

# VFIC Update

VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 2



*“The named scholarship I received through the VFIC made it possible for me to afford my college education. I couldn’t have done it without the VFIC’s support.”*

*- Laura J.*

The Mission of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges is to advance the distinctive values and strengths of its 15 smaller, undergraduate residential Virginia member colleges. We do this by securing financial support from the private sector, increasing visibility, facilitating innovative and collaborative initiatives between the colleges, and supporting initiatives which ensure that this personalized educational experience remains an affordable choice for tomorrow’s citizen-leaders.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION -- VFIC’S “BRIGHTER FUTURES” AND REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Changing lives and providing deserving students with the opportunity for a quality higher education. This is the real impact of scholarship support – and it’s the reason the VFIC has made it a top priority to seek gifts for student scholarships.

In our recent campaign year, donors to the VFIC provided over \$1.1 million in scholarship assistance – funds which the VFIC forwarded to its fifteen Member Colleges to benefit **687 deserving students**.

VFIC provides several ways for donors to support student scholarships:

- **Brighter Futures Scholarship** – \$15,000 or more will provide a scholarship (named for the donor) for a deserving student on each of the 15 member campuses. (See sidebar on Page 3 for the list of current Brighter Future Scholarship donors.)
- **Affiliate Scholarships** – a gift of \$5,000 or more will provide a named scholarship on 5 or more Member College campuses;
- **Virginia Scholars Fund** – all donations are pooled and distributed to Member Colleges as financial aid for need-based students from Virginia;

- **Regional Scholarship Program** – allows donors to designate their scholarship gifts to students from a particular region - Greater Richmond, Hampton Roads, Greater Lynchburg, Northern Virginia or Roanoke/Southwest Virginia.

According to VFIC Board Chair C. T. Hill of SunTrust Bank, “providing scholarships to students gets right to the heart of our mission -- which is to strengthen our member colleges and to ensure that a personalized educational experience remains an affordable option for tomorrow’s leaders. We encourage one and all to join us in providing scholarship support this year.”

Investments in scholarships, Hill notes, are “designed to pay the highest of dividends by giving students the opportunity to fulfill their potential. These are the teachers, scientists, lawyers, business professionals and civic leaders of tomorrow. Society relies on our colleges to educate these young men and women and scholarships help make it possible.”

For additional information about the VFIC’s Scholarship Programs, contact Mary-Beth Johnson, VFIC Vice-President: (804) 288-6609 or [johnson@vfic.org](mailto:johnson@vfic.org).



*VFIC Colleges' Student Affairs Staff and Making Connections Workshop keynote speaker, Ernest Jeffries, Assistant Dean of Students, Davidson College (far right, front row).*

## GRANTS, WORKSHOP ENHANCE MINORITY STUDENT SUCCESS

As part of its strategic initiative to assist member colleges in enhancing the success of minority and first generation students, the VFIC recently hosted a "Making Connections" Workshop for VFIC student affairs professionals from all 15 Member Colleges.

A highlight of the workshop was a "best practices" session, in which the student affairs officers had the opportunity to share ideas on their respective minority student orientation/mentorship programs, and how they were able to advance these programs through VFIC grants they received last summer. These grants, funded through the VFIC by Philip Morris USA and the Foundation for Independent Higher Education, allowed each college the

opportunity to address new strategic program needs.

"We wanted to give each of the colleges seed money to advance their orientation and mentorship programs to allow them to take the next step beyond where their current budgets would allow," noted Ned Moore, VFIC President. "Our Member Colleges understand the importance of offering first-generation students the support, encouragement and mentoring they need to adjust to campus life -- and to succeed in their college careers. We are pleased to play a role in enhancing their programs, and are grateful to UPS/FIHE and to Philip Morris USA for supporting the colleges' efforts in this important area of student life."

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER COLLEGES

As part of a statewide initiative to facilitate transfers for bachelor's degree-seeking students, **Bridgewater College** has signed Guaranteed Admission Agreements with two community colleges - Germanna and Dabney S. Lancaster - to allow students who meet certain requirements to transfer directly.

During the summer, twelve students from **Emory & Henry College** engaged in an intensive cross-cultural research trip to Eastern Europe. The students, who conducted research in Prague and Budapest, were completing E&H course requirements in cross-cultural psychology.

Saranna Thornton, Professor of Economics at **Hampden-Sydney College**, has been named a Fulbright Scholar for 2006-07. She will teach in China, at Beijing Institute of Technology.

**Lynchburg College** is implementing plans to have an observatory built at its new 470-acre Claytor Nature Study Center in rural Bedford County, where the absence of light pollution will offer students excellent star gazing capabilities.

