

WELCOME TO 1872 FORWARD:



CELEBRATING VIRGINIA TECH

150
years

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo / Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in western territories. We understand that honoring Native Peoples without explicit material commitments falls short of our institutional responsibilities. Through sustained, transparent, and meaningful engagement with the Tutelo / Monacan Peoples, and other Native Nations, we commit to changing the trajectory of Virginia Tech's history by increasing Indigenous student, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention, diversifying course offerings, and meeting the growing needs of all Virginia tribes and supporting their sovereignty.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. We acknowledge that enslaved Black people generated wealth that financed the predecessor institution to Virginia Tech, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on construction of its building. Not until 1953, however, was the first Black student permitted to enroll. Through InclusiveVT, the institutional and individual commitment to Ut Prosim (that I may serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence, we commit to advancing a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.



WELCOME TO 1872 FORWARD: CELEBRATING VIRGINIA TECH

Four years ago, President Tim Sands charged the Council on Virginia Tech History to conceive, develop, and implement an approach for the university to identify and tell our history. Based on the reliable idea that we are the stories we tell ourselves, the Council of some 25 members took this charge as a most timely opportunity for the whole university community to deepen its understanding of where we are today, how we arrived here, and how we might best grow into our future. We crafted a plan to gather stories directly from people as well as from historical sources, with the intention of lifting up stories about experiences that may have not been widely known, may have been hidden, denied, or misunderstood, as well as the more commonly heard tales of the institution's growth since 1872.

We set out to develop six projects, some focused on gathering stories and conducting research, others on ways for sharing the stories and histories in a wide range of ways. Literally hundreds of people have been working on these projects, from books to videos, from multimedia dance to projection mapping and Augmented Reality, from historical markers to public art installations. During this Sesquicentennial year, these projects are coming to fruition.

Yet the Council thinks of these projects as a beginning, not a culmination. They are offered in the spirit of free and open dialogue about ourselves, as an institution and as a community, with a proud history of accomplishments over the last 150 years and a continually growing knowledge of what it means to be a land-grant university, an institution intentionally designed to offer educational and research assets for the betterment of all the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and indeed far beyond Virginia.

We encourage you to join in this conversation. Our projects invite an expanded and deepening conversation. We have an exceptional future ahead of us. We will make it together as we are able to listen, hear, and learn from one another, keeping our eye on the future we want to become. Over the past four years, we have come to recognize how one story leads to another. Please share yours. Speak up, talk with friends, ask questions, offer your own experience. Together, we are Virginia Tech.

Ut Prosim



Menah Pratt-Clarke
Vice President for Strategic Affairs
and Diversity

Menah Pratt-Clarke is the Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity at Virginia Tech. She is also Professor of Education in the School of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, with affiliations in Africana Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and the Department of Sociology. She has a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Iowa, and a master's degree, PhD, and law degree from Vanderbilt University. She was selected as the 2021 Inclusive Excellence Individual Leadership Award recipient by the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. Author of four books, her most recent book, *A Black Woman's Journey from Cotton Picking to College Professor: Lessons about race, gender, and class in America* was awarded the American Education Studies Association Critics' Choice Award for scholarship deemed to be outstanding in its field in 2018.



Bob Leonard
Professor, School of Performing Arts

Bob Leonard, Chair of the Council on Virginia Tech, is a theatre maker, writer, teacher and arts organizer in the School of Performing Arts where he is the primary advisor for the MFA program in Directing and Public Dialogue. With Ann Kilkelly he authored *Performing Communities, An Inquiry into Ensemble Theater Deeply Rooted in Eight U.S. Communities*. Along with the more than two dozen plays he has directed at Tech, Leonard's community engagements include: the Christiansburg Institute, an African American school with a 156 year history; the Dialogue On Race White Privilege/Jim Crow Issue Group; the Building Home project with the New River Valley Regional Commission; and CultureWorks, an arts-based community cultural organizing effort in west Baltimore, MD.

1872 FORWARD: **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

THURSDAY, MARCH **24**



12:00PM | Owens Ballroom

Book Launch: In the True Blue's Wake: Slavery and Freedom Among the Families of Smithfield Plantation - Professor Dan Thorp

Between 1774 and 1865, more than 200 men, women, and children were enslaved at Smithfield, the Preston family plantation in southwestern Virginia. Dr. Dan Thorp speaks about his book which tells the stories of those enslaved individuals: who they were, how they lived under slavery, and what they and their descendants did after slavery ended.

Conversation moderated by: Laura Belmonte - Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.



4:00PM | Owens Ballroom

Honoring the Native American Land: Marker Unveiling

Virginia Tech will join with the Town of Blacksburg and members of Native American communities to recognize the land-grant history of the university. New historical markers will be unveiled to share the history of the founding of the university. Virginia Tech President Tim Sands, Monacan Chief Kenneth Branham, and Blacksburg Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith will honor the contested land, the peoples who have lived here, and the peoples who live here now.

Conversation moderated by: Emily Satterwhite, Associate Professor in Religion and Culture, and Director of Appalachian Studies program. Liza Morris, Assistant Vice President for Planning and University Architect, will join Dr. Satterwhite to recount the Historic Markers project.

1872 FORWARD: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

12:00PM | Owens Ballroom

BOOK LAUNCH: Virginia Tech, Land-Grant University, 1872-1997: History of a School, a State, a Nation, 2nd Edition - Professor Peter Wallenstein

This second edition of a book that originally appeared in 1997 has been upgraded throughout, with substantial new text and various new images. A chapter-length new preface highlights some central themes and a variety of the changes since the first edition.

Peter Potter, Director of Publishing Services in the University Libraries, will join with Professor Peter Wallenstein in presenting the book.

