

INTEGRITAS IMPRIMIS

The latest news and updates from Virginia University of Lynchburg

BECAUSE INTEGRITY MATTERS...



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Greetings From the President

As we end another successful semester at Virginia University of Lynchburg, I would like to thank our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students for what we have achieved in 2023. I am truly grateful for your hard work and commitment to excellence, which made these accomplishments possible.

As we move forward and seek to engage with the opportunities and challenges facing higher education today, we continue to be dedicated to making investments that strengthen our community, create an environment for our students and faculty to pursue their passions, and position our university for future success. God has continued to bless VUL in amazing ways. Here are a few highlights:

- The construction of 4 additional classroom buildings on campus.
- The renovations in Humbles Hall, Mary Jane Cachelin Memorial Library, Graham Hall, and all dormitories.
- We experienced another record enrollment in the Doctor of Healthcare Administration program.



As you can see, God has blessed Virginia University of Lynchburg marvelously. Join me in giving Him glory and praise for the great things He has done.

As 2024 begins, we have accomplished much, we have much to celebrate, and, despite all the difficulties of the pandemic, we can anticipate new beginnings, new growth, and even new dimensions to our mission. I appreciate your commitment to our university and to one another as we venture forward together.

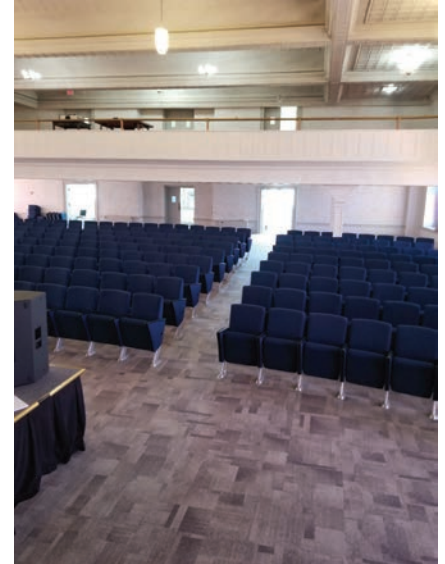
I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

President Franklin

Construction Projects Update

Renovation projects on the buildings on the main campus are moving along slowly but surely! Humbles Hall has been the priority over the last year primarily because it is the main administrative building and the location of the main meeting areas on campus, namely the cafeteria and the auditorium. We are happy to report that we are only weeks away from moving the administrative team back into the building and the remaining waterproofing project in the cafeteria will be completed before the end of 2023. While the renovations have taken longer than what we had planned because of unanticipated structural repairs, we are confident that our community members will be well pleased with the finished product.

The modular classroom buildings are in the queue with Appalachian Electric Power to complete the permanent electrical installation which we anticipate having done within the next month. Our construction team led by Dr. John Owen, is working diligently to complete the outdoor ground plumbing installation before the winter weather arrives. While we would love to have students occupying the buildings Spring semester, the remaining work to be completed for occupancy are dependent upon favorable weather conditions (i.e., temperatures conducive to pouring concrete, building entryways and steps to the upper level of campus, and the installation of required lighting for safety). We are grateful to have resolved the land disturbance issues around the site with the City's Planning and Development department which instituted the building completion delay.



Graham Hall renovations will begin once we have located and engaged an historic masonry company to repoint the building. We will install temporary gutters to help alleviate the water entering the building through the bricks. Once that work is underway, our plans are to make the bathrooms handicapped accessible and to have permanent classrooms constructed.

The Mary Jane Cachelin Library renovations will begin once the remaining moisture issues on the first level of the building have been addressed. Completion of this project also includes making the building handicapped accessible (entry and bathrooms), remodeling the classrooms (new carpet, paint, and window treatments) and the complete renovation of the Dragons' Den so that our students will have a gathering place. Our plan is to have some kind of snack bar/grill for late night eating and studying in the Dragons' Den. The library proper will be refreshed (new carpet, paint, and window treatments) and hopefully offer evening hours to accommodate our students' needs.

Our final renovation project will be at the Leonard N. Smith School of Religion. This project entails quite a bit of structural work both inside and outside the building to maintain its historical significance.

We will embark on the construction of the new LeRoy Owens Wellness Center as quickly as possible.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of our donors and benefactors in this complete renovation/rehabilitation endeavor. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Virginia University of Lynchburg Athletic Program Grows by Leaps and Bounds

Athletic Director Tim Newman has been working diligently to build the athletic program at the Virginia University of Lynchburg. He has revamped the University's partnership with Liberty University which has resulted in having a team doctor that our athletes can see on a weekly basis and the partnership has garnered donations valued at over \$25,000.

Other partnerships between our student athletes and local organizations are part of an ongoing effort to reintroduce VUL to the community. Our students are participating in service projects throughout the City including Lynchburg City Schools and the Hunton Randolph Community Center. Glowing reports from our collaborations reveal the amazing impact our student athletes have had as mentors to local youth.

We also partner with HBCU League Pass-Urban Edge Networks. They have over 70 million viewers and the Virginia University of Lynchburg athletics department has its own personal channel-channel 104. We have had over 20 nationally televised football games, and the contract is scheduled to run through 2025.



Women's Volleyball was brought back after being dormant for over 30 years at Virginia University of Lynchburg. We have an incredibly young, extremely competitive team under the leadership of Head Coach Darius Merritt.

