



The Voice of the
Virginia Union
University
National Alumni
Association

Voices United for Union

Issue 3

Vol. I

November 2006

From the desk of the president, N. Scott Phillips

Dear Unionites,

*“If it is to be it
is up to me”*

I first heard this man-
tra as a student at
Virginia Union during a
speech given by Jesse
Jackson. I truly believe
each of us has the ability
to make things happen by
taking ownership; Home-
coming 2006 is a great
example of this. Alumni
contributed over
\$120,000 to the univer-
sity from class gifts,
chapter gifts and individ-
ual donations. We hon-
ored Mrs. Elizabeth Di-
anne Nelson Watkins as
Alumna of the Year for
her efforts with “Bells for
Peace” and the positive
public relations the pro-
ject has brought to Vir-
ginia Union.

Homecoming afforded
the VUUNAA the oppor-
tunity to develop new
partnerships with old
friends and new friends.
Consolidated Bank and
Trust, lead by Kim Saun-
ders, signed on as our



lead sponsor. As a result
we awarded our first
VUUNAA Homecoming
Scholarship to Timberly
Roberts. David R.
McGeorge Car Company,
The Aspen Group, Liberty
Mutual, PMS Parking, Inc.
and Radio One also con-
tributed to the success of
the weekend.

Thank you to all alumni
who worked on the home-
coming committee. A
special thanks goes to our
Honorary Chairpersons,
Mary “Liz” Neal, Dr.
Marilyn Brown and Mrs.
Shirley Vaughn who
worked behind the scenes
to make our banquet a suc-
cess.

Well, what’s next? We

are focused on growing
the association by devel-
oping our local chapters
and building the strength
of the national association
through membership and
active participation. We
are experiencing a resur-
gence of alumni activity in
places like Philadelphia
and Northern Virginia. I
have received emails from
alumni in California,
Texas, Maine and South
Carolina. Alumni are of-
fering to volunteer their
time and talents to the
University. One example
of tangible benefits, in
May we initiated the
VUUNAA Life Member-
ship. Our Life Members
have made it possible for
alumni to support student
activities, create an en-
dowed scholarship, pro-
vide seed money for
homecoming activities and
position the association for
growth.

Our next alumni meeting
will be held during Foun-
der’s day weekend in Feb-
ruary. I look forward to
your participation. You
can reach me at
vuun_alumni@yahoo.com.

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Alumni News - Barco hosts 'Legends' Scholarship Gala

The John W. Barco Alumni Chapter, located in Richmond, Va., will host its third annual scholarship gala Sat., Nov. 25 at the Sheraton Park South Hotel, 9901 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, Va. The theme of the black tie affair is "HONORING OUR LEGENDS." The chapter will honor VUU legends such as: Evelyn Baker, Dr. Dorothy Cowling, Dr. Norma Goode and Odell Hobbs.

Hotel doors open at 5 p.m. and the program starts at 6 p.m. A plated dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. and the honorees will be recognized at 7:30 p.m. The chapter plans to use this formal affair to recognize legends that have been instrumental in the lives of students and alumni at Va. Union. Individual donations are \$50. And reserved table donations are \$400. These funds will help provide scholarship for students seeking enrollment to Vir-

ginia Union. In addition to the gala, there will be a Silent Auction and a photographer on site.


Each honoree and one guest will receive a complimentary dinner ticket. Tickets may be obtained by contacting the following alumni: Deborah Scott (262-7426), Albert Ruffin (222-2202), Corina Jones Mack (305-7247), or Delsena Willis-Sammons at (275-7365). Due to hotel regulations, tickets may **not** be purchased at the door.

**Alumni News
continued on
Page. 3**

**"Thy hallowed
grounds and dear
ole walls may
they for ever be
Dear Union
we still love
thee"**

NY Chapter presents 'An Evening In Harlem'

Planning to head to New York for the Big Apple Classic? Then you definitely don't want to miss the New York chapter's annual event, "An Evening In Harlem." The fundraiser will be held at the historic Cotton Club in Harlem Friday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. Cost is \$60. For tickets or more information, contact Howie Jones, '55, 845-642-3168; Ruth Jackson, '61, 718-796-1042; Kisha Clinton, '94, 718-440-4049; Kimberly Stevens, '95, 718-344-2124.