Conversation moderated by: Sylvester Johnson – Professor in CLAHS and Director of the Virginia Tech Center for Humanities

3:00PM | Owens Ballroom

Official Dedication of Hoge Hall and Whitehurst Hall

Virginia Tech President Tim Sands will formally dedicate Hoge Hall and Whitehurst Hall* that were renamed in 2020 in recognition of prominent members of the African American community during the 1950–60s. In addition, he will honor members of the local and campus communities who have played such important roles in the university's progress from its origins to the present day.

*Janie and William Hoge welcomed the eight pioneering Black male students at VPI into their home. James Leslie Whitehurst, Jr. became the first Black student allowed to live and eat on campus and the first African American on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Conversation moderated by Michael Herndon, Director of University Summer and Winter Sessions, with Peter Wallenstein, Professor of History and author of Virginia Tech, Land-Grant University, 1872-1997: History of a School, a State, a Nation.

8:00PM | Moss Art Center

1872 Forward: A Cultural Arts Celebration

Virginia Tech, the Council on Virginia Tech History, Moss Arts Center, and the More Than a Fraction Foundation celebrate the diversity of the university's history through poetry, storytelling, song, and dance. We will highlight and celebrate the cultures and traditions of Native Americans, African Americans, and European Americans.

The evening will include Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke with an original Virginia Tech Sesquicentennial poetry reading. Bintou Kouyate will be providing an introduction to the people who were enslaved here and to the historical culture of the Oyo, Igbo, and modern day Nigeria. Victoria Ferguson and Rufus Elliott will provide a look into Monacan art and culture.

Musical performance by the Virginia State Gospel Chorale as well as dance from Virginia Tech's Wahalla and Cultural Dance Crew.

Evening hosted by Crasha Townsend (Assistant Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, and Director of SOAR) and Victoria Ferguson (Docent and Program Manager for Solitude-Fraction).

1872 FORWARD: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

9:00AM | *Smithfield*

Tour of Historic Smithfield

Smithfield* is part of the story of American history, sitting at the intersection of colonial America, westward expansion, African slavery, and conflicts between Indigenous peoples and European settlers. The tour of the historic building and land provides an opportunity to gain perspective from the past, insight into the present, and inspiration for the future.

* The Smithfield-Preston Foundation acknowledges and laments the role slavery played in William Preston's Smithfield and the ongoing racial injustice that stemmed from that institution across the United States. Enslaved African Americans and their achievements in the face of slavery's oppression belong at the center of the Smithfield story. We pledge to redouble our efforts to tell these stories as we strive to foster a more honest reckoning with our racial history. The Foundation, along with all those associated with Smithfield, decries all forms of racism and intolerance, and fully supports the rights of all humans regardless of race, skin color, creed, gender, orientation, or ability.

11:00AM | *Merry Tree - Smithfield*

Sacred Ceremony at the Merry Tree

The Merry Tree, a well-known landmark in Blacksburg, has a long history. Many moments, celebrations, and ceremonies have been held under the branches of this oak as the Indigenous people hunted and gathered here before the Europeans displaced them in order to settle, eventually the enslaved people of Smithfield would gather to celebrate, mourn, hold religious services, and more. The Merry Tree was an especially significant part of the culture and tradition during that time for the enslaved Africans. Though the tree was recently destroyed in a storm, a sacred ceremony will honor its role in the life of the community.

2:00PM | *Hahn Hall North Room 130*

Contested Spaces: A Tri-Racial Conversation

An afternoon of programming centered around the complex history of the space that Virginia Tech occupies. From the Native Americans who first called this place home, discover more about the history and traditions of the Monacan Nation. Through the descendants of the Preston family, who once lived at Smithfield and Solitude, hear about the European history of the area. Fraction family members will explore their ancestral story including arrival, enslavement, and exile. Residents from nearby Wake Forest will present a brief history of how their ancestors established a freed African American community following the Civil War.

4:00PM | *Historic Solitude*

1872 Forward: Celebrating Virginia Tech Reception

Join us at Solitude for a culminating reception in celebration of the weekend. The revitalized Solitude House and Fraction Family House provide a tri-racial space that recognizes the African American, Native American, and European American communities and their significance in the history of the Appalachian region, giving everyone a place to gather.

COUNCIL OVERVIEW

C.L. Bohannon | Associate Professor
Landscape Architecture

Denny Cochran | Sustainability Program
Manager
Office of Sustainability

Sam Cook | Associate Professor
History

Clara Cox | Director of Publications, Retired

Vicky Ferguson | Director of Solitude
Inclusion and Diversity

Jenni Gallagher | Graduate Assistant
History

Michael Herndon | Director
Summer & Winter Sessions

Laura Jensen | Associate Professor & Chair
Public & International Affairs

Chris Kiwus | Chief Facilities Officer
Division of Operations

Shaheen Lakhan | Chief, Section of Pain
Management
Carilion Clinic

Mark Lawrence
Carilion Clinic

Bob Leonard | Professor
School of Performing Arts

India Lloyd | President
VT Chapter NAACP / Major: Industrial &
Systems Engineering

Anza Mitchell | PhD Candidate
Engineering Education

Mark Owczarski
University Relations

Barbara Pendergrass Richmond
Dean of Students Emerita

Peter Potter | Director, Publishing Strategy
Library

Katrina Powell | Professor
English

Menah Pratt-Clarke | Vice President for
Strategic Affairs Inclusion and Diversity

Aaron Purcell | Director, Special Collections
Library

Paul Quigley | Assoc. Professor of Civil War
Studies
History

James Robertson | Alumni Distinguished
Professor Emeritus
History

Jack Rosenberger | Campus Landscape
Architect
University Planning/Facilities

Emily Satterwhite | Associate Professor
Appalachian Studies & Popular Culture

Peter Wallenstein | Professor
History

Lesley Yorke | Senior Director of Commu-
nications
University Relations

The Council on Virginia Tech History, charged to tell the university's history, set out in 2018 to explore, discover, and create meaningful experiences to celebrate the university during the Sesquicentennial and beyond. We knew we needed to lift up carefully researched and authenticated stories of students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni/ae, and friends who have been a part of Virginia Tech since 1872. We want these gathered stories to become living documents for others to add to, build on, and trust as guides for creating our future.