Two **Mary Baldwin College** faculty members have been tapped for Fulbright fellowships: Dr. Vladimir Garkov for work in Spain and Bulgaria on the teaching of chemistry, and Dr. Daniel Metraux for work in China to expand the College's Asian Studies curriculum.

Dr. Karen Waters, professor of English at **Marymount University**, has been awarded a

Fulbright Fellowship to lecture and do research at Jamia National University in India.

NCAA Division III tapped **Randolph-Macon College** senior Megan Silva as its "National Athlete of the Year" -- the top athlete in the country from ALL intercollegiate sports, both men's and women's. Also, the U. S. Supreme Court selected political science professor Lauren Bell as a 2006-07 Supreme Court Fellow.

### R-MWC goes Coed, Name Change Pending

In September, the Board of Trustees of **Randolph-Macon Woman's College** approved a strategic plan to make the college coeducational with a global honors emphasis. The College is expected to change its name, as well. For more information, visit [www.rmwc.edu](http://www.rmwc.edu).

**Roanoke College** was awarded a shared grant of \$300,000 from The Teagle Foundation for a project aimed at assessing selected programs of intense student-faculty interaction for their contributions to the liberal education goal of developing intentional learners. Roanoke is working with Drew, Muhlenberg, Moravian, and Susquehanna universities on this project.

Two **University of Richmond** seniors have been selected to receive Goldwater Scholarships. Michael Pohl and Sarah Remmert were selected from a national pool for the award designed to encourage top undergraduates to pursue careers in mathematics and natural sciences.

For the 2006 season, the men's basketball team from **Virginia Wesleyan College** won the NCAA Division III national basketball championship. VWC is the first Division III college in Virginia to win the national basketball title.

Four **Washington and Lee University** students won Fulbright Fellowships for the current academic year - Meredith Hibbard will teach English at a German high school; Margaret Strother will study theater in Spain; Margaret Garner will study art in France; and Gwendoline Greiner will study the French Enlightenment.

Six VFIC college students were selected from a national pool to attend the inaugural 2006 Collegiate Women of Color Institute held in August in Baltimore, Maryland: Tina Brown and Tiffany Jackson (**Mary Baldwin College**); Lauren Harrison (**Roanoke College**); Clory Jackson (**Shenandoah**); Michelle Jones (**Virginia Wesleyan College**) and Ashley Vickers (**University of Richmond**). This Institute is a project of the VFIC's national association office, the Foundation for Independent Higher Education (FIHE), and is funded by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation.



*Research in the sciences was the focus for 15 VFIC college students this past summer. The students participate in Undergraduate Research projects funded by corporate sponsors through the VFIC. Sponsorships support students and their faculty mentors in 10-week intensive summer research in the sciences help students learn laboratory and research skills which prepare them for graduate school and science-related careers. To learn more about this program, contact Mary-Beth Johnson, Vice President, at johnson@vfic.org.*

## MEDICAL ETHICS WILL BE TOPIC FOR 2007 ETHICS BOWL

A challenging and timely topic – Ethics & Medicine – will be the topic for the 2007 VFIC Ethics Bowl, set for February 11-12 at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland.

This will be the eighth annual competition for the Bowl, which features student teams from the VFIC's 15 private colleges and universities debating case studies of medical ethical dilemmas. Wachovia Bank will return as signature sponsor for the statewide collegiate debate.

Providing leadership for the planning committee and event are: **Roger Mudd**, former journalist for CBS and The History Channel; **Ken Garren**, President of Lynchburg College; and, **Margaret Warner**, senior correspondent for *PBS – NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*.

At the event, teams of students from each of the member colleges will be paired in head-to-head debates, with the two highest scoring teams competing in the final round. Judges for the competition are drawn from Virginia's business, academic and professional leadership.

For more information on this program, contact Jenni Booker, Director of Programs and Communications at (804) 288-6609 or jenni.booker@vfic.org

## BRIGHTER FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Alcoa Foundation  
Anonymus Foundation  
Appalachian Power  
Bank of America  
BB&T  
Beazley Foundation  
Dollar Tree Stores  
Genworth Financial  
Guest Services  
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Markel Corporation  
Mars Foundation  
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Norfolk Southern  
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### AFFILIATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Abbott Laboratories  
The Brink's Company  
Burlington Industries  
\*Garland & Agnes T. Gray Fnd.  
New Horizons  
Anne & Til Hazel  
Performance Food Group  
\*Resource Bank  
Union Bankshares

### ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Mrs. N. Chisholm Barnhart  
A. Lea Booth  
Walter Craigie  
Thomas J. Lennon  
T. Justin Moore  
The Nunnally Family  
John D. Munford  
E. Claiborne Robins  
VFIC 50th Anniversary

### REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Greater Richmond  
Hampton Roads  
Greater Lynchburg  
Northern Virginia  
Roanoke/Southwest Virginia  
Virginia Scholars Fund

*\*new for 2007*

## 2006 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **C. T. Hill**, Chairman, President and CEO of SunTrust Bank, Mid-Atlantic was elected as Chairman of the VFIC Board. Mr. Hill, who will serve a two-year term as Chair, had been chair of the VFIC's Finance and Audit Committee;
- The Board honored the outstanding leadership of the outgoing Board Chair, **James C. Cherry**, Chair of Wachovia Bank, Mid-Atlantic;
- The success of the recently-completed Annual Campaign was celebrated, with over \$3.1 million raised to support the important



education work of the 15 Member Colleges. The goal for the current year was set – higher, of course – at \$3.3 million;

- The **BB&T Charitable Foundation** was honored as the newest "Million Dollar Donor" – joining the honor roll of those who have given more than \$1 million to the VFIC in cumulative support;
- Six new business trustees were elected (see photos below);
- Keynote speakers included **Dr. Richard Ekman**, President of the Council of Independent Colleges, and The Honorable **Dr. Thomas R. Morris**, the Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## NEW BUSINESS TRUSTEES ELECTED



**THOMAS F. FARRELL II**  
President & CEO  
Dominion



**GERALD T. GABRYS**  
President & CEO  
Guest Services, Inc.



**THURSTON R. MOORE**  
Chairman  
Hunton & Williams



**FRANK W. ROACH**  
CEO  
Wolseley North  
America



**RICHARD B. ROBEY**  
President,  
SE Higher Ed.  
Sallie Mae, Inc.



**MARTIN L.  
VAUGHAN III**  
Chairman & CEO  
Hill, Rogal &  
Hobbs, Inc.

## Online Donation



To donate online,  
visit our web site:  
[www.vfic.org](http://www.vfic.org)  
and click on  
the image you see above.

### VFIC STAFF:

**EDWARD G. "NED" MOORE**  
President

**MARY-BETH JOHNSON**  
Vice President

**JENNI BOOKER**  
Director of Programs  
and Communicatons

**MARILYN HEADLEY**  
Data and Web Manager

**LAURA ENGLISH**  
Office Manager

# SUPPORT THE VFIC ANNUAL FUND

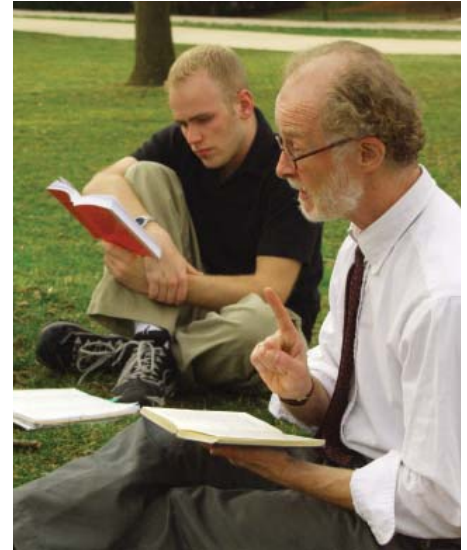
For more than 50 years, the VFIC has built partnerships that strengthen private higher education. You can help ensure that the VFIC is there for the next generation, providing a quality liberal arts education and enhancing the collective spirit and impact of our 15 member institutions, by supporting the 2006-2007 VFIC Annual Fund.

The VFIC has set an Annual Fund goal of \$3.3 Million for fiscal year 2006-2007, which runs through May 31.

Your annual gift helps provide assistance to VFIC institutions in meeting high priority objectives on their campuses including:

- New or enhanced academic programs;
- Scholarships for deserving students;
- Development opportunities for faculty;
- Upgraded classroom technologies and expansion of library resources; and
- Campus facility preservation and enhancement.

As you receive our annual request this year, we hope you will consider making a generous investment in the mission of our VFIC institutions and the lives of our students and faculty.



*"I know that our Annual Fund support is extremely vital to the academic missions at each of the VFIC's 15 campuses," said Ted Chandler, President and CEO of LandAmerica Financial Group, Inc., and Chair of the VFIC Annual Fund. "It gives me great satisfaction to know that LandAmerica's gift is having a positive impact on so many students' lives."*



VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR  
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*Securing Brighter Futures  
Since 1952*

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[www.vfic.org](http://www.vfic.org)