEM professions.

School of Engineering Receives \$3 Million Award

Virginia State University has been awarded the \$3 million U.S. Department of Education's Historically Black College or University (HBCU) Master's Degree Program Award. The total will be paid in \$500,000 increments over a six-year period and will fund the VSU School of Engineering, Science and Technology's biology, computer science and mathematics Master's programs.

The goal of VSU's HBCU Master's Degree Program is to strengthen each graduate program and enhance the educational opportunities of graduate students, particularly African American and low income students. Funding from the HBCU Master's Degree Program Award will accomplish several activities throughout the project period, including purchasing equipment and software; financial assistance for graduate students; enhancing management information systems; student service programs; faculty and student professional development; additional graduate course offerings; and improving instructional and research facilities.

Reading at Ettrick

After Virginia State University student Lauren Ross finished reading the children's book "Franklin Can Stay Up" to a class of third graders at Ettrick Elementary School, hands flew up into the air as their teacher quizzed them on the characters, plot and point of the book.



For nearly 10 minutes, students had glued their eyes to the pages and listened intently to Ross as she alternated between high and low pitched voices, switching from one book character to another. Now, they were ready to dissect what they had just learned.

Ross is one of several VSU students who visit Ettrick Elementary School throughout the school year to read to students during and after school to promote learning and literacy within their surrounding community. She is part of the United Campus Ministries at VSU, led by director Rev. Delano Douglas, which has recently become an integral part of the elementary school's road to reading.

Ettrick Elementary School serves 582 students, most of them African Americans and Latinos. The majority of students read at a grade level below the national average, said Kimberly Reynolds, of Ettrick Elementary School.

The lagging statistic, she said, is due to a lack of exposure the students have to reading activities outside of school. The more the students are read to, she said, the more likely it is they will begin to think critically and want to learn how to read themselves.

With the help of VSU students, the school's overall reading score has jumped several points, said Reynolds.

"Working with VSU students and people like Rev. Douglas is making such a huge impact here," she said.

The United Campus Ministries visits Ettrick Elementary five days a week, two times a day for reading sessions. The goal is not solely to pull up the community through outreach, but to promote social responsibility and expose VSU students to the joy of helping others.

"This project is a mutually beneficial experience for all involved," said

Douglas, who joined the University in summer 2009. "It is beneficial for the Ettrick students because it reinforces the need to prioritize literacy and introduces them to VSU representatives. Likewise, it allows VSU students to influence the youth of the community and represent VSU to the public,"

Megan Johnson, a VSU junior, volunteers at Ettrick because of her love for children. "They bring out something special," she said. "I want to show them that they can enjoy school, further their education and become something very special."

Dawn Custalow, a junior, approached Rev. Douglas with the idea after riding past Ettrick Elementary one day. "I love kids and wanted to make a difference in a young child's life," she said. "With the help of VSU students, I know we can help them succeed in anything they set their hearts on."



National Science Foundation Grant aims to increase minority students' success in math and science

Virginia State University (VSU) has been awarded a \$1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to study the effectiveness of interventions on the mathematics performance of minority middle and high school students. The goal is to increase participation of minorities within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

The three-year initiative, to be led by Dr. Oliver Hill, chair of the department of psychology, will promote partnerships between VSU and local school districts, while developing pedagogical modules to develop students' capabilities to perform successfully in the targeted STEM areas.

The study involves three major components:

- Indirectly developing STEM-related cognitive skills by implementing a unique educational curriculum, developed by VSU investigators, which teaches programming languages and problem-solving skills in the context of video game design

- Directly training STEM-related basic-level cognitive skills using the methodology developed by LearningRx, Inc. and delivered on-line
- Assessing the impact of these interventions through psychometric tests of changes in attitudes and cognitive abilities of the participants, looking at improvements on school-based standardized tests of mathematics and science abilities, monitoring cortical changes in students using functional magnetic resonance imaging (f-MRI) and recording the number of participating students who matriculate to college in a STEM major.

The direct cognitive training represents a new way to develop the skills necessary for a successful STEM career. The brain-imaging phase of the study also represents a unique approach to documenting the efficacy of the interventions. It will also allow for an assessment of how changes in cortical function persist after the

training period has ended and an assessment of the relationship between brain function and performance on STEM tasks.

This grant represents the second major grant VSU has received from the NSF in the last two years to study psychosocial and cognitive factors related to mathematics performance. These projects are part of a larger goal to establish a Center of Excellence in STEM Education in VSU's School of Engineering, Science and Technology.

In addition to Hill, the interdisciplinary team of investigators at VSU includes Dr. Omar Faison, professor in the department of biology; Dr. Giti Javidi, from the department of mathematics and computer science; Dr. Zewelangi Serpell, of the department of psychology; and Dr. Ehsan Sheybani, from the department of engineering technology. The fMRI portion of the study will be done in conjunction with the department of radiology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Two VSU Seniors Win First Place at HBCU-UP

Two Virginia State University seniors and psychology majors, Tashia Brewer and Jamal McCoy, won first place at the 2009 Historical Black Colleges and Universities-Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) national conference in Washington D.C.

McCoy gave an oral presentation on his research that involves creating and using religious typologies to predict health risk behaviors among African-Americans. Brewer gave a poster presentation detailing her research on the social experiences of African-Americans and how those experiences affected their future expectations of race relations.

VSU Hosts International Scholars



Mikhailo Kryvoruchko

Two international visitors, **Mikhailo Kryvoruchko**, an Edmond D. Muskie Graduate Fellow, and **Dr. Adekunle A. Adegoke**, a visiting Fulbright Scholar, are gracing the campus of Virginia State University, sharing cultural and global perspectives with the campus and surrounding community while learning about the American culture and life at an Historically Black College and University (HBCU).



Dr. Adekunle A. Adegoke

Virginia State University was selected by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) to host a Muskie Fellow beginning

fall semester 2009. The Fellowship is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State (ECA) and administered through IREX. The program aims to promote mutual understanding, build democracy and foster the transition to market economies in Eurasia through intensive academic study

and professional training for Muskie Fellows from 12 countries of the former Soviet Union.

Born in Cherkasy, Ukraine, Kryvoruchko will spend two years at VSU while pursuing a master's degree in economics. A graduate of the Cherkasy Institute of Banking, Kryvoruchko is interested in studying labor economics and researching demographic aspects of economic development. Upon his return to Ukraine, Kryvoruchko plans to pursue a doctoral degree in economics.

Participating as a host institution for Muskie Fellows from Eurasia is one of the ways that VSU has continued to internationalize the campus, said Dr. Maxine Sample, director of the Dr. George H. Bennett Office for International Education at VSU. Kryvoruchko was a panelist on VSU's annual International Forum in November, speaking briefly on Ukraine's "Orange Revolution" and answering questions about the impact of the fall of the Berlin Wall on that region. During VSU's annual study abroad fair in November, he encouraged VSU students to pursue the experience of being an exchange student.

Dr. Adegoke, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, comes to VSU from the Department of Psychology at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife, Nigeria. Professor Adegoke, who holds a doctoral degree in clinical psychology, will be teaching in VSU's Psychology Department and collaborating with faculty at Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Virginia Commonwealth on research in the area of health psychology.

The VSU students participated in the conference with nearly 800 other students from across the nation. The HBCU-UP conference, which took place at the Renaissance Hotel, is supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities in their effort to strengthen science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and research capacity, as a means to broaden participation in the Nation's STEM workforce.

Assistant psychology professor Dr. John Fife guided McCoy with his research and psychology professor Dr. Reginald Hopkins guided Brewer with her work. "Jamal and Tashia exemplify the essence of what VSU is all about," Fife said. "They have been excellent student leaders, and this award is only the beginning of a lifetime of success for them."



VSU Awarded Competitive International Grant

The U.S. Agency for International Development has awarded Virginia State University a five-year, \$524,970 research grant to develop an integrated weed management system in Africa to reduce the adverse impact of the pervasive weed, parthenium.