We imagined books, videos, digital projections, virtual reality imagery, story corners, public art, self-guided walking tours, historical markers, and performances all designed to stimulate conversation and support broad engagement in building Virginia Tech's community. With dedicated leadership and teamwork, six projects have produced much of what we initially imagined and then some.

While these projects are described in more detail later in this program, the project teams must be recognized as remarkable. All six projects, each led by a member of the Council, have involved faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, friends, and neighbors in their creative processes. Working collectively, they have shared resources and research findings between projects in an open collaborative environment, so that stories gathered by the VT Stories project under the leadership of Katy Powell (English faculty) and Ren Harman (Project Manager, Virginia Tech Library) are told in the books by Peter Wallenstein (History), as well as in the installations of the Visualizing Virginia Tech History project as led by Paul Quigley (History), Thomas Tucker (School of Visual Arts), Todd Ogle (Library), and David Hicks (School of Education).

The stories Wallenstein researched are available for Floyd County artists Carrie Gault and Charlie Brouwer to include in the art works the Council has commissioned them to create for installation later this year on the lawns surrounding the Solitude House and the Fraction Family House. These art installations came out of the Public Art project that C.L. Bohannon (Architecture and Design) led in conjunction with Ruth Waalkes (Director, Moss Arts Center and Assistant Provost for the Arts).

The seven historical markers created under Campus Landscape Architect Jack Rosenberger's leadership with a large team of designers, writers, and tellers of stories will feature access to augmented reality presentations for self-guided walking tours developed by the Visualizing Virginia Tech History team.

The River Wakes project, slated for a premier screening April 22 and 23, and led by Scotty Hardwig (School of Performing Arts) and Zachery Duer (School of Visual Arts), is a series of choreographic, sonic, and visual art "creative essays" on the histories of the New River Valley that emerged from the research of an ASPECT seminar, called "The Politics of Performance," co-led by Audrey Reeves (Political Science), Scotty Hardwig and Carmen Gitre (History). The spirit of collaboration and co-creative processes permeate the Council's work.

In addition to implementing these projects, the Council found itself assigned to several other matters of campus life relevant to the university's history. We were asked to consider whether and how best to rename two residence halls whose names had come under intense protest. The serious research the Council had already gathered guided our deliberations. Reaching a conclusion to recommend renaming, and holding a significant list of appropriate possibilities, the Council was able to recommend specific names that honor the contributions of African Americans in the growth and improvement of the university. These recommendations, subsequently approved by the university's Committee on Commemorative Tributes and the Board of Visitors, led to the new names Hoge Hall and Whitehurst Hall.

COUNCIL OVERVIEW

The Council undertook a visioning process with Appalachian Studies leadership and other stakeholders in the Solitude facilities to consider how these unique historic assets might best be supported by and engaged with the life of the university. These deliberations yielded an extensive recommendation to the University Provost for actions based on the recognized potential for Solitude to welcome and serve the university community and the broad public as a particularly relevant space for peoples to come together and learn from the long human experience of living on contested land.

Perhaps the most notable partnership the Council has undertaken is with the More Than A Fraction Foundation. Founded and led by Dr. Kerri Moseley-Hobbs, herself a descendent of the Fraction family whose African ancestors were enslaved at the Smithfield plantation, the Foundation is dedicated “to expand research and education on the history, life, culture, and experiences of Africans in America, African Americans, and the Indigenous Peoples in the 18th and 19th century (before the Civil War and a decade after).” Dr. Moseley-Hobbs and the Foundation have brought exceptional vision, perspectives, research, and event design to the programming for 1872 Forward. Prominent among these contributions are Friday evening’s “1872 Forward: A Cultural Arts Celebration” in the Moss Arts Center, and Saturday afternoon’s public gathering “Contested Spaces: a Tri-Racial Conversation” in Hahn Hall North, Room 130. This partnership itself stands as an innovative reimagining of how the university and community can work together, based on mutual interests and cooperation.

While the Council engaged Dr. Moseley-Hobbs as a consultant, the Foundation attracted its own funding from Virginia Humanities and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation for combining its community work with that of the Council. These mutual commitments established a rare level of parity in the partnership between the relatively colossal Virginia Tech and the humble size of the family’s foundation. Together we have been able to gather truly powerful resources and produce many good works.

We encourage one and all to participate in the events of 1872 Forward and to enter the conversations they stimulate with a spirit of personal engagement and collective commitment to a future we all want for Virginia Tech.

Ad Hoc Programming Advisors
(aka Now’s the Time)

Onwubiko Agozino,
Sociology

Sam Cook,
History

Michele Deramo,
Inclusion and Diversity

Sylvester Johnson,
Center for the Humanities

Margaret Lawrence,
Moss Arts Center

Shaila Mehra,
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Anza Mitchell,
Science Education

Kerri Moseley-Hobbs,
More Than A Fraction Foundation

Paul Quigley,
History

Emily Satterwhite,
Religion and Culture, Appalachian Studies

Brett Shadle,
History

Solitude Workgroup

CL Bohannon,
Architecture

LaTawnya Burleson,
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Alexis Jackson,
Undergraduate, Biology

Anza Mitchell,
Science Education

Kerri Moseley-Hobbs,
More Than A Fraction Foundation

Juan Pacheco,
Undergraduate, Psychology

Anita Puckett,
Appalachian Studies

Humberto Rodriguez-Camilloni,
Wiss Center for Theory and History of Art and Architecture

Emily Satterwhite,
Religion and Culture, Appalachian Studies

Jessica Taylor,
History

Jon Clark Teglas,
Facilities

Dan Thorp,
History

Peter Wallenstein,
History

COUNCIL PROJECTS

INTRO

The Council on Virginia Tech History has been preparing for the university's sesquicentennial for several years now. Guided by an approach for broad-based programming The Council formed six committees to develop and produce projects that reflect the multiple perspectives of the university's shared history.