From 2021 to the present, we have brought in over 419 football players. The football team has attracted players from all over the nation. Our men's basketball team in the last three years has brought in 54 players. Our women's athletic program has brought in over 42 student athletes. There were four additional track and field athletes. This is a total of 519 student athletes, within the last three years.

We are super excited about the future of Dragon athletics as guarantees and sponsorships have raised over \$1.1 million for athletics. There have been major renovations in technology to the Wellness Center and we were also able to purchase new uniforms for the football, basketball and track and field teams.

We are excited to see what the future holds for the Virginia University of Lynchburg Athletic Department. GO DRAGONS!!



VIRTUAL HAYES-ALLEN DAY 2023

You may remember the English Christmas carol that enumerates twelve days of Christmas listing daily the gifts of twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree. Well on December 6, 2023, although not in person, we will have an opportunity to virtually celebrate our dear Virginia University of Lynchburg with gifts of support. On the morning of December 6th, you will find on our web page www.vul.edu an inspiring video remembering Gregory Willis Hayes and honoring M.C. Allen's request to bring gifts in December to help "the school on the hill" become the greatest HBCU in the country! This virtual experience will be powerful.

GET READY FOR HAYES- ALLEN DAY 2024!

On behalf of President Kathy Franklin and Chairman Leroy Owens, please get ready for Hayes Allen Day 2024! Yes, December 4, 2024, is going to be an amazing day. Go ahead and mark your calendar right now to experience, live and in person, the exhilarating emotions of Dragon Pride. Get your buses and vans ready to travel to Lynchburg. On that day all roads will lead to Humbles Hall at 2058 Garfield Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia. On that day all who gather on the campus of Virginia University of Lynchburg will quote, "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Psalm 118:23). On that day you will see the interior renovations and infrastructure enhancements of our historic buildings on campus. The polishing of Humbles Hall, Graham Hall, and the Mary Jane Cachelin Memorial Science and Library Building are going on now and will shine brilliantly on December 4, 2024! On that day you will see four fully functional modular educational facility with classrooms equipped with modern technology. You will encounter the aesthetic splendor of VUL with paved parking areas, sidewalks, and eye-catching signage. Our growing fleet of VUL vehicles to transport students and other surprises will also be awesome to view. Our robust and growing student population and staff will greet you with smiles and welcome you back to campus and Hayes Allen Day 2024!

The planning committee is fast at work now to ensure that December 4, 2024 will be a day to remember. On Hayes Allen Day 2024, expect the best preaching, music, inspirational school updates, food, fun, and fellowship imaginable. So do us a favor, spread the word and let the world know that Virginia University of Lynchburg is on the move! Let's make Hayes and Allen rise from the portals of glory and say VUL is truly a great place to learn and graduate ready to change the world! We look forward to seeing you on campus in Humbles Hall on December 4, 2024! It's going to be epic!

The Leonard N. Smith School of Religion wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season. Seasons' Greetings from us all!

STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Student Affairs Department of VUL kicked off the 2023-2024 Academic Year with Convocation Services that inspired and engaged us. Our campus community has been visited by various presenters including members of the Leonard N. Smith School of Religion staff.

Ms. Shirley Ramsey was our first Convocation presenter and started the semester off by informing our students about the importance of mental health care and suicide prevention. Community members were presented with information to help them recognize signs of mental distress, self-care tips, and local community organizations who can provide additional resources.

Mr. Daryl Towe, native of Norfolk, VA, who has played semi-professional basketball in Argentina and across the United States, mesmerized Convocation attendees with his personal rags to riches story. Towe was raised in an impoverished neighborhood in Norfolk and went on to complete his bachelor's degree and is now an up-and-coming film maker. He encouraged students to identify their "why" and to work towards better directions for their lives.

Dr. James Coleman and Dr. Philip Campbell lifted our spirits in the messages they shared with faculty, staff and students. We were all encouraged to take the lessons learned from past mistakes and to use them as steppingstones as we strive towards our personal goals in our respective roles at VUL.

Student Affairs staff are working diligently to provide social activities, grocery, and personal shopping shuttle services as well as video game nights and trips to local activities offered throughout the city.





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FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S DESK



When I assumed the position of Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Virginia University of Lynchburg (VUL), I was overwhelmed with pride and remain so today. I was and remain humbled by my responsibility for our university to guide and protect Virginia University of Lynchburg through the years. Virginia University of Lynchburg is one of those rare organizations, founded 137 years ago, that has been in continuous operation since 1886.

I am pleased to share that Virginia University of Lynchburg is debt-free. This is a monumental accomplishment for any institution of higher learning and particularly significant for a small, private university. Our President, Dr. Kathy Franklin, has been highly instrumental in achieving this financial milestone. She is a dedicated leader committed to excellence.

We will soon be announcing the public groundbreaking for the LeRoy Owens Wellness Center. Our new building is projected to be complete and ready for occupancy in just over a year after groundbreaking. The Center will have state-of-the art equipment and technology to enhance our students' VUL experience. Please check back with VUL often for our progress.

The Board of Trustees recognizes the need for VUL to offer programs that are relevant and meet the needs of its graduates today, tomorrow, and throughout the 21st century. To this end, we pledge to continue reviewing and updating our curriculum and program offerings.

I assure you that the Board of Trustees is active and dedicated to Virginia University of Lynchburg. We diligently work on behalf of the University and are grateful for your continued prayers and support.

Sincerely,

LeRoy Owens

LeRoy M. Owens
Chair, Board of Trustees
Virginia University of Lynchburg