



VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG

INTEGRITAS IMPRIMAS

BECAUSE INTEGRITY MATTERS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Virginia University of Lynchburg Alumni and Supporters,

As we approach this year's Hayes-Allen Day on December 3, 2025, we are filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. Your steadfast support over the years has played a vital role in strengthening our institution, enriching the student experience, and advancing the mission of Virginia University of Lynchburg. We are thrilled to share some groundbreaking news with you—Virginia University of Lynchburg has been ranked #1 in the nation by Forbes

for our Online Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) program!

Forbes Advisor praised VUL's online program for its total cost of \$19,500.00, its 100% delivery model, and its strong curriculum that includes courses such as Global Healthcare Strategy, Risk Management, and Organizational Communication. These features make the program accessible and practical for healthcare professionals seeking to advance into executive leadership roles.

This national recognition is a testament to our commitment to academic excellence, innovation in online education, and the unwavering support of our dedicated faculty, students, alumni, and our valued donors and supporters.

Your belief in our mission has helped make this achievement possible. Together, we are not only shaping the future of healthcare leadership but also making high-quality education accessible and impactful.

This year, we are excited to share some of the progress we've made across our campus:

- **Academic Excellence:** Our academic programs continue to evolve to meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's world. We have enhanced our curriculum, expanded online learning opportunities, and strengthened faculty development to ensure we deliver a first-class education rooted in our Christian values.
- **Enrollment and Student Life:** Our enrollment numbers are steadily rising, a testament to the value of a VUL education. We're not just welcoming more students—we're nurturing a vibrant, diverse, and engaged student body that is active in service and leadership.

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• **WHERE GREAT MINDS ARE DEVELOPED !**



- **Campus Enhancements:** We have made key investments in our campus infrastructure—from updating technology in our classrooms to improving residence halls and student spaces. These upgrades are designed to create a supportive, modern, and inspiring environment for learning and community-building.
- **Strategic Partnerships and Outreach:** We continue to forge meaningful partnerships with businesses, churches, and organizations both locally and nationally expanding opportunities for internships, mentorships, and post-graduate success for our students.
- **Financial Stewardship:** With your generous contributions, we have strengthened our financial foundation. We're investing wisely in programs and initiatives that support student success, faculty development, and institutional sustainability.
- **Strategic Growth in Development:** We have expanded our Development Office, welcoming new team members dedicated to building relationships and securing the financial resources needed to sustain and grow VUL.
- **Grant Proposals for Community Impact:** VUL has submitted two major proposals this year—one for the Virginia Rural Health Transformation initiative, and another for a Maternal Health Mobile Unit—both aimed at addressing critical needs in underserved communities throughout our region.

Our fundraising goal for Hayes-Allen Day 2025 is to raise \$250,000 to support scholarships, program development, and campus improvements. As part of this effort, we've launched a \$5,000 challenge to each department across the university to jumpstart our campaign and inspire collective action.

These initiatives demonstrate our unwavering commitment to innovation, service, and academic excellence—but we cannot do this alone.

We are calling on our valued alumni and supporters to continue investing in the future of VUL. Your contributions help shape the lives of our students and empower our university to remain a beacon of opportunity, leadership, and learning.

As we celebrate the legacy of Hayes-Allen and all who have paved the way, let us also look forward with hope and determination. Your support, whether through donations, spreading the word, or engaging with your alma mater makes all the difference.

Thank you for standing up with us. Thank you for believing in the mission of Virginia University of Lynchburg. Together, we will continue to rise.

With appreciation,
President Franklin

GREETINGS FROM HAYES - ALLEN CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends:

As we prepare to celebrate Hayes-Allen Day, we are reminded of the remarkable legacy and enduring spirit that bind our community together. This special occasion honors our shared history, the achievements of our alumni, and the bright future we continue to build.

To ensure that this year's celebration is truly memorable and impactful, we are inviting you to join us in supporting the event through your generous contributions. Our goal is to raise \$250,000.00, which will help us fund meaningful programs, scholarships, and activities that reflect the excellence of the Hayes-Allen tradition.. Every gift large or small makes a difference.