Council leadership (Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, Professors Peter Wallenstein and Bob Leonard, with Graduate Assistants Jenni Gallagher and Anza Mitchell, and Strategic Affairs Communications Managers Megan Marsh and April Goode) maintains executive oversight and business management of the Council.

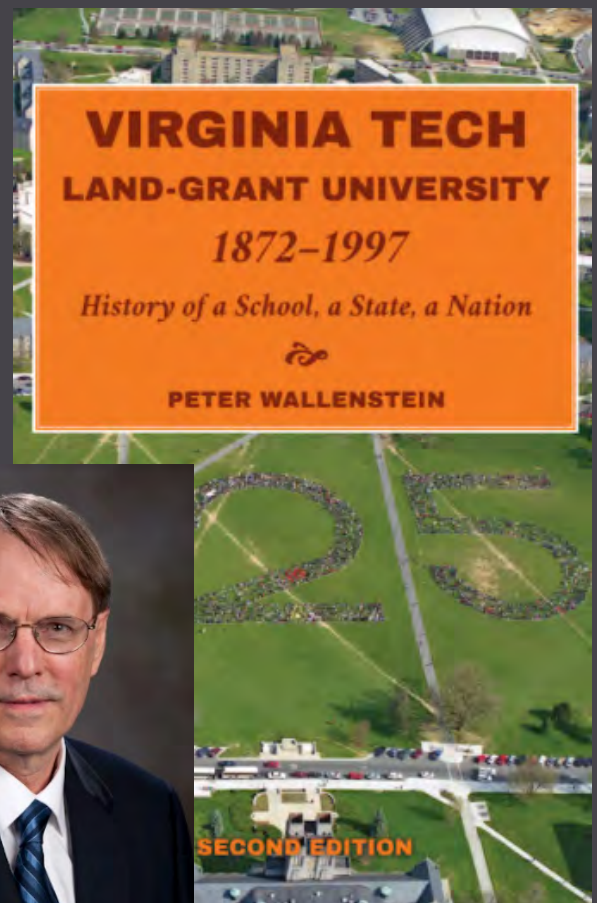
In their creative processes, the project teams continually refined their respective visioning, detailed planning and budgeting in order to allow careful research to inform their products and meet audience-ready target dates in 2022. Project leadership met regularly to share learning and resources, and to keep an eye on the overall intentions of the Council.

FROM ORANGE TO MAROON

In 1997 for Virginia Tech's 125th anniversary, Peter Wallenstein, Professor of History researched and wrote *Virginia Tech, Land-Grant University, 1872-1997*, which he refers to as "Orange." For the 150th, he is preparing a new book he calls "Maroon," an update on the intervening 25 years as well as an upgraded reconsideration of the full history of the institution and its people and programs.

For the 1872 weekend, he is introducing "Orange 2.0," a revised and upgraded second edition of the 1997 book. The Council continues to look to the material brought forward by Wallenstein's research to inform the other dimensions of the Council's work. Much of Wallenstein's research played a key role in establishing the content for the Historical Markers, which will be unveiled during the 1872 Forward weekend. These seven finely wrought markers will be placed around the Blacksburg campus for visitors as well as current faculty, staff, students, and alumni to learn more about the history of the place we claim as ours.

Peter Wallenstein, an award-winning professor of history at Virginia Tech, is the author of many books on the history of Virginia, the history of Virginia Tech, and other topics in U.S. history.



VT STORIES



Initiated in 2015 by the President's Office, the VT Stories Oral History Project, founded and led by Katrina Powell, Professor of English, collects oral histories from students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members to deepen our understanding of shared histories and to pursue an inclusive representation of Virginia Tech history. Under Powell's leadership, the audio and video content generated by VT Stories has created a living archive of campus history as public history. The project has recently moved to the University Libraries, with Ren Harman assuming co-leadership with Powell.

VT Stories created the first in a series of short videos, "Who Built This Place?" These videos focus on the behind the scenes communities involved in building and operating the university, including the quarry workers, facilities and maintenance staff, and coal plant staff. Powell worked with University Libraries' Special Collections to establish a permanent archival home for the VT Stories collection.

Ren Harman, project manager for VT Stories, served as advisor/consultant to the Introduction to Applied Collaboration Technologies sections in the School of Performing Arts, contributing significantly to the training of undergraduates in story gathering techniques and the creative processes of collaboration. The VT Stories team continues to work closely with the Visualizing Virginia Tech History project, contributing video and audio content for the multidisciplinary team's technology-based presentations.

Powell, Harman, and their team of undergraduate interns and graduate students continues to schedule and conduct video/audio interviews, train future interviewers, research interviewees' connections and contributions to the university, sync typed transcripts with audio recordings, and facilitate collaboration across all Council projects.

VT Stories anticipates continuing to work closely with the History Council, building this archive of materials and working with all History Council projects.

>> For more information visit: vtstories.org

VT STORIES



Katrina M. Powell
Founding Director of the Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies at Virginia Tech.

Katrina M. Powell is Professor of English and founding Director of the Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies at Virginia Tech. She is the co-founder of VT Stories and an advisory board member of the Center for Oral History. Her research focuses on displacement narratives, feminist research methodologies, and feminist autobiography. Her current oral history project, *Resettled: Beginning (Again) in Appalachia*, is funded by Voice of Witness.



Ren Harman
Project Manager for VT Stories

Ren Harman is the Project Manager for VT Stories. A three time alumnus of Virginia Tech, he manages the day-to-day operations including: managing undergraduate and graduate interns, corresponding with interviewees and scheduling interviews, conducting interviews, coordinating VT Stories across campus, and supervising the development of stories.