Virginia State University is the lead institution for the project titled, "Abating the Weed Parthenium Damage in Eastern Africa Using Integrated Cultural and Biological Control Methods." Research efforts will be concentrated in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Dr. Wondi Mersie, associate dean for research in VSU's School of Agriculture, and the project's principal investigator, is collaborating with more than 15 scientists from six countries to establish and implement methodologies for biological control and quarantine facility management.

Parthenium, Mersie explained, is an aggressive, invasive weed that adversely affects food security, releases toxins

harmful to other plants, reduces the yield of many major crops, causes respiratory distress and severe contact dermatitis in humans, and taints the milk and meat of domestic animals that consume it.

"The success of this project will ultimately have a positive impact on the lives of millions of people in East Africa," said Mersie. "No doubt, small-scale African crop and livestock farmers will be major beneficiaries because these control measures will help ensure their economic well-being."

Implementing new weed management control systems should also have positive social ramifications since it will reduce the workload on African women and school-age children who are currently responsible for weeding by hand, added Mersie.

VSU Breaks Ground for Residence Hall

Virginia State University has broken ground for the construction of a \$20 million, 458-bed residence hall. The Quad – Phase I is the first of two projects consisting of four, L-shaped residence halls that will eventually cover the area now occupied by Howard Hall.

Phase I of the project entails construction of two, three story buildings. These will be connected by a main single lobby, with a triangular shaped skylight that empties onto an internal facing courtyard. Phase II will require the demolition of Howard Hall and complete the quad concept with the final two L-shaped structures in its place.

VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. said that, as the university continues pursuing its goal of increasing enrollment, "it's critical that we increase housing inventory." In the 2008-09 academic year, slightly over half of VSU's approximately 4,300 undergraduate students lived on campus.

The Quad Phase I is the second suite-style residence hall at VSU. The first, 500-bed Gateway, was opened in Fall 2008. The Quad Phase I is planned to open Fall Semester 2010.

The new building will include one- and two-bedroom units with both

handicap and hearing impaired units available in each type. Amenities will include study lounges on each floor, computer laboratories, laundry facilities, smart classrooms, multipurpose rooms and a kitchen in each building. Shared spaces between the two buildings will include a central main entrance and lobby, a main commons area, a wellness center, a game room and a beauty/barber salon.

The architect for the project is Clark Nexsen Architects and the construction manager is W. M. Jordan Company.



Last year, a French production team spent the Fall Semester at VSU chronicling members of the Trojan Explosion Marching Band for a documentary melding personal stories within the background of the historic events of the then-impending presidential election. The result was *Marching Band*, which debuted at the Virginia Film Festival in Charlottesville on Thursday, November 5 and shown on the VSU campus the following day.

The film, directed by Claude Miller, dubbed by many as the Steven Spielberg of France, delves into the psyche of students at VSU and the University of Virginia as they ponder the election of the nation's first black president.

Several VSU students in the marching band were featured as the cameras followed them into the halls of VSU, inside their homes and to the polls. VSU band director Dr. Mark Phillips was also prominently featured in the documentary.



VSU Receives Grant to Launch Online Logistics Certificate Program

Virginia State University (VSU) has taken a big first step towards meeting local logistics labor demands by launching a pilot-run for an online Logistics Certificate program.

Designed to train the regional workforce for careers in transportation, distribution and logistics, the program has been awarded a \$63,860 grant from Opportunity, Inc. to train 15 participants through a basic foundation in logistics. The program consists of six, three-credit hour courses, such as Introduction to Logistics, Technology and Society and Materials Handling and Inventory Control.

Current corporate participants include Wal-Mart, Ace Hardware, Richmond Cold Storage, Goya Foods, Boehringer Ingelheim Chemicals, Joint Logistics Managers, and Riverside Logistics. Each has provided access to their employees, some of whom are enrolled in the program. Additionally, the program includes a handful of dislocated workers and cooperates with the Virginia Employment Commission.

The program can provide a seamless transition into VSU's Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Industrial and Logistics Technology, as well as employment with area companies.

"This pilot run will allow VSU to work toward tailoring an online program to meet the needs of local industry and also allows VSU to showcase the University's commitment to logistics education and research," said VSU Corporate and Foundation Officer Jonathan Young.

VSU is working on establishing a Logistics Advisory Board and creating an online virtual laboratory teaching tool for students. Following University approval, the program officially hopes to double the number of participants in Fall 2010.

A University Transformed. A Legacy Ensured.

In the gloom of a wintry Saturday night in 1993, Eddie N. Moore, Jr. wondered what he had gotten himself into. Two days earlier, he had been introduced as the 12th President of Virginia State University. "The Rector of the board had given me the true picture of Virginia State University," he recalls. "I was aware of some problems, but I was not aware of all that I would be facing. On that day I asked myself 'what have I done?'"

Armed with doubt and seeking spiritual guidance, Moore awoke Sunday to learn an ice storm had caused virtually every area church to cancel services. An omen, he wondered? Perhaps sensing the prayerful needs of both Moore and the University, two of the area's leading ministers, Revs. Dwight Jones and Grady Powell both called to reassure him that things would be alright. "I said 'you know, there maybe is such a thing as Divine Intervention,'" Moore says. "We went on from there."

Righting Virginia State University was no mere project for Moore. He had a personal interest in the well-being of the historic school. His sister graduated in the early 60s, and several aunts and uncles served on the faculty or also attended. "Virginia State is near and dear to my heart," he says. "I was tired from where I was sitting as

State Treasurer at all the negative press about mishandling this and mishandling that. I decided I could straighten that out."

That his plan to take on the arduous task of "straightening out" Virginia State was not universally applauded on campus perplexed Moore. "I was surprised that people didn't rally around what I thought was a message of change," he says. "I expected people to be happy that we're going to clean up these problems. I found that to be very strange and it caught me off guard."

"This was what I was supposed to do. I didn't know it all the time, but this was it."

Moore discovered that indifference was the least of his on-campus obstacles. Those not apathetic turned on Moore, his agenda, background and even family, with a ferocity that served only to fortify the new President's resolve. "I went to look for benefits people might be deriving from the confusion (on campus) and to eliminate any benefits by attacking those areas first," he explains. "That caused a lot of people to be very vocal in attacking both me and my family in the initial years. That was very difficult to take."

To protect his family and provide a modicum of privacy, Moore moved off campus. This decision, he

says, may have saved not only his presidency, but his family's unity. "The fish bowl was having a very negative effect on my children," he says. "They couldn't go outside and just play. They were always being watched and it wasn't good for them. I was glad we were able to stay off-campus until the last one went to college. I think I would have lost the family if they stayed on campus."

Family provides strength

A college presidency is a partnership. Balancing work and family is

difficult in the best of situations and Moore's certainly did not fit that category. For strength, he turned to his wife, Elisia. Together, they faced their circumstances head-on. "She was committed to protecting and raising our family, while also standing beside me in difficult times" Moore says. "Because of her strength and support, I was able to focus on the task in front of me, knowing my family was safe and emotionally secure."

Today, with construction cranes seemingly a permanent fixture on campus, a record 16 consecutive clean reports from the Auditor of Public Accounts, a robust tech-

nological infrastructure and an ever-increasing academic catalog of offerings, few understand the severity of the issues Moore faced 17 years ago. Failure could have very well heralded the demise of this once and again great institution.

“That was extremely nerve-wracking,” Moore says of his first year at VSU. “I knew, when others didn’t, that if we had gone two years in a row without our books being audited, we could have been closed. We could have been denied all federal financial support, which not only would have closed our land grant mission, but denied loans to our students. It would have, in essence, shut down Virginia State. So it was a very high risk year.”

Once the turbulent financial straits had been successfully navigated, Moore set his sights not just on stability, but growth. He needed to reassure prospective supporters – state and local governments, corporations and alumni – that VSU was a safe and wise commodity in which to invest. Restoring this confidence, and accompanying alumni pride, is perhaps one of his crowning achievements.

A blue-chip investment

“The University had no visible corporate friends when I arrived. The endowment was around \$2 million,” he says. “By the time I leave, it will be well over \$20 million. There must be 30 or 40 plaques around campus recognizing \$50,000 and \$100,000 donors. That demonstrates to our students that others believe this is now a good investment.”