Please consider making your donation today and be a part of this milestone celebration. You can go to our website at <http://www.vul.edu> and click on Support VUL and click the Hayes-Allen Day Donations which will allow you to make your contribution. Together, we can reach our goal and make Hayes-Allen Day 2025 one to remember!!

With gratitude,

Dr. Philip Campbell
Chairman, Hayes-Allen Day



LADY DRAGONS 2025 -2026

The Lady Dragons Women's Basketball program is back for the 25/26 school year, under the leadership of first-year coach, Pamela Walker.

It's a New Season, its a New Day at VUL WBB, cites Coach Walker. "We are building something better together". VUL WBB is boasting a nee crop of committed student-athletes that are academically and athletically driven to succeed. With players from Illinois, New Jersey, New York, DC amd Virginia the Dragons are expected to meld quickly and make some noise this season. According to freshman Reagan Mason, she chose VUL because of its family atmosphere and the opportunity to play for Coach Walker.

Joining Reagan at the freshman rank is New Yorker, Princess Akojenu that had a stellar prep career at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia where she earned 2nd team all-state honors for VISAA.

Alethea Bearfield, Tywana Rogers, Miliya Hodges, Jamiliah Hayles, Lovely Tua-Link and team captians Paris Jones and Diniya Warren-McClure round out the chosen 9.



In the span of two months Walker and her assistants were charged with recruiting a whole team. We took that task to heart said Walker, we wanted student athletes that would fit in the culture here, the right athletes, at the right time in the program for them. Visit, calls, texts and lots of film later, we are rolling.

Every player is locked in and focused on biilding a culture of sustainability and adherence to a standard.Coach Walker is grateful for the opportunity that Dr. Franklin and AD Newman afforded her and each and every player feels the same way.

HAYES -ALLEN

DAY 2025



The University is proud to announce that Dr. Michael Thompson, Chairman and President of Sikhona, will serve as this year's Hayes-Allen Day Speaker. Dr. Thompson leads Sikhona, a Black-owned, multi-billion-dollar technology company that is redefining the digital landscape with innovative platforms spanning social media, payment processing, green energy, and more.

With a projected valuation of \$2.9 billion, Sikhona is behind breakthrough platforms such as DoYou, File Mule, Heyyo, and FastFare—tools that continue to disrupt industries and empower users around the globe.

But Dr. Thompson's legacy of innovation began long before Sikhona. In the late 1990s, he achieved a landmark breakthrough in digital media by successfully streaming video over copper wires, accomplishing in just 30 days what Bell Atlantic could not, despite an \$80 million investment. This pioneering feat laid the groundwork for the online entertainment revolution and reshaped the future of video streaming.

DR. MICHAEL THOMPSON NAMED HAYES-ALLEN DAY SPEAKER

His early success attracted Hollywood's top studios and positioned him as a key leader in the rapidly evolving tech space. As Vice President of Verizon Video Services, Thompson stood on the brink of leading the company into dominance in digital streaming. Though a critical misstep shifted that trajectory, the experience became a powerful lesson in resilience and reinvention.

Dr. Thompson's story is more than a tale of entrepreneurial success, is a masterclass in vision, adaptability, and the courage to innovate. His journey offers invaluable insights for anyone looking to make their mark in technology, business, or creative industries.

We are honored to welcome Dr. Michael Thompson as the Hayes-Allen Day Speaker and look forward to the inspiration he will undoubtedly bring to our university community.

**The Visionary: Michael Thompson's
Journey from Pioneering Video
Streaming to Leading a Company
with a Projected Valuation of \$2.9
Billion**

BREAKING NEWS

GLOBAL MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMPANY SIKHONA INC. DONATES 10,000 SHARES OF STOCK TO VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG TO KICK OFF A HISTORIC NEW PARTNERSHIP

VUL is proud to announce a historic new partnership with Sikhona Inc., a global media, communications, and technology company headquartered in Ashburn, Virginia.

On Tuesday, September 23, 2025, during a meeting held on VUL's campus, Sikhona Chairman Dr. Michael Thompson, VUL President Dr. Kathy Franklin, and senior leaders from both organizations came together to celebrate this groundbreaking collaboration. To kick off the partnership, Sikhona has donated 10,000 shares of stock to VUL, marking the university's entry into the company's HBCU Matching Shares Program.