Harnessing new technologies, this project, led by Paul Quigley, the James I. Robertson, Jr. Associate Professor of Civil War Studies, has developed presentations of Virginia Tech's history in its many dimensions. Innovative digital techniques - including projection mapping, augmented reality, and virtual reality - allow people to see what is normally unseen, reflecting the full diversity of our shared past, and enticing audiences to explore customized stories, places, themes, and populations over the spans of history.

A team of students and faculty from History, Computer Science, Virginia Tech Libraries, Visual Arts, and Education continue to explore the history of Virginia Tech, developing online exhibits, 360 degree videos, and on-site Augmented Reality tours. This project has also worked closely with the Institute for Creativity, Art, and Technology (ICAT), which has opened the way for the project to participate in a variety of presentations and exchanges on and off campus.

For more information about this project's work, please visit:

<https://historylab.squarespace.com/>

Based on the successful development of a prototype, the team has:

- Built a robust and sustainable infrastructure for an AR campus tour, refining software and user experience for a comprehensive tour of campus buildings, providing basic information about key buildings, their history, names, historic photos and artifacts.
- Constructed a physical 3D projection mapping multimedia exhibit that provides a high-level overview of campus development over 150 years (and into the future), orienting visitors and prepping them for "choose your own adventure" AR tours. This exhibit has been placed semi-permanently in the Solitude House.
- Refined and completed AR tours on specific topics (Student engagement with issues of the early 1970s; the history and repurposing of the Solitude Plantation). Both topics have benefited from additional AR development, experimenting with different formats and platforms.

- The team has experimented with different technologies in order to:
 - Enhance the user experience;
 - Reinforce the team's status as an exemplary "Beyond Boundaries" student-faculty team, crossing the borders of teaching, research, and public outreach;
 - Represent the History Council in Sesquicentennial Advancement programming and initiatives. Using a combination of different formats the group has maximized the research payoff of its project and attracted users as well.

Experimentation with varying technologies has paid off as the team has developed several experiences that utilize:

- Phone/tablet Augmented Reality
- Projection mapping onto campus model
- Larger-scale projection mapping onto the sides of campus buildings
- "Virtual witnesses" -- filming character actors, key alumni and other Hokies in 3D, visitors can see and listen to 3D hologrammatic figures at specific tour sites.

The team has several potential projects going forward, topics that will allow deeper exploration of hidden/unknown facets of Virginia Tech's history.

Possibilities include:

- Expanded information on Hillcrest Hall and women at Virginia Tech.
- The Henderson Lawn/ Alumni Mall gateway area.
- Diversity in Virginia Tech sports.
- Additional profiles on Tech Trailblazers.
- The Making of Virginia Tech (focusing on the people who built and maintained the university, from architects, planners and construction teams to custodial and grounds staff).



VISUALIZE VT



Paul Quigley

Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies

Paul Quigley is Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and the James I. Robertson, Jr. Associate Professor of Civil War History in the History Department at Virginia Tech. Originally from Manchester, England, he holds degrees from Lancaster University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of *Shifting Grounds: Nationalism and the American South, 1848-1865*, and is currently completing a new book, *The Man Behind the Cane: Words, Violence, and the Coming of the Civil War*.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Melissa Aninakwah** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Kenny Barnes** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Elizabeth Berg** | College of Architecture and Urban Studies
- **Carlos Bautista** | College of Engineering
- **Doug Bowman** | Director of the Center for Human-Computer Interaction
- **Frank J. Maher** | Professor of Computer Science, College of Engineering
- **Taylor Carroll** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Anna Cheema** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Isabella Cruz** | College of Architecture and Urban Studies
- **Joe Conwell** | College of Engineering
- **Dillon Cutaia** | College of Engineering
- **Shawn de Lopez** | College of Architecture and Urban Studies
- **Sara Evers** | School of Education
- **Joseph Forte** | Athenaeum Coordinator, Digital Humanities Specialist, University Libraries
- **Jenni Gallagher** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Pierena Galvez** | School of Visual Arts
- **Nicolas Gutkowski** | College of Engineering
- **Ren Harman** | Project Manager, VT Stories
- **David Hicks** | Professor, School of Education
- **Tom Himler** | College of Engineering
- **Emily Humes** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **William Jung** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Brianna Johnson** | School of Performing Arts
- **Bradley Kraft** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Anza Mitchell** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Alexandra O'Dea** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Todd Ogle** | Executive Director
- **Bridget Olson** | College of Architecture and Urban Studies
- **Katrina Powell** | Director, Center for Rhetoric and Society, Director, Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies, Co-Founder, VT Stories
- **Suzanne Shelburn** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Jessica Taylor** | Assistant Professor, Oral and Public History College of Liberal Arts and Human Science
- **Sarah Tucker** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- **Thomas Tucker** | Associate Professor, School of Visual Arts College of Architecture and Urban Studies
- **Liv Wisnewski** | College of Liberal Arts and Human Science

HISTORIC MARKERS

The Historic Markers project expands on existing exterior interpretive signage with seven new markers placed across Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus. These markers cover topics ranging from campus development over time, land-grant history, and a diverse set of individuals and communities that made major contributions to the university.

Campus Landscape Architect Jack Rosenberger has led this project's committee since the project kicked off in spring of 2018. The project team worked with Quinn Evans Architects and Virginia Tech's University Relations team for the design phase of the signage. It has worked with University Architect Liza Morris to locate the seven markers on the sites shown on the map.

Professor Peter Wallenstein prepared preliminary text for review and extensive collaborative exchange within the project team, composed of Rosenberger, Wallenstein, Clara Cox, Denny Cochran, Emily Satterwhite, and Meghan Marsh. The historic markers are currently being constructed by Gropen, Inc. with an expectation of completing the installation phase this spring/early summer.