Moore sees a VSU degree akin to a stock certificate. “You want it to go up in value,” he says. “The only way you



can ensure that is to continue to invest in your alma mater. We now have a lot of alumni who embrace that.”

VSU alumni aren’t the only important constituency bullish about the university’s future. Moore’s ability to harness corporate and alumni support to offset today’s harsh economic realities have raised eyebrows among those who write Virginia’s budget. Moore says, “One of the members of the General Assembly commented ‘you didn’t wait for the state to straighten this out, you went out and got independent resources.’”

This level of admiration has allowed Moore to flourish in a job that has been called “the most political, non-political post.” He has served under six governors, three Democrats and three Republicans. “A president has to understand politics extremely well, then has to avoid appearing to be on one side or the other,” he explains. The middle though, he says, holds hazards of its own. “The most dangerous place is walking the yellow line, in the middle of the highway, with things coming in both directions.”

Moore's political savvy has led to increased respect that things are being done the right way at Virginia State. A 2002 General Obligation Bond included more than \$27 million in funding for the construction of VSU's Engineering and Technology Building and renovations of other classroom and office space. More recently, the Commonwealth, along with Chesterfield County, provided preliminary funding for the University's long-coveted Multipurpose Convocation Center.

OCR launches programs

But perhaps Moore's greatest political victory, and the one of which he is most proud, was securing funds through an Office of Civil Rights accord that launched unprecedented growth in an area in which his early critics were most vocal – academics. Moore says, "I recently told (former) Governor (James) Gilmore that the single most important thing that happened during my 17 years was the OCR accord and that VSU and the citizens of the Commonwealth should be indebted to him for signing the accord and also to (then Governor) Mark Warner for funding that accord."

From the OCR accord sprung five undergraduate programs, the first at VSU in decades. Two of those, Mass Communications and Criminal Justice, are so popular that they have spawned graduate degrees. The other three, all based in science and technology, served as the impetus for the Engineering Building, VSU's first new academic building in over 30 years. Together, the five account for nearly all of VSU's enrollment surge since 2001, which has seen the University welcome its two largest freshman classes and approach a student population of nearly 5,400.

The magnitude of the OCR accord on VSU's academic offerings cannot be overstated. Since 2001, the University has launched, besides the five undergraduate programs, five other master's level programs and its first two terminal degrees.

That this occurred on his watch is a particular point of pride to Moore. "The largest complaint was 'you're not an academician, how are you going to do these things?' So I am particularly proud of our academic successes."

Not surprisingly, but due in no small part to VSU's increased and diverse academic offerings, along with its ability to provide more financial incentives, the University is attracting a higher caliber of students who have made Virginia State their first choice. "When we arrived, for most of our students, Virginia State was their fourth or fifth choice," Moore states. "Twelve years later, 80 percent of our students said Virginia State was their first or second choice."

Moore, in turn, feels a special obligation to these students who, with more choices than previous generations could imagine, have selected VSU. "We have more students than ever who have options. They could have gone somewhere else," he says. "It's lifted the entire feeling about the University and has encouraged us to work harder to make things better for these students."

Moore sometimes finds himself caught up in the "wow" factor – the new courses, increased resources, campus construction – that lures top students, keeps those enrolled on track to graduate and promotes alumni pride. "There was something special to me last Homecoming when, as I was walking down University Avenue, I saw the Quad and all of that shiny steel and aluminum," he says. "The sun was shining down on it and it was almost blinding as you walked down the street. I saw it as an example of what's been done and what's being done. People are really proud of that."



President Moore was recently enshrined in the VSU Military Hall of Fame. He is the first non-alumnus to earn this honor.



U.S. News & World Report is also taking note of Virginia State's accomplishments. In two of the past three years, USNWR ranked VSU as the top master's level, public, HBCU in America. Though sometimes controversial, Moore does not shy away from using VSU's rise in that publication's rankings as an objective measure of positive growth. "When I started, we were 128 out of 132," he says. "Two years ago we moved to 61 out of 128. I felt very proud of that. People say it's a vanity test, but it's an independent evaluation, not something we generated here on campus that said we were number one in that category. It's quite an achievement in my mind."

Moving solidly forward

Likewise, Moore's pride runs deep that the U.S. Army recently acknowledged VSU's ROTC program as best among HBCUs. For Moore, a former ROTC cadet himself, the recognition provided a special sense of satisfaction. "In 1993, the Army was going to close the program," he explains. "I told the general who came to my office to tell me that he

owed me an opportunity to get this straight and he honored that."

And, that's exactly what he did. In 17 years, Eddie N. Moore, Jr. has not only straightened what had been a twisting road toward an uncertain future, but has pointed the University in a straight line upward. "There were several teams of people who helped accomplish this," he says. "I'm very pleased with what we've been able to accomplish and I'm satisfied. I've done what I learned in the Boy Scouts, left it better than I found it. They were referring to campgrounds, but it applies to everything. Leave it better than you found it."

Looking back at that winter day 17 years ago, Moore understands the message of the ministers: everything was going to be alright and he was the man chosen to make it so. "In many ways, every position that I had, from Gulf Oil Corporation, especially working in West Africa, up until I accepted this position, was preparing me for this. This was what I was supposed to do. I didn't know it all the time, but this was it."



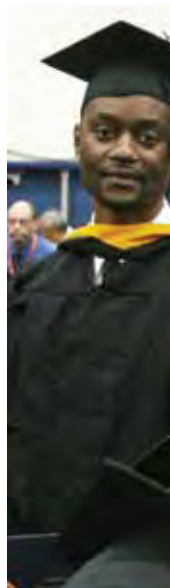


FALL COMMENCEMENT GRADUATES MORE THAN 325

More than 300 graduates and a near-capacity Daniel Gymnasium audience of family and supporters heard activist Angela Davis proclaim "education is practice for freedom."

Delivering the keynote address for VSU's sixth Fall Commencement, Davis recounted the jailhouse redemption of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, a mass murderer who, after educating himself on California's death row, spoke out against the gang culture he helped to create and glorify. Education, she said, provides freedom even to those behind bars.

Graduates honored for the top GPAs among this class were Ronald M. Howell Jr. of Spring Grove, VA, who graduated summa cum laude with a 3.9 GPA in agriculture and Mervin R. Woodlin of Philadelphia, who also graduated summa cum laude with a 3.93 GPA in mathematics.







HOMECOMING 2009





JAZZ ON THE HILL





JAZZ ON THE HILL



Dr. Lois Harrison-Jones '54 received the 2009 Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award from the American Association of School



Administrators. Dr. Harrison-Jones is an associate professor and chair of the department of educational administration and policy at Howard University in Washington, DC. The award recognized her lifetime commitment to advancing the status of minorities and women. Dr. Harrison-Jones' career has been marked by a series of "firsts." She was the first black, woman school superintendent in both Virginia and Massachusetts and the first woman chair of Howard's department of educational administration and policy.

Ceola Morton Wright '55, a retired French teacher, recently returned from her second mission trip to Paris, France. Her two week adventure included lifting up the fallen, teaching the word of God at church retreats, and serving once again as interpreter for the Louisa County group with which she traveled.

James Sweat '59 (left) and **Harold "Doc" Sawyer** (third from left) were recently inducted into the Hampton Roads African American Sports



Hall of Fame. **Sweat** of Norfolk was one of the most successful women's basketball coaches of all time. He led Norfolk State University and Hampton University to nine conference and two national titles.

He was a five-time CIAA Coach of the Year. **Sawyer** of Norfolk, was a two-way All-CIAA guard and line-backer at Virginia State University who starred on Booker T. Washington's unbeaten state championship team in 1956. He served in the U.S. Army for 21 years, retiring as a full colonel. In the Army, he served with some of the country's most elite units, including the 82nd Airborne Rangers.

Harriett H. Gilchrist '62 was recently appointed adjunct piano professor at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, VA.