This initiative will position VUL to potentially realize significant long-term financial benefits, helping to strengthen the university's foundation and ensuring support for generations of students into the future.

Sikhona Chairman Dr. Michael Thompson remarked: "This unprecedented gift of 10,000 shares of donated stock to VUL reflects Sikhona's enduring commitment to support HBCUs and to invest in the students and educators who drive innovation and service. We are thrilled to have VUL as the first university to officially become a partner in our HBCU Matching Shares Program."

VUL President Dr. Kathy Franklin shared her gratitude: "On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of VUL, I want to sincerely thank Sikhona Chairman Dr. Michael Thompson for his company's historic gift of 10,000 shares of stock to VUL. This generous donation will allow VUL to continue to grow and achieve our mission of providing educational opportunities for students from throughout the country, 70% of whom are first-generation college students."

About Sikhona Inc.

Founded by veteran technology executive Dr. Michael Thompson, Sikhona Inc. operates in both the U.S. and in Africa, developing software, building



DR. MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN, SIKHONA, INC., AND DR. KATHY FRANKLIN, PRESIDENT, VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

internet infrastructure, and creating digital content. The company's Matching Shares Program donates stock to HBCUs, churches, and nonprofit organizations. Sikhona also operates multiple social media platforms, including Sikhona Social, HeyYo, DoYou, and Tribe, with nearly 500,000 subscribers worldwide. Sikhona plans an IPO in early 2026, with a projected valuation of \$2.9 billion.

GAME CHANGERS IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD

VUL Doctor of Ministry Colloquium 2025 Inspires Vision, Courage, and Change. The Leonard N. Smith School of Religion at Virginia University of Lynchburg hosted its 2025 Doctor of Ministry Colloquium virtually via Zoom from Monday, October 6 through Friday, October 10, 2025, drawing together over 50 learners, candidates, and guests from around the country for a week of transformative dialogue, scholarship, and spiritual renewal.

Guided by the theme, “Game Changing in an Ever-Changing World” (Ecclesiastes 9:11), this year’s colloquium challenged ministry leaders to rethink what it means to serve faithfully and effectively in times of cultural, technological, and theological transition. Participants explored the risks of clinging to outdated ministry models and examined how the Black Church can honor its heritage while innovating for the digital, global, and multicultural realities of 2025 and beyond.

Nationally recognized scholars and practitioners led these powerful sessions, including Dr. Allison Henderson Brooks (Emory University), Dr. Liston Page, Jr. (Paterson, NJ), Dr. Kia Hood-Scott (Charlotte, NC), Rev. Jimmie Hawkins (Washington Office of Public Witness), Dr. Michael Walrond (Harlem, NY), Dr. Dwight Riddick (Newport News, VA), and Dr. Maurice Ferrell (Danville, VA).

They were joined by Dr. C.W. Dunning, Dean James E. Coleman, Jr., Director Philip Campbell, Dr. Martha Kearse, Vice President M.D. Mays, Associate Dean Carlton Jackson, Dr. James Dixon, Dr. Carlos Williams, Dr. Walter Solomon, and Dr. Barbara Brehon, who each brought depth, clarity, and prophetic insight to the week’s discussions.

The colloquium’s success was supported by Ayesha Kumar, Kahlial Smith, Chris Carter, Angelique Carter, and Dr. Jason Gilbert, whose technical expertise ensured a seamless virtual experience.



One participant described the week as “outstanding, inspiring, and spiritually enriching—filled with engaging presenters whose wisdom made every session meaningful and educational.”

From Dr. Dunning’s historical and theological framing of VUL’s legacy to Dr. Campbell’s reminder that ‘we are living in a change of age, not merely an age of change,’ the sessions offered deep reflection and practical application. Dean Coleman’s powerful teaching on change as “God’s invitation to move us from safety to significance” resonated deeply, as did his emphasis that authentic theology must emerge from lived experience.