VT History Council Commemorative Signage Committee Members: Denny Cochran, Clara Cox, Jenni Gallagher, Bob Leonard, Meghan Marsh, Paul Quigley, Emily Satterwhite, Peter Wallenstein, Quinn Evans Team: Brenda Williams (Principal-in-Charge), Addison Warren, Jillian Columbus (Explorers Studio), Syd Knight (SK) – QE, landscape architect

University Relations Team: Shanin Glenn, Tiffany Pruden, Jesse Tuel

Contributors: Kenny Barnes, Theresa Rocha Beardall, Bing Bingham, Letisha Brown, LaTawnya Burleson, Tamara Cherry-Clarke, Mary Kate Claytor (illustration), Sam Cook, Tom Ewing, Melissa Faircloth, Victoria Ferguson, Betty Fine, Desiree Shelley Flores, Annabelle Fuselier, Ellington Graves, April Goode, Rosemary Goss, Jean Haskell, Khaled Hassouna, Shew Heflin, Pat Hyer, Thomas Klatka, Shernita Lee, Barbara Lockee, Anna LoMascolo, Shaila Mehra, Kerri Moseley-Hobbs, Najla Miranda Mouchrek, Juan Pacheco, Anita Puckett, Stewart Scales (map), Ashley Martina Svyantek, Jessica Taylor, Dan Thorp, Tremayne Waller, Rachel Lin Weaver, Laura Wedin, Kimberly Williams

University Libraries and Special Collections: Marc Brodsky, Kira Dietz, Antonio Wright de Hernandez, John Jackson, Aaron Purcell Images; Susan Anderson, Marc Brodsky, Adrian Compton, Betty Fine, Quatro Hubbard, Kenna Jewell, Juan Pacheco Irene Leech, Peter Potter, Mike Pulice, Heather Rousseau, Ryan Spencer, Michael Stowe, Randy Turner

Support Team: Alexa Briehl (Communications), Joe Cooley (Accessibility Review), Larissa Gimmy (Communications Graphic Designer), Joy Manning (Construction Project Manager), Liza Morris (University Architect, Site Selection)



Jack Rosenberger is the Campus Landscape Architect in the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities (CPIF) at Virginia Tech, and has served in this role since 2016. Jack's primary responsibility is to provide professional guidance and leadership for the long-term planning and construction of Virginia Tech's outdoor environment. Jack holds a Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (BLA) from SUNY-ESF (2005) and a Masters in Landscape Architecture (MLA) from Ohio State (2012) and is a licensed Professional Landscape Architect.



Emily Satterwhite is an Associate Professor in the Department of Religion and Culture and the Director of the Appalachian Studies program at Virginia Tech. She serves on the Presidential Council on Virginia Tech History, including the Sesquicentennial Commemorative Historical Marker committee. Her expertise centers on Appalachian society, history, and cultural representations, with an emphasis on social and environmental justice.

PUBLIC ART

C.L. Bohannon, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, took the lead on this project to tell and retell the histories of Virginia Tech in an inclusive manner using visual art creations in public spaces. Under his leadership the Council completed a national call for public art, seeking proposals for creative approaches to highlight how many communities including the historically marginalized have shaped and will continue to shape Virginia Tech.

A jury committee, composed of appropriate representatives of university authorities, selected four finalists, all appropriate for commissioning.. The University has commissioned two art pieces created by Charlie Brouwer and Carrie Gault to be featured at the university's oldest structures, Solitude House and the Fraction Family House with plans for installation in Fall 2022.

Dr. C.L. Bohannon is the Interim Director of the School of Architecture + Design, Associate Professor in Landscape Architecture, and Faculty Principal of the Leadership and Social Change Residential College at Virginia Tech. Dr. Bohannon's research focuses on the relationship between community engagement and design education, primarily through design for social and environmental justice. Through his research, Dr. Bohannon works in the landscape context of community history and identity, social/environmental (in)justice, and community learning. His research has led to contributions to the theorization and application of community engagement in design education. Dr. Bohannon teaches courses on community-engaged design research, design research methods, contemporary research topics in landscape architecture, and seeing, understanding & represent-



Ruth Waalkes is associate provost for the arts and executive director of the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech. She oversees strategic campus-wide integration of the arts at Virginia Tech, and leads community-based arts initiatives on behalf of the university across the region. Since joining Virginia Tech in 2009 as the founding executive director of the \$100 million Moss Arts Center, which opened in 2013, Ruth established the vision for, launched, and now directs the center and its professional presenting and exhibition programs. Ruth came to Virginia Tech from the University of Maryland, College Park where she was director of artistic initiatives for the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Prior to that, her career included serving as executive director of Volunteer Fairfax; and artistic producer of the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap while at the Arts Council of Fairfax County, where she was director of visual and performing arts programs. Ruth is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with more than 30 years' experience in nonprofit management in both the arts and social



PUBLIC ART



Sketch of "Think on These Things" by Charlie Brouwer



Renderings of Carrie Gault's work "Thresholds"

VOICES IN THE STONE

The plans for this multifaceted School of Performing Arts' array of performances have evolved. These events are based on the concept of making the invisible visible, creating narrative and performance events around the unsung and/or unseen tales that abound in the communities of Virginia Tech, honoring diverse aspects of the history and stories of this place.

On May 6, 2021, The Ume Group Playback Ensemble, a branch of the New York City-based physical theatre company, The Ume Group (theumegroup.org), gave a private, live, online performance for alumni of Virginia Tech's College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. The performance was sponsored by the Council on Virginia Tech History with support from the School of Performing Arts and was recorded and released publicly as part of Storytelling on Screen: An Online Playback Theatre Archive & Guidebook. This is a free, open-access, online educational resource about Playback Theatre, supported in part by the Open Education Initiative Faculty Grant program of the University Libraries at Virginia Tech.