An Evening In Harlem
at
The Cotton Club
Harlem, New York
December 1, 2006
8pm
Cost - \$60

For more information
Howie Jones - Class of '55 - 845.642.3168
Ruth Jackson - Class of '61 - 718.796.1042
Kisha Clinton - Class of '94 - 718.440.4049
Kimberly Stevens - Class of '95 - 718.344.2124

A VUU New York Alumni Chapter Presentation

**Articles written
by Maria D.
James, '04
Editor-in-Chief**

Office of Institutional Advancement Reorganizes

New faces from other places: Dr. Laura R. Dawson, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone, Director of Development and Annual Fund; Ms. Janice Fisher, Director of Sponsored Programs;



and Mrs. Patricia Brunson, Researcher and Office Manager. The reorganization also has familiar faces in new places: Ms. Deborah Alston is now Di-

rector of Development Research and Donor Services; Mrs. Quanda Baker will direct Constituency and Post-Award Grant Services; and Mr. Landy F. Watson, Director of Alumni Relations, is now assigned to the Institutional Advancement division.

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Articles written
from
announcements e-
mailed to from the
Office of Alumni
Relations

Highlights from Homecoming 2006

Dismal weather conditions did not dampen the spirit of Homecoming 2006. Shout-outs, congratulations, and kudos go out to Ms. Mary M. Neal who received an Outstanding Service Award for her leadership as Class Agent for the Class of 1956 and its 50th Year Reunion. She was ably

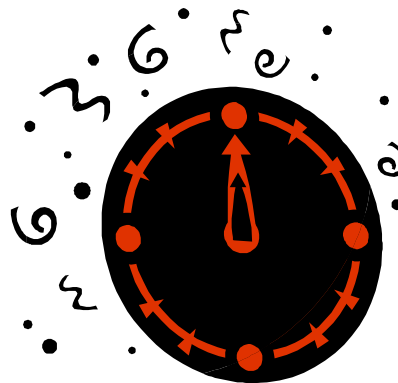
assisted by Dr. Marilyn T. Brown and Mrs. Shirley W. Vaughn who were also recognized for their support and assistance with reunion program planning. The Class of 1961 won this year's Money Bag Award honor for their gift to the University in the amount of \$50,307! The

Class of 1956 followed with a gift of \$40,807! Other gifts included \$7,635 from the Class of 1951, \$3,641 from the Class of 1966, \$3,300 from the Class of 1941, \$1,385 from the Class of 1971, and \$1,050 was presented by the Class of 1986. A total of fourteen (14) reunion classes (1936-2001) made gifts!

It's Reunion Time - Is it yours?

If you graduated in the class of 1932, 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002, then its time for your class reunion! Members of these reunion classes are invited and encouraged to

contact Mr. Landy F. Watson, Director of Alumni Relations, for assistance with reunion year celebration and fundraising activities. More information on classes in reunion will available within the next few weeks.



E-mail:
AlumniRelations@
vuu.edu

Campus News - Political Leaders Converge at Union

National, state, and local political leaders drew a crowd of several hundred persons to the Virginia Union campus during the recent campaign for the United States Senate. Political leaders present were Sen. Henry L. Marsh, III; Del. Donald McEachin; U.S. Senator Barack Obama;



Gov. Timothy (Tim) Kaine; Del. Rosalyn Dance; Congressional candidate Jim Nachman; U.S. Senator-elect Jim Webb; First Lady Anne Holton, U.S. Congressman Robert C. (Bobby) Scott; Del. Dwight C. Jones; Former Governor and current Mayor Lawrence Douglas Wilder; Former Governor Mark R. Warner; Del. Frank Hall; and Del. Lionel Spruill.

Photo submitted by E. Dianne Watkins

Founder's Day Speaker Announced

By Vanessa M. Coombs
University Relations

Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, Executive Director of National Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA, will give the keynote address at Virginia Union University's 2007 Founders Day

Celebration on Feb. 2. The National Ministries home mission network includes 5,800 American Baptist churches, 1,100 endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors, 500 new church planters, Neighborhood Action Christian Centers, and hundreds of commissioned home missionar-

ies." I am unapologetically evangelical, unashamedly ecumenical and unabashedly committed to the emancipation of all people from personal and public sin and selfishness," said Rev. Dr. Wright-Riggins. The Founders Day Celebration will begin at 11 a.m. in Coburn Hall.