Larry Lewis '71, a retired educator in Louisa County, was recently installed as Pastor of the Sharon Christian Church.

Larry Turner '88 is director of therapeutic youth day treatment services at UMFS. He previously was a therapeutic youth day treatment clinical supervisor for the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority. He is a licensed professional counselor and a licensed marriage and family therapist. He is a graduate of Virginia State University and received his master's in rehabilitation counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Tanner A. Collins Jr. '74 has been promoted to regional executive officer for the Gateway region for REDC Community Capital Group Inc. He currently is senior vice president and manages community development lending activities. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia State University.

Dr. William "Bill" Lee '74 recently received his Doctorate of Ministry from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland,



OH. Dr. Lee is senior pastor of the Loudoun Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke, VA, where he has been pastor for more than 30 years. For the past nine years, Dr. Lee's church has run a health care clinic in a medically underserved area of Roanoke. He is married to the former Dana Barnes '73.

Brian R. 'KP' Kilpatrick '79, Vice President and Manager of Camber Corporation's Chem-Bio Division, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in contract and project management. Mr. Kilpatrick has 31 years of professional experience, the past eight with Camber Corporation. His daily responsibilities are diverse and include managing \$20 million in annual revenue, developing business strategies, contracting with the federal government and overseeing Camber Corporation's Chem-Bio Division.

Gracie Brooks Quarles '80,

a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Louisa County Middle School, was awarded the Virginia Spirit of Advising Award at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership and Recognition. In July, she traveled to the FCCLA 2009 National Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN, where she



received the National Spirit of Advising Award. While at the National Conference, her FCCLA Chapter was also awarded a plaque and \$1,000 for being selected as the Middle School Winners of the FCCLA 2009 National Career Connection Award.

Jacqueline Y. Johnson '78 was named Surry County middle school Teacher of the Year. She has taught family and consumer science at Luther P. Jackson Middle School.

Lawrence Bolar '93 has written the book *Nothing Substitutes Time*. The book is an autobiographical self-exploration that looks at different types of fathers and encourages men to examine the responsibilities of fatherhood. Bolar is an assistant principal at Petersburg High School. *Nothing Substitutes Time* is available at www.lawrencebolar.com, amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.



Raina Giddings '93 recently accepted a position at Johnson Controls as an Account Executive for Local Government in Metro Atlanta. She



is responsible for assisting government customers in making facilities more energy efficient and sustainable, while recommending funding strategies for projects with no available capital (known as performance contracting). Her clientele includes key decision makers in government with responsibility for city plan-

ning, facilities management and technology, as well as county CEOs, mayors, and city council members.

Alyce K. Williams '94 debuts her first novel, *The Only Thing Better Than Good Is New*. Mrs. Wayne shares an unyielding bond with four childhood friends, Sasha, Uma, Tommy, and Brooke. As the 30-something, jet-setting, quintet prepare to experience a fabulous vacation on a private yacht in St. Tropez, they find themselves in the throes of life's challenges. Together, the friends passionately navigate through falling in love, getting married, childbirth, infidelity, failed marriages, and much more. For a signed copy, go to www.akwilliamsbooks.com.



Dr. Jame'l Hodges '97 is director of multicultural affairs at Lehigh University. He had previously served as coordinator of residential education and leadership at California Polytechnic University – Pomona.



Bonika Wilson '97 was nominated as a *Washington Business Journal*/Smart CEO Brava Women of the Year.

Author and Entrepreneur **Shanette Carpenter M.Ed. '04**, has created a collection of educational products for aspiring career professionals. "Brand Clarity: You will never look at yourself the same again" is the first entry to her audio collection. The collec-



tion is available in stores or online via iTunes, AmazonMP3, Verizon V-Cast, Rhapsody and Napster.

Lillie Bell M.Ed. was named Surry County High School's 2009 Teacher of the Year and she was also named the Surry County School District's 2009 Teacher of the Year. She has worked in education for 47 years and hold professional affiliations with the Surry County, Virginia and National Education Associations.

San Diego, CA Mayor Jerry Sanders recently appointed **Sharletta (Branch) Richardson** to the Commission for Arts & Culture. She has more than 36 years experience in music, education and artistic performance. She currently teaches choir and piano at the Center for the Arts at Lincoln High School. Ms. Richardson's expertise, talents, teaching skills and influence on thousands of children has been recognized and honored by various organizations and educational entities. In 2008 KPBS & Union Bank honored her with the Black History Month Local Hero Award in Education.

Professor Alexis Joyner, a sculptor and chairman of the Art Department at Elizabeth City State University, has nearly 40 sculptures featured in the African American Atelier in Greensboro, NC. It is only the second exhibition of three-dimensional art in the African American Atelier's 19-year history, according to exhibit organizers. Joyner has produced hundreds of pieces – mostly in wood -- during his more than 30-year career as a professional artist. Ranging in height from 1½ to 7 feet, his works are dramatic and inspiring. Joyner's work is in private

collections and several galleries across the country, including the New York Public Library's noted Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City. Three of his metal works adorn Elizabeth City State University's campus, including "Ananse," a work that stands 14 feet and symbolizes creativity and the spider trickster from West African folktales.

Annie Randolph Pollard was recently recognized by the George Washington Carver High School Alumni Association. The Newport News, VA school honored Mrs. Pollard, who was her class' Valedictorian, for a lifetime of personal success and achievement. She has a distinguished list of memberships and community, church and educational service.

Brittany Woodard is a member of the the USA Women's U-20 National Rugby Team. The team has a mission to develop international caliber rugby players in the interest of growing girls and women's rugby at the youth and collegiate level while building depth to ensure continued success in World Cup Competition. The purpose of the U-20 Women's National Team is to increase international play and exposure to the youth level and encouraging continued interest at the collegiate level by increasing the skills to excel at the sport, provide another avenue to increase support for NCAA competition, and build depth of the sport to assure continued growth at the youth level.

The Obama Administration has named **Michael Wooden** State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency at the USDA. Through various roles, Wooden has almost 27 years of USDA experience. He is currently a District Director for the Farm Service Agency in Virginia where he handles debt management issues, and serves as both the Civil Rights Coordinator and the Communications Coordinator. Previously, he served as a USDA Agricultural Liaison with Virginia State University. He was raised on a peanut and small grain farm in Surry County, VA, that was owned and operated by his father and brother.

Nationwide Insurance Sponsors VSU Homecoming, Offers Insurance Discounts

If you attended VSU's recent Homecoming weekend, you may have had a chance to meet Ruth Reavis Forbes and Virgil Forbes – both are graduates of VSU and Nationwide Insurance agents based in Petersburg, Virginia.

Nationwide Insurance, a sponsor of VSU Homecoming weekend, has established an affinity account which provides VSU faculty, staff, administration, credit union members, students and alumni with discounts on their insurance needs.

The Forbes attended several Homecoming weekend functions to represent Nationwide and spread the word about great insurance discounts available for VSU alumni. Nationwide's involvement in Homecoming weekend included sponsorship of the Jazz on the Hill and Presidential Golf Tournament events.

Nationwide has a deep relationship with VSU, historically black colleges and the African American community at large. In addition to its involvement in VSU's Homecoming

weekend, Nationwide also is a sponsor of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Nationwide also partners with talk show host, Tavis Smiley to engage African American communities across the country in a dialogue about financial literacy and empowerment. This Year, Nationwide's On Your Side Tour featuring Tavis Smiley visited five cities providing information to help attendees take control of their financial future.

Contact the Forbes Agency at (804) 862-7377 or any Nationwide Insurance agent to take advantage of great VSU affinity insurance discounts. Nationwide provides a full range of personalized insurance and financial services, including auto, motorcycle, boat, homeowners, life, farm, and commercial insurance, administrative services, annuities, mortgages, mutual funds, pensions, long-term savings plans and health and productivity services. For more information, or to find a local agent, visit www.nationwide.com.

VSUAA CHAPTER NEWS

Virginia State University partners with Harris Connect to Publish 2010 Print Directory.