The performance begins with a soundscape overture featuring a version of "Tech Triumph" (the Virginia Tech fight song composed in 1919 by Wilfred Pete Maddux and Mattie Eppes) adapted for this event by The Ume Group's Kate Douglas, along with excerpts from the VT Stories Oral History Project (vtstories.org) and other found texts voiced live by The Ume Group actors. The event continues on to the telling and improvisational re-enactment of five true-life stories by Virginia Tech alums, exploring themes ranging from Virginia Tech as "home" and a place of happiness to Virginia Tech as a place of progress and learning, but also contradiction and protest.

Production Credits

Guest Artist: The Ume Group Playback Theatre Ensemble

Conductor: Jordan Rosin

Musician: Kate Douglas

Actors: Jorge Luna, Keelie Sheridan, Karina Sindicich, Kaitlyn Samuel Rosin, Yokko

Producer/Director: Jordan Rosin

Community Partners: Robert H. Leonard, Council on Virginia Tech History and the School of Performing Arts; Christina Miller, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; Ren Harman, VT Stories

How To Learn More and Watch the Performance

The full recording of the May 6 performance can be found on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=sT4criegy_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sT4criegy_4)

To read more about Storytelling on Screen visit <https://bit.ly/StorytellingOnScreen2021>.



VOICES IN THE STONE

River Wakes project, created by Scotty Hardwig and Zachary Duer, is a series of choreographic, sonic, and visual art "creative essays" on the histories of the New River Valley told through the arts of choreography and cinema. Through abstract poetics and temporally mutable designs of dance, music, and animation, this screendance examines the cultural and embodied fluidity of history, from the post-Ice Age forests and unglaciated rivers of this region, to the geographically felt legacies of colonization, industrialization, and agriculture. Filmed on location in the region of the New River Valley, this project hybridizes historical and ecological themes through the dance – featuring the talents of Roanoke Ballet Theatre, and research materials created by Virginia Tech students and faculty. The work channels our concepts of time and passage through the lived experience of the body in a century of water and flame. The world premiere of this work will take place virtually on April 22 and 23, 2022 at 7pm.

Production Credits:

Scotty Hardwig - choreographer, cinematographer and director - Professor of Movement & Media in the VT School of Performing Arts -- www.anatomyzero.com
Sandra Meythaler - executive director - Roanoke Ballet Theatre

Company Dancers of Roanoke Ballet Theatre Full Cast:

LeeAnn Elder, Christa Ferguson, Sara Kosuth, Kirsten Linnen, Caitlin Smith, Will Smith, Erin McMahon, Jenni Richards, Christina Duffy, Carrie VanOsten, Elena Bozzone, Chloe Luneke, Noah Kergman, Cassie Williams, Reagan Mihailoff, Hannah Burneka, Christina Milne

Audrey Reeves - creative scholarship - Professor of Political Science at Virginia Tech, faculty fellow for the Alliance for Social, Political and Ethical Thought
Zach Duer - visual designs - Professor of Visual Arts at Virginia Tech www.zachduer.com

Soundscore: Scotty Hardwig, Caleb Flood
Text & Writings: Scotty Hardwig, Jack Bernardi (PhD Candidate, ASPECT), Susanna Young (MFA Candidate, Directing & Public Dialogue)
Sound Recording Support:
Joe Forte (Athenaeum Coordinator and Digital Humanities Specialist, VT Publishing)
Creative Cartography:
Michael Ryba (VT Geospatial Technician)
Costume Design: Renee Aguilera

Special Thanks To :

Bob Leonard
The Taubman Museum of Art Michael Ryba
Susie Young

The Politics of Performance (Seminar Class, Fall 2021)
Carmen Gitre (Associate Professor of History, Virginia Tech)
Audrey Reeves (Assistant Professor of Political Science, VT)
Aline de Souza (PhD Candidate, ASPECT)
Sabrina Harris (PhD Candidate, ASPECT)
Marie lys Chambraud (PhD Candidate, ASPECT)
Casey Anne Brimmer (PhD Candidate, ASPECT)
Andreza Jorge (PhD Candidate, ASPECT)
Susie Young (MFA candidate, SOPA)
Vasilije Mesarovic (PhD Candidate, ASPECT)
Leah Ramnath (PhD Candidate, ASPECT)
Jack Bernardi (PhD Candidate, ASPECT)

Scotty Hardwig is an experimental movement artist, performer, and teacher originally from southwest Virginia. His research practice stems from the confluence of sensory media and the moving body, creating choreographic artwork through live performance, installation/site-specific, and cinematic frames. He received his MFA in Dance from the University of Utah, and has served on the faculty at the University of Utah and Middlebury College, and is currently an Assistant Professor in Movement, Performance and Integrated Media at Virginia Tech, where he is experimenting and creating choreographic and cinematic works at the intersection of technology and the body. www.anatomyzero.com.



HOGE/WHITEHURST

Two names of campus buildings were changed in mid-2020, thus (after a long delay during the pandemic) the occasion for dedicating the new names this weekend. Both structures previously carried names associated with particularly egregious expressions of anti-Black racism. In both cases, the new names honor Black Virginians who, though scarcely heralded during 1953–1963, championed a racially inclusive institution.

Both are residence halls. One of the two had come up for serious reconsideration under previous presidents, in 1997–1998 and again in 2004–2005, with students initiating the effort both times. But no change of name had taken place. This time around, the death of Mr. George Floyd led quickly to a student-led online petition that secured many thousands of signatures. President Tim Sands directed the Council on Virginia Tech History to consider the matter and report back.

The Council, after giving the matter careful consideration, unanimously recommended that the old name come down. Several strong possibilities for a new name emerged; one gained unanimous support.

The first eight Black students to enroll at what was then named Virginia Polytechnic Institute all came to Tech under severe restrictions that required them most of all (1) to study in a program unavailable at the Black land-grant institution, Virginia State College, and thus all enrolled in engineering, and (2) to take their lodging and meals off campus.