**All campus
News articles
were reprinted
from the
Vuu.edu website**

VUU Working to Increase Media Presence

By Vanessa M. Coombs
University Relations

This has been a banner year for Virginia Union University when it comes to local television. During July and August, the University aired its first television commercial. The 30-second spot appeared 89 times on Chan-

nel 32, the local Fox television affiliate. In addition, a two-minute Virginia Union recruitment video aired three times on the Fox channel. Now, students in VUU's Communication and Media Arts Department have broken new ground with the airing of a monthly 30-minute show called

VUU: CameraOne. The first edition, which featured African American mayors in Virginia, aired on PBS Channel 57 in Richmond on Oct. 27 and 29. "It gives the students the opportunity to see what it feels like and what it will be like in the real world," said Professor Gloria



**Media Presence
continued
on Page 5**

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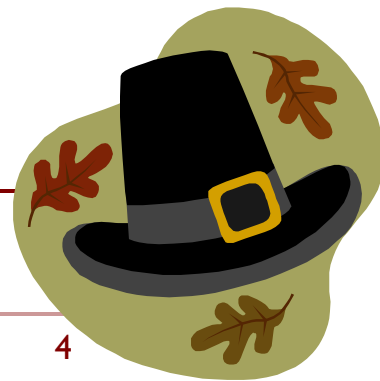
Brogdon. Brogdon teaches the Advanced Studio Production class responsible for producing the show each month. "I don't treat this as a class; I treat it as a job," Brogdon added. "I really challenge them because I know this field demands that." "It was a lot of work; I was stressed," said Chavis


Carter, a 20-year-old junior from Richmond, Virginia. "It was worth it because this is why I'm paying money to go to school." The students began working on the show in Aug. They traveled to Alexandria, Portsmouth, and Smithfield. Many hours of video had to be edited to produce the 30-minute

show. "There are some aesthetics you have to hold true to," stated Brogdon. "It's not just pointing a camera and shooting." The next edition of *VUU: CameraOne* will air on Channel 57 on Friday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 p.m. Topics will include "Pride of Black Hair," and "Prominent Black Women in Virginia." The third edition will air on Friday, Dec. 29 at 7:00 p.m.

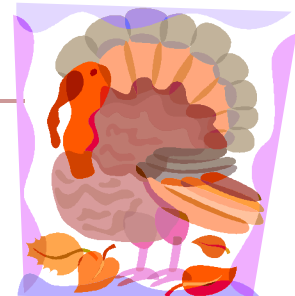


November 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
57th annual Convocation Week						
19	20	21	22	23 J. W. Barco gala 6 p.m.	24 VUU show airs at 7 p.m. Ch. 57	25
26	27	28 Home workshop at	29	30	Visit www.vuu.edu for more news	



Sports - Tixs Still Available for Big Apple game

The Virginia Union University Department of Athletics still have a number of tickets available for the Big Apple Classic, to be held on Dec. 2 in Madison Square Garden in New York, NY. Tickets are \$35, which puts VUU fans in the reserved seats. This section has been designated as the official VUU cheering section in Madison Square Garden. The game will



match up our own Virginia Union Panthers with the Bulldogs of Bowie State at 1 p.m. The Bison's of Howard University will take on the Hampton University Pi-

rates at 3 p.m. For tickets contact the VUU Athletic Dept. "not Madison Square Garden" for the VUU seating section at (804) 337-0329. To purchase these tickets call (804) 342-1484 Carolyn Bracey. For more information, please contact the VUU Athletic Department at 804-342-1484.



2006-07 Basketball Individual Tickets

General
Admission:
\$10

Senior
Citizen: \$7

Visiting
Students
with ID: \$7

VUU
Students
with valid ID
- FREE

Track & Field's Davis, Mokra earn CIAA honors

Marquis Davis and Gabriela Mokra earned All-CIAA honors at the 2006 CIAA Track & Field Championships, held April 19-22 at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Va. Davis finished third in the shot put with a distance of 13.51 meters. Erie Smalls of North



Carolina Central University won the event with a shot put of 15.24 meters while John Mobley of Winston-Salem State University finished second at 15.29 meters. Mokra finished

third in the javelin with a throw of 103.4 meters. Brynn Rosser of Virginia State University won the event with a throw of 123.425 meters while Tiffany Toney of Bowie State finished second with a throw of 116.175 meters.

Written by VUU Athletics

Photos courtesy of VUU Athletics

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Contact us at
vuu_alumni@yahoo.com

Voices United for Union is a monthly electronic newsletter which is submitted to all alumni through e-mail. Alumni who are not receiving the newsletter should contact their local alumni chapter or join the **VUUNAA** yahoo group. Sections of the newsletter may include From the desk of the President, Campus, News, Alumni News and Sports Highlights. All articles are due by the first of each month. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content. The National Alumni Association president reserves the right to edit all content.

Submissions for the December issue are due by Friday, Dec. 8.



SAVE THE DATE!

**VUUNAA Convention 2007
June 8-10, 2007**

Note: June 7, 2007 is available for check-in for out of town alumni.

**Holiday Inn Arlington
4610 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22203
703-243-9800
www.HIArlington.com
\$99.00/night plus tax**