Harris Connect LLC, is the leading publisher of alumni directories. VSU alumni will be contacted – by mail, by phone and e-mail – over the next few months to verify and update contact and career information. To help make the directory as complete as possible, please be sure to respond to the appeal to update your biographical profile. Please know that this is a legitimate request to ensure accuracy and inclusivity in the directory. If you haven't yet received a mailing, or would like to verify your listing by phone - please call the Harris Connect Alumni Hotline at (866) 216-4148. Should you have any additional questions regarding the alumni directory please contact the VSU Office of Alumni Relations at (804) 524-6935 or alumni@vsu.edu.



AGRICULTURE ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Agriculture Alumni Chapter of the VSU National Alumni Association held its 28th Annual Recognition Banquet in November. The speaker was Rev. Earl B. Hall, Sr., Pastor of the Greater Nazarene Baptist Church, Mechanicsville, VA.

Pictured are (l to r) Mrs. Yvette Robinson, Award's Chair; and Honorees Dr. Pamela Thomas-Buchanan, Associate Professor, Department of Agriculture and Human Ecology; and Mr. Albert Reid, Extension Services. Both are professors at Virginia State University.



GREATER NY CHAPTER – VSUAA

The Greater New York Chapter held a Tailgate Party in October for the nationally televised football game between VSU and Virginia Union. The event was a VSUAA social gathering, as well as a fund raising event. To help make the party more interesting, Virginia Union Alumni were also in attendance. Highlights included door prizes and raffles for a male/female gift basket. Pictured here are (l to r) James Richardson '03, Shekima White '05 and Ronica Wynder '04

GREATER PETERSBURG – VSUAA

Chapter President Starrie Jordan was the 2009 President of the Year award recipient by VSUAA. The announcement was made during the 2009 Annual Meeting by President Charlyne E. Jackson-Fields before the general membership.

Mr. Jordan is the immediate past president of the Petersburg Chapter of VSUAA and served as president from July 2002 to June 2009. During his tenure as president, the Chapter promoted the following programs: The Orange and Blue Scholarship Ball, Little Mister and Miss GPAAA Pageant, The Golden Trojan Recognition Breakfast, Labor Day Classic bus trips and the most favorite, The Solomon Wisdom Award.

The Solomon Wisdom program honors the parents or guardians of VSU graduates. These individuals sacrificed to send their children to VSU but did not attend college prior to assisting someone else.

In an ongoing effort to foster the goals and ideals of VSU, Mr. Jordan encouraged alumni and friends to join VSUAA. The Petersburg Chapter was recognized as the “Largest Chapter, 2008.” Under Mr. Jordan’s leadership, a plaque hangs in Foster Hall designating the Petersburg Chapter as having donated over \$55,000 toward scholarships. The Chapter also boasts a gold nameplate at the Alumni Fountain.

The Petersburg Chapter of VSUAA also salutes Mr. Starrie Jordan for excellent leadership, dedicated service, loyalty and commitment.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA – VSUAA

Members of the Northern Virginia Chapter held a memorial service for Ms. Peggy Hurt. Ms. Hurt was killed in the attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.



Swinson’s legacy of service includes VSU and hometown arts



Calvin R. Swinson, CPA, '58 has been elected to the board of trustees for the Boise Art Museum. The Boise Art Museum is the only AAM accredited art museum in the state of Idaho and the state’s largest.

Swinson is also a trustee for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the premier non-profit cultural organization in Idaho. He also serves as a commissioner on the Idaho Commission on the Arts.

In 2008, Swinson served as lead coordinator of the VSU Class of 1958 Reunion Committee. The group contacted peers across the country and urged them to contribute to the class’ endowment. Under his leadership, the class exceeded its \$50,000 goal – by more than \$10,000 – in only nine months.

While at VSU, Swinson majored in accounting, was a Trojan football player; a Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. brother; and an academic scholar.

After graduating, he was one of the first African Americans to work for a major accounting firm and several Fortune 500 companies before going into private practice in the 1970s.

Before becoming a successful accountant, Swinson served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Finance Corps and received his master’s degree in business administration from New York University’s Stern School of Business.

Napoleon's Emmy a result of taking chances

With hopes of becoming a child psychologist in the clinical field, Don Napoleon left Virginia State University in 1997 with a degree in psychology. He would later become what he calls a psychologist of another sort – one that recently garnered him the highest accolade in the world of television, an Emmy Award.

Napoleon got his first job out of college as a production technician at NBC12 in Richmond making \$6.25 an hour. The experience of walking into the studio each morning at 4 a.m., he said, was electrifying. "It wasn't Hollywood," Napoleon recalls. "But it was still lights, camera, action. And that did it for me."

Fast forward to a decade later and Napoleon, now a television/video producer for Gearshift TV, brandishes an Emmy Award for a 7-minute segment he produced for a child-oriented Maryland Public Television program called "Bob The Vid Tech: The Mystery of the Missing Pizza." The segment received the top prize last summer in the "Teen/Youth/Children" category. The main character, Bob, appears between programs, taking kids on field trips to places like the post office, the zoo, and the firehouse. He finds ways for kids to have fun while learning.



"I'd always wanted to become a psychologist, but eventually realized I would become a TV child psychologist, incorporating a certain aspect of psychology into my programs that would benefit children," says Napoleon. Ironically, Napoleon was presented with his first-ever Emmy Award at the 51st Emmy ceremony by former co-worker and long-time NBC12 anchor Sabrina Squire at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington DC.

"The segment I worked on was about teaching youth where food comes from," says Napoleon, who has worked on several major feature films, including *Night at the Museum II*. "My segment was shot on a farm, which was a learning experience for me. I got to see first-hand how the entire process takes place. We were able to create a story and show images that made farm work educational and fun."

Napoleon says working with clients such as BET, NBC and BBC London,

and direction from his mentor and current business partner Jim Folliard of Gearshift TV, have groomed him for success.

"Gearshift has opened so many doors of opportunity," Napoleon says. "Additionally, my experiences on feature films like *Eagle Eye*, *Night at the Museum II* and *State of Play* have opened a new path of business opportunities."

In addition to children's shows and movies, Napoleon works on political programs. Throughout his career, Napoleon has worked for Atlantic Video Inc. on live shows and events, including President George W. Bush's Inaugural Ball and luncheon. He previously worked for the DC Mayor's Office of Cable Television and Communications. A former boss, and executive producer, Allen Scheid, once advised him to "take on projects that have meaning and that leave an impactful message." He has pursued those types of projects ever since, work-

ing on public service announcements, commercials, corporate videos, documentaries and celebrity concerts of stars such as Jay Z and Beyonce.

With a reverence for giving back, Napoleon is developing a non-profit called "Exposure" which is geared toward exposing college students to the world of mass communication. He plans to incorporate symposia and tours for college students, including those at VSU. He already partners with the Mass Communications Club and organizes tours to Washington DC, where students view daily productions and network with professionals at places such as XM Satellite Radio, Voice of America, Comcast SportsNet and National Public Radio. Napoleon, who has served as guest speaker at a VSU Mass Communications conference, has one piece of advice for students as they work to attain their goals: "Just make it happen. Seek out your destiny and don't be afraid of failure!"

THE TWO MUSICAL GREATS FROM STATE

By Edward W. (Eddie "G") Robinson, J.D., LL.D. (1940)



I didn't know it then, 71 years ago, but I suspected it would be—that Billy Taylor and Camilla Williams would become world-renown. We could hear Billy playing all over the campus, and we gloried in his advanced jazz playing. Now he's Doctor Billy Taylor, and rightfully so.

Then, when Camilla sang in assembly, we hardened football players weren't ashamed to weep.

I was determined to bring her up to Philadelphia so the world could hear her gift. The alumni chapter in Philadelphia had, as its mission, to get her a scholarship with the great Marion Anderson's teacher, Madame Marion Szekely-Freschl, which we fortunately did.

Two alumni of State, Helen and Ashley Jones, took her in their home while she studied in Philadelphia, where she took top honors in the Philadelphia Orchestra Youth Concert auditions and was engaged as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. In addition she won the Marion Anderson Award and made her radio debut on the RCA radio show *The Music America Loves Best*.