Dr. Martha D. Kearse’s session strengthened academic writing and research skills, while Dr. Brooks’ presentation, “Common Ground for the Community’s Good,” challenged participants to respond to the world’s crises with faith and innovation. Dr. Page reminded ministers that preaching should transform, not just excite, and Rev. Hawkins urged the creation of innovation labs within the church to bridge legacy and technology. Dr. Walrond and Dr. Riddick concluded the week with bold insights on leadership, burnout prevention, and digital discipleship.

As one participant summarized, “The Colloquium reignited my spirit and reminded me that true ministry is about service, not performance or recognition. It deepened my understanding of authentic leadership and renewed my commitment to lead with humility, purpose, and integrity—keeping Christ at the center of all that I do.”

This year’s Colloquium stands as a testament to President Kathy Franklin’s visionary leadership and the enduring mission of Virginia University of Lynchburg to prepare game-changing leaders for a changing world.

HOMECOMING

Dragons Bring the Heat in Unforgettable Victory

2025

What a night for our team, our town, and our loyal supporters! The Dragons lit up the field with a performance that will be talked about all season long. Both our offense and defense came ready to make a statement—and they delivered in a big way. From the opening whistle, the ground game was unstoppable. Tim Newman Jr. bulldozed his way through the defense for 84 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries. Not to be outdone, Jacob Newman powered forward for 127 yards and 2 touchdowns, also on 12 carries. Our offensive line—Xander Smith, Jamel Thomas, Intidy Johnson, Christopher Mabry, Jayden Hopkins, and Madjouu Ba—was a true fortress, opening up the field for every big run.

But the Dragons weren't just dominant on the ground. Quarterback Max Zavala was on fire, completing 13 of 17 passes for 267 yards and 4 touchdowns. Montrel Wright had the crowd roaring with two spectacular scores, including a jaw-dropping one-handed catch that will go down as one of the plays of the year. Dustin Placide added a crisp 5-yard TD, and Terrell Asley sealed the aerial attack with a strong 14-yard touchdown grab.

The Dragons' defense was equally impressive, holding the opposing team to a single score all night. Christian Wilson came up huge with a timely interception.



The Honorary VUL Snap Dragons

From left to right: Alicia, Brittney, Jasmine, Chantel, Jordan, Amber and Tria

Malik Morrow and Gary Zanders also added picks, keeping momentum firmly in our favor. Meanwhile, Semire Bolden was a force all over the field, making his presence felt on every snap.

And it wasn't just the players keeping fans on their feet—"Boots On The Ground" energized the stadium with a high-octane performance at halftime. Virginia Union's "Ambassadors of Sound" followed with a show-stopping display of talent that had everyone cheering. Go Dragons!





GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



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Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters of Virginia University of Lynchburg,

As we look ahead with pride and anticipation, I am honored to extend a personal invitation to you for one of the most cherished traditions in our university's calendar Hayes-Allen Day, taking place on Wednesday, December 3, 2025.

This annual celebration is more than just an event; it is a powerful reminder of our shared legacy, the strength of our community, and the enduring values that have guided us from our founding.

Hayes-Allen Day honors the remarkable contributions of two visionary leaders whose commitment to excellence, education, and equity continues to inspire our mission today.

Your presence and support are vital to the success of this celebration. Whether you are an alumnus who walked these halls decades ago or a new supporter drawn to our vision, your engagement makes a meaningful difference. By attending and contributing to Hayes-Allen Day, you help ensure that our current and future students have the resources, mentorship, and inspiration they need to thrive.

Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Together, let us continue to uphold the proud legacy of Virginia University of Lynchburg and celebrate the spirit that unites us all.

With gratitude and hope,
LeRoy Owens, LHD
Chairman of the Board



25^{for}25 Campaign

Join the 25 for 25 campaign and become a member of the Virginia University of Lynchburg National Alumni Association. We need 1000 dedicated partners committed to building a bridge for future generations by committing to a \$25 monthly tax-deductible gift to the University. Your gift will directly support programs of the college. Our goal is to raise \$300,000.

Dr. Bess Dunner, Class of 2021
Virginia University of Lynchburg

Virginia University of Lynchburg

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