In the mid-1940s Camilla debuted with the New York City Opera in *Madam Butterfly*, becoming the first, female, African American singer to appear with a major opera company in the United States. The *New York Times* found her to be "an instant . . . success in the title role." She was given the Page One Award by the New York Newspapers Guild, for "opening the doors to other African Americans."

In the 1950s Camilla launched a distinguished international career in a concert tour of Panama, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, London and Vienna .

In the 60s Camilla became a cultural ambassador for the United States. She was the guest of President Eisenhow-

er in a concert for the Crown Prince of Japan. Camilla sang for the emperors of Ethiopia and Taiwan, 14 north- and central-African countries, Ireland, Southeast Asia, the Far East and Israel as a cultural ambassador for the State Department.



Camilla sang at the 1963 March on Washington and for Dr. King's Nobel Peace prize ceremony in 1964.

Virginia State University awarded her the 75th Anniversary Certificate of Merit. In 1972 Virginia's Governor Holton awarded her as a "distinguished Virginian" and the City of Danville presented her the Key to the City and dedicated Camilla Williams Park. She was recently honored by the Library of Virginia as one of Virginia's Outstanding Women in History.

She became Professor of Voice at Brooklyn College, Bronx College and Queens College. In 1977 she became the first African American professor of voice at Indiana University and as guest professor at Beijing's Central Conservatory in China. Camilla retired from teaching in 1997 and remains in Bloomington, IN.

Since retiring, Camilla has been the subject of an article, "A Day With Camilla Williams" in *The Opera Quarterly*. The Autobiography of Camilla Williams, is to be published by the University of Illinois Press; and a 2006 PBS documentary was produced entitled *The Mystery of Love* about her life with Dr. Boris Bazal, her longtime friend and accompanist.

Virginia State University is proud to have such outstanding graduates as Dr. Billy Taylor and retired diva, Miss Camilla Williams.

Advisory Board Helps Chart School of Business' Future

In February 2007, the Dean of VSU's School of Business established the VSU School of Business Alumni Advisory Board to provide counsel, promote the School of Business, and strengthen and enhance the School's financial resources. Chaired by Keith A. Yancey, Class of '83, the Board consists of alumni and friends from the business, government and nonprofit sectors.

Mr. Yancey says the Advisory Board is committed and focused on quality and opportunities for the School of Business to build upon a tradition of excellence. Working together, the Advisory Board, the Dean and all constituency groups will strengthen the School's legacy and build stronger relationships.

The Advisory Board has been instrumental in supporting the School of Business to obtain AACSB accreditation, develop a strategic plan and establish an endowment

to support students. The AACSB accreditation provides the School a distinction conferred upon fewer than 10 percent of the world's business schools and identifies the VSU business programs as meeting the highest standards of academic and professional excellence.

In July 2009, President Moore appointed Dr. Mirta M. Martin, Interim Dean of the School of Business. Her appointment makes her the first foreign-born Hispanic female Dean in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Martin's vision for the school is that it "will be the pre-eminent provider of talent" to the community. She envisions working with corporations, governments, nonprofit sectors and the educational community to create a pipeline from the classroom to jobs and other exciting career opportunities for VSU students.

Since coming on-board, Dr. Martin has sought support for students who have a financial need for books through a book scholarship fund, the School of Business Emergency Fund. Alumni are encouraged to support this cause. Donations can be made by check or credit card through the University's (Office of Development) website.

Looking forward, the School of Business is poised for unprecedented success—students exploring new opportunities, faculty instituting innovative teaching methodologies, an \$8 million building renovation, and the establishment of new scholarship initiatives supporting student needs. There is renewed excitement about the future. The School has also established a database for alumni to provide contact information in order to stay in touch. For information, contact Ms. Merri Incitti at the School of Business (mincitti@vsu.edu) to register.

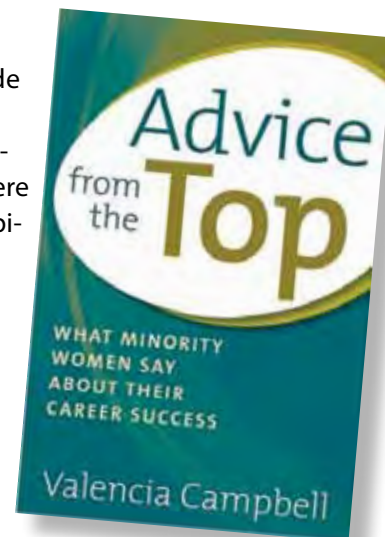
Making it to the top: Author Valencia Campbell discusses new book on the Success of Minority Women

Writer and Virginia State University alumna Valencia Campbell discussed her new book, *Advice from the Top: What Minority Women Say about Their Career Success*, at Virginia State University in October.

The book serves as a tool for improving the status of women in society and offers tips to minority women working in the for-profit and non-profit world on how to recognize and manage factors considered important for success. The book includes interviews of 14 extraordinary women who share stories about their path to the top, including millionaire business owners like Cathy Hughes and Eunice Dudley and former White House

staffer Zina Pierre. While women of color have made significant gains in the workplace, Campbell illustrates in her book that there is room at the top for ambitious, minority women.

Campbell is a consultant on educational topics and women's issues. Her many awards include: Woman of the Year from the Business and Professional Women's Association, National Association of Working Women, WHUR Hometown Hero Award, and governor's citations for her work on the improvement of the status of women. She holds a doctorate from Howard University.





James Yeldell, who handled play-by-play and analyst duties for WVST broadcasts of Virginia State University basketball, baseball and football games, passed away at age 43 from colon cancer on Monday, September 14.

Yeldell, who graduated from VSU, was on the air at WVST for over 10 years and broadcast almost all of the Trojan sporting events during that time. He also hosted the Trojan Sports Review during that time.

Yeldell's last on-air appearance was the VSU-Norfolk State football game on September 5, 2009 and was last in the WVST studio on Saturday, September 12.

The Norfolk, Virginia native was a graduate of Maury High School and is survived by his wife Lissa.

VSU's Oldest Alumnae passes at 104

Effie S. James, who graduated in the 1920s from the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute, now VSU, died in her home in Baltimore. She was 104.

Effie Turner, the daughter of a Civil War veteran who had fought with the Union Army, was born and raised in Northampton County, VA.

She was an insurance agent for North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co. and worked for 25 years in the same capacity until retiring in the 1960s from Mutual Benefit Society of Baltimore.

Her professional memberships included the Business and Professional Women's Club of Baltimore.

"She never drove a car and walked everywhere or took a bus or streetcar," said a son, Avon James of Ashburn, VA. "She was also reasonably careful about what she ate and never smoked. She would have an occasional social glass of wine."

Mrs. James also never lost her mental acumen and love for a lively game of pinochle.

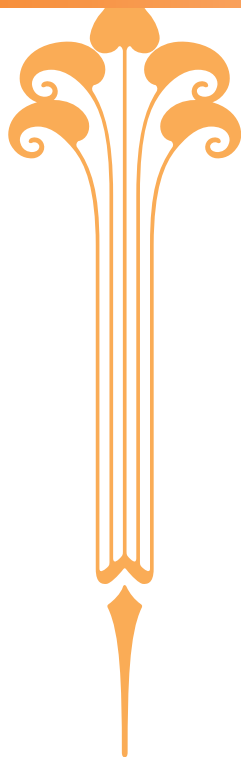


"She was an avid pinochle player and she used to call her partner, Mary Allen, at Emerald Estates just a youngster," her son said, laughing. Her partner "was 103."

Her husband of 57 years, Arthur L. James, a former Baltimore Sun linotype operator, died in 1983.

Mrs. James was a longtime active member and a former trustee of Union Baptist Church, where she was also a member of the Queen Esther Circle.

Also surviving are another son, Leroy James of Baltimore; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Deceased Alumni Winter 2010

Name	Graduation Date	Hometown
Ruth Booker Ballard	1939	Silver Spring, MD
Leroy Banks		Virginia Beach, VA
Brenda Friend Briggs	1965	Chester, VA
Gene K. Bryson	1965	Woodbridge, VA
Norton Dean Cachie	1965	Columbia, SC
Gladys Shuster Carter	1947	Chesapeake, VA
Andrew J. Compton, Jr.		Charlottesville, VA
Dr. John Richard Edwards	1965	Richmond, VA
Mary Major Fields	1950	Alexandria, VA
Charles W. Gray	1978	Wakefield, VA
Mervin Clyde Gray	N/A	Warsaw, VA
Carla E. Gregory	1977	Midlothian, VA
Ann Laverne Hamm	1958	Glen Allen, VA
Evelyn M.G. Harvey		Glen Allen, VA
Verline R. Henderson		Petersburg, VA
Pamela Russell Holland		Stone Mountain, GA
Vivian Gordon Howard	1946	Petersburg, VA
Effie S. James		Baltimore, ND
Benjamin F. Jones	1942	Orange, NJ
Ronald Jordan	1959	Fredericksburg, VA
Walter Milton Kindred, Sr.		Virginia Beach, VA
Daisy Lillian Marshall		Hampton, VA
Nannie Finney McDaniel	1942	Arlington, VA
Ernest R. Moore		Willingboro, NJ
Willie L. Morris	1960	Greenville, NC
Lindsay Patterson		New York, NY
Jerry C. Phelps		Colonial Heights, VA
William Delano Pleasants		
Mildred Houser Pogue	1940	West Hartford, CT
James Pool	1942	Lawrenceville, VA
Judy West Pope	1963	
Charles A. Pulley	1979	Petersburg, VA
Robert Salley	1959	Lawton, OK
John H. Scott	1960	Richmond, VA
Joseph Alfred Simmons, Sr.	1973	Petersburg, VA
Alice L. Smith		Nottoway, VA
Bertha B. Smith		Dinwiddie, VA
Kenneth Smith	1964	Boydton, VA
Freddie Cunningham Swinson	1959	Brooklyn, NY
Noel R. Torres		Geneva, Switzerland
Juanita Newsome Whitehurst		Chesapeake, VA
Barbara Booker Winborne	1959	Bronx, NY
Barbara M. (Metheuse) Witherspoon	N/A	Massillon, VA
Howard Zimmerman, Jr.		Hampton, VA



President Moore Hosts 15th Presidential Scholars Golf Tournament

On a brisk Fall morning, Virginia State University (VSU) and President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. welcomed alumni, sponsors and friends to the 15th Annual Presidential Scholars Golf Tournament at Birkdale Golf Club in Chesterfield County, VA.

Intertwined in the excitement of the day was a strong sense of gratitude for the man who made this event possible – President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. He established the tournament in 1994 as the main fundraising initiative to support the Presidential Scholars program. Since its inception, the event has raised close to \$450,000 for VSU's most talented and gifted students. Recognizing his commitment to student financial assistance and his final year as the host of this event, a group of Presidential Scholars presented him with heartfelt expressions of thanks and a student-drawn sketch of the Appomattox House – the President's Residence

15th ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

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Thompson's Hospitality
VT Griffin Services, Inc.
Walmart Logistics
Walmart South Crater Road

Lunch Sponsor
Chesterfield County
Columbia Gas of Virginia

Breakfast Sponsors
Harold D. Jones, M.D., '78

Beverage and Snack Sponsors
Frito Lay, Inc.
Manchester Pediatrics & Associates, Inc.
Pepsi Bottling Group
VSU Foundation

Powell Society Welcomes 16 Members

In August, VSU inducted 16 members into the Dr. Clilan B. Powell Legacy Society. Each inductee participated in taking the Powell Society oath and received an award and engraved medallion from President Moore. Those who were able to attend are pictured.

(Front row l to r)

Mrs. Delores H. Jones, '66
Ms. Yvette G. Robinson, '72, '77
Mr. Anthony J. Spence, '90
Mrs. Florence L. Rhue, '70
Dr. Sandra Evans, '86, '97, '99
Ms. Shirley J.M. Alexander, '57, '71

(Back row l to r)

Ms. Brenda Y. Fowlkes, '63
Mr. Frankie Jones, '66
VSU President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.
Mr. Samuel R. Rhue, Sr., '76
Mrs. Sada' D. Hill, '82



Altria grant strengthens Engineering programs

Altria Group, Inc. recently presented Virginia State University with the final installment of a two-year, \$325,000 grant to help fund programs within VSU's School of Engineering, Science and Technology (SEST). The grant will assist SEST in recruiting and retaining students, especially in manufacturing engineering.

The funds will be divided between two major SEST priorities: student support services, including recruitment, retention, and leadership support; and student financial aid, including SEST scholarships, financial awards and scholarships for the Richmond Area Program for Minorities in Engineering (RAPME).

"The Commonwealth's economic growth and development depend heavily on its technological leadership, so

graduating a sufficient number of students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), with the appropriate skills and attributes, is paramount," said Dr. Pamela Leigh-Mack, Dean of SEST. "Ensuring that this happens requires deliberate efforts on the part of many. Altria Group, Inc. clearly understands this, and in this major contribution to Virginia State University is demonstrating its leadership in this regard."

She adds, "The School plans to establish a recruitment and retention focus, in order to attract more students to the STEM disciplines and to ensure that its students have the needed support to persist, graduate and enter the technological workforce. This contribution will have a very positive impact on our efforts."

Verizon – CITE creates endowment in School of Business

The Consortium of Information and Telecommunications Executives, Inc. – (CITE) of Verizon Communications has given \$10,000 to Virginia State University's School of Business to establish an endowment. The Verizon Foundation will give a matching gift of \$10,000. This is the first new endowment established under interim Dean Dr. Mirta Martin.

CITE is a nonprofit organization that represents more than 35,000 African-American employees of Verizon Communications. It provides employee advocacy, issue awareness and professional development within the company. It also serves as a resource for the African-American community at large.

The CITE-Verizon Communications Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to high school seniors accepted into VSU as full-time students. Recipients must have at least a 3.0 GPA or better on a 4.0/5.0 high school grading scale and plan on majoring in one of the following re-

quired Business related majors: Advertising, Marketing, Business, Finance, Accounting, Engineering, Math and/or Computer Science/Information Technology.

According to VSU Director of Development Nancy L. Jones, "This gift represents a signature investment in the future of the School of Business and helps to further establish an ongoing partnership with a solid company such as Verizon Communications."

Established in 1984 by a group of mid-Atlantic, African-American managers representing employees from the former Bell systems, CITE has made a positive impact in the community by providing scholarships and developmental training programs. CITE's Virginia chapter has awarded over \$100,000 to high school students across Virginia. Ms. Leona Punzi, CITE National President, will serve as the authorized representative for CITE in establishing the endowment.

Explore the Possibilities of Planned Giving...

Planned giving arrangements allow you to invest in VSU through a special and enduring gift that will strengthen the University for years to come. You can leave your legacy in a number of ways: through a bequest, a life insurance policy, a trust or other planned gift.

What Impact Can my Legacy Have at VSU?

Are you a member of the President's Club or Trojan Athletic Club? Do you support a VSU Alumni Association Chapter endowment? Were you a member of the Marching Trojan Explosion, the Gospel Chorale or

Concert Choir? Do you support your own endowment or scholarship fund at VSU?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, then the impact that your legacy can have to current and future VSU students is endless. Through a planned gift you can choose to support any of the above mentioned groups, clubs and organizations. Your planned gift will also ensure that the programs, scholarships, endowments and organizations you already support continue for many years. What a great way to leave a lasting footprint at VSU for others to follow.

Virginia State University Named Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month for May 2010 in Honor of President Moore

The Tom Joyner Foundation, a major driving force in raising money for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) since 1998, has kicked off an aggressive fundraising campaign for Virginia State University (VSU). The Foundation, formed by the nationally syndicated radio personality Tom Joyner, said VSU was chosen as part of its on-going effort to assist HBCUs in broadening and strengthening their efforts to raise money to help keep students attending these institutions. VSU received the month of May 2010 in honor of President Moore's final commencement at the helm of the University.

"The Tom Joyner Foundation has helped to raise tens of millions of dollars to help support HBCUs across the country and Virginia State University is thrilled to have been selected as the Foundation's School of the Month for May 2010," said President Moore. "Virginia State is the nation's first, fully state supported HBCU, and we are ranked among the highest public, master's level HBCU's in the country. We are very proud of our heritage and our history. As I prepare to step down as President, I reflect back on my 17 years with gratitude to organizations like the Tom Joyner Foundation, which understands the importance of supporting our students and helping in our mission to continue serving the underserved."

As the Tom Joyner Foundation's "School of the Month," VSU will receive funds from listeners, alumni, corporations and other interested parties during the month of May 2010. Throughout the month, the Tom Joyner Morning Show, aired in 115 markets around the country and reaching nearly eight million listeners every week, will promote VSU and award scholarships to deserving students.



"The Foundation is really happy to work with VSU," said Tom Joyner, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, and the Foundation's chairman. "The college has a wonderful history and the Foundation is all about making sure students are able to stay in school."

The Foundation has raised more than \$25 million over the past seven years to help thousands of students at some 80 HBCU's.

VSU will set-up a special Tom Joyner Foundation Scholarship to receive contributions in honor of President Moore's enduring legacy. To make a contribution, please send in the insert in the middle of the VSU Alumni Magazine or contact Nancy L. Jones, VSU's Director of Development, at (804) 524-5976 or nljones@vsu.edu.

School of Business introduces Dean, establishes Support Fund



In October, alumni, students, faculty and staff attended a reception with Dr. Mirta M. Martin the new Dean of The School of Business. Dr. Martin outlined her exciting vision

for the School, and detailed plans for making that vision a reality. She also introduced several Student Ambassadors, all of whom made special requests for scholarship money so they may continue their education and for future generations of business students to obtain the same world-class education.

Beverly L. Everson-Jones ('82), Chair of The Major Gifts Campaign Unit for The School of Business, provided an alumni perspective on how VSU, specifically the School of

Business, prepared her for a professional career, and why it is important to give back. Everson-Jones is a Certified Public Accountant and Director of Information Systems for Fannie Mae. Mrs. Everson-Jones has established a namesake scholarship that provides funds for students with a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 collegiate scale and is renewable as long as they maintain a GPA of 3.0.

As an expression of confidence in Dr. Martin's plans for the School, President Eddie N. Moore, Jr. made a generous \$1,000 contribution to the School of Business Support Fund in an effort to establish operating and scholarship funds for deserving students. Several alumni and faculty members in attendance followed President Moore's lead and made generous contributions to the fund.

If you are interested in contributing to the School of Business Support Fund, please contact VSU's Director of Development, Nancy L. Jones at (804) 524-5976 or nljones@vsu.edu.



New Habits for a New Year

By Glenn Sessoms

Hello Statesmen! This is my second article to you about our

Major Gifts Campaign and I am very excited to have this opportunity to reach out to so many of you and to discuss your role in assuring the future of our Alma Mater in these trying financial times.

As we all know, the country is in a major recession and money is tight. With few exceptions, we have all experienced financial challenges during the past two years and will probably continue to deal with these challenges going forward into 2010. Yet, in spite of these obstacles, I am proud to report that our University has made great strides. As many of you may already know, VSU's status as a rising star among America's institutions of higher learning has been duly recognized, as *U.S. News & World Report* once again ranked VSU among the best in its class!

I was back on campus for Homecoming this year and I cannot tell you how impressed I am with the improvements on campus, as well as the quality of student body. President Moore and his staff have done a fantastic job of upgrading the school's facilities and programs. VSU has always provided a nurturing environment for its students, that has produced quality graduates, who have made meaningful contributions to our country and the world.

To maintain momentum in these challenging times, our University will have to overcome some big

financial hurdles. As the recession has produced less tax revenues for the state government, corresponding financial cuts have been passed on to state-supported universities. To cope with the projected short-fall in this support, VSU is turning to alumni and friends to fill the gap. Fellow Statesmen, we cannot allow the progress we have made to stall now.

I ask you to remember and embrace the words of our Alma Mater:

*"Hail State! Hail State! Hail, Hail, Hail,
We're Loyal Sons and Daughters
True to Orange and Blue;
Our Hearts beat warm with
Love for thee
Though near or far from
thee we be!
Virginia State, Virginia State . . .
Hail, Hail, Hail!"*

These words of Loyalty and Love have warmed our hearts and sustained our spirits over the years. Now, however, I am using them as a call to action.

Now is the time for us to step up support for VSU. We know that Virginia's other state-supported schools have well-established networks of alumni, friends and patrons, who will not allow the reduction of state funding to jeopardize their school's success. I was disappointed that only about 11 percent of alumni have financially supported VSU this year. While the other state-supported schools in Virginia may be larger, with a more

established alumni association, I refuse to believe they are more loyal than we Trojans!

Thus, my challenge to those of you who are reading this article is to stand up for VSU! To support VSU! And, to show your love and loyalty for VSU by digging deep for VSU! I want everyone who can give, to try to give something. The size of your gift is not what matters. Every gift, no matter the size, will be accepted and appreciated as a symbol of Trojan loyalty and solidarity in these tough times. I know it is tough to stretch your budget in times like these. If you can find a way to contribute just a little this year, it will be easier to give a little more next year and the year after, as the economy recovers.

I know I'm being optimistic, but I believe that in tough times like these, the loyal sons and daughters of VSU will not let the University and its current crop of students down. It has been said that: "We have not because we ask not."

As your chairman, I am asking that you first look into your hearts, and then, realistically, look at your budgets and see if it is possible to squeeze out "a little love" to ensure the continued success of our Alma Mater – that Haven on the Hill – for future generations of talented young men and women.

Let's all start a new habit in 2010 and commit to giving back to VSU. She has given so much to so many of us. Let's ensure that the tradition continues!

Will you accept The Challenge?

THE VSU ANNUAL FUND DRIVE
IS UNDERWAY.

Students come to Virginia State University with big dreams. Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Friends of the University help to make those dreams a reality.

If you have never made an Annual Fund gift, or you haven't renewed your gift for this year, mail your gift today and be a part of making dreams come true!

Virginia State University
Office of Development
PO Box 9027 • Petersburg, VA 23806



2009-2010 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



* Please write Annual Fund on the memo line of your check.

Office of Development unveils New Website Design

In an effort to reach more alumni and highlight recent private gifts to VSU, the Office of Development is working on a new Development website design. The new design, being developed through a partnership with Petersburg's BandyWorks and VSU alumnus Charles Ham '01, will become more virtual and interactive for donors and potential donors. The new website design will go live by May 2010.

"Our goal is to highlight the wonderful job the Office of Development is doing in securing gifts to the University, as well as make a stronger case for new philanthropy to VSU, especially in scholarship support to our students," states VSU's Director of Development Nancy L. Jones.

Plans for the new design include profiles of VSU students who have received scholarship support, announcements of new private gifts from corporations and foundations and highlights of alumni who have created endowments

and/or operating funds. The website will also include links to a new planned giving page, developed by plannedgiving.com, appeals to give to the VSU Marching Band and other music programs and an athletic fundraising page to increase gifts to the athletic program. Eventually, the new site will add video messages from the President, Vice-President for Development, Academic Deans and other administration officials to make the case for continuing support to VSU for scholarships, endowments, operating support and special programs.

Do it all ONLINE at <https://online.vsu.edu>

- Register for upcoming events
- Have you moved? Update your name and address information
- Become a member of VSU Online Community
- Become a member of VSU Social Network Community — As a member, you can reconnect to your old classmates
- Coming in the Spring of 2010, a new Planned Giving website

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TRANSFORMING A UNIVERSITY

THE LEGACY OF EDDIE N. MOORE, JR.

Save the Date

Please join the Virginia State University family to say
thank you and farewell to President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.

Saturday, April 3, 2010
Richmond Marriott Hotel
8:00 PM

Call (804) 524-6986 for more information