Janie and William Hoge were the elderly Black couple who opened their Blacksburg home between 1953 and 1960 to all eight as they pursued their studies. Who better to honor now, at the sort of structure that those young men could not have lived in back then, than Mr. and Mrs. Hoge?

But the Council addressed another building, too, the name of which had also met with great opposition. Readily determining to recommend that this other building also be renamed, the Council relayed all the main options not selected for what became Hoge Hall. In both cases the university's Committee on Commemorative Tributes evidently recommended the changes to the Board of Visitors. In both cases, the BOV approved the recommendations.

From among the options presented as a new name for the second building, James Leslie Whitehurst Jr., class of 1963, was selected. Honoring him in this fashion was especially appropriate give that Whitehurst (1) had broken down one main institutional barrier to full Black inclusion when he managed to secure a room on campus and (2), some years later, became the first African American named to a policymaking role at Virginia Tech as a member of the BOV.



HOGE/WHITEHURST

RESOLUTION TO NAME THE RESIDENCE HALL LOCATED AT 570 WASHINGTON STREET, SW, FOR JANIE AND WILLIAM HOGE

WHEREAS, Mrs. Janie Hoge and Mr. William Hoge, Sr. have been documented in the writings of Virginia Tech history as allies and heroes to the first African-American students enrolled at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, Janie and William Hoge, both born in the 1880s, were slaves, had limited education: Mr. Hoge was educated through Hoge's formal schooling ended with the seventh grade; and

WHEREAS, Janie and William Hoge resided at 306 East Cla. Virginia Tech campus, and opened their home, providing room and board for African-American students enrolled at Virginia Tech, who studied members of the Corps of Cadets, yet were denied housing on campus; and

WHEREAS, in the twilight of their lives in the 1950s and 1960s, Janie and William Hoge provided great care to students Irving Peddrew, Lindsay Cherry, Yates; Matthew Winston, Sr.; Essex Finney, Jr.; Robert G. V. Whitehurst, Jr., and played a key role in opening up this institution to a much younger generation of black Virginians, offering love, companionship, and support; and

WHEREAS, the residence hall built in 1966 and located at 570 Washington Street, SW, today houses Virginia Tech engineering living-learning communities and is a fitting tribute to the residence hall for Janie and William Hoge would be a fitting tribute to the influence on early engineering students from diverse backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, this naming will serve as a reminder of the unselfish care and dedication of Janie and William Hoge to a cause that continues to reverberate through the university beyond campus borders and into the surrounding community, partnership, inclusiveness, and compassion to create a welcoming environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in acknowledgement of the contributions and sacrifices of Janie and William Hoge toward the integration of Virginia Tech and their roles as valued, yet unsung members of the university community, the residence hall built in 1966 and located at 570 Washington Street, SW, will henceforth be known as Hoge Hall.

Horacio A. Velazquez, Rector
Board of Visitors
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Resolution adopted August 25, 2020



Timothy D. Sands, President
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

RESOLUTION TO NAME THE RESIDENCE HALL LOCATED AT 240 KENT STREET FOR JAMES LESLIE WHITEHURST, JR. '63

WHEREAS, James Leslie Whitehurst, Jr. was a member of the early cohort of the first African-American engineering students to enroll at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, James Whitehurst received his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1963, and his juris doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1975; and

WHEREAS, James Whitehurst was a fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, major in the Air Force Reserve in Virginia, member of the Air National Guard, and attorney in private practice, demonstrating the value of a Virginia Tech education by serving his country and his community through the personification of the university's motto, *Ut Prosim*, that I may serve; and

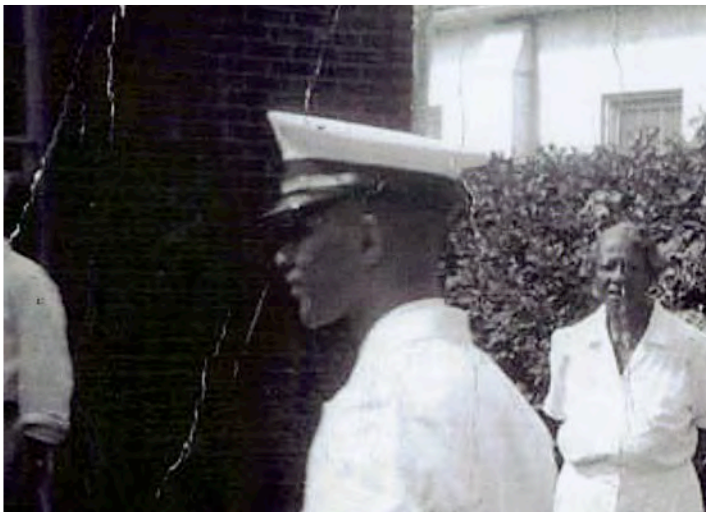
WHEREAS, a forceful voice for effective change, James Whitehurst had a history of "firsts": He compelled the university to permit him to be the first African-American student to live in a residence hall in 1961, and attesting to his life of service and professional accomplishments, he was appointed by the Governor of Virginia as the first African-American to serve on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors from 1970 to 1974; and

WHEREAS, it would be a most appropriate and fitting tribute to name the residence hall built in 1962 and located at 240 Kent Street for James L. Whitehurst, Jr., a pioneering student committed to a life of serving others who blazed a trail for generations of students of color coming after him to live and learn in a space that was initially denied him;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in acknowledgement of the personal journey and contributions of time, service, and influence of James Leslie Whitehurst, Jr., Class of 1963, on the integration of Virginia Tech and his legacy of firsts at the institution, the residence hall built in 1962 and located at 240 Kent Street will henceforth be known as Whitehurst Hall.



Timothy D. Sands, President
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University



SOLITUDE FROM VT

The word “solitude” conjures up a feeling of isolation, being alone, of separating oneself from a larger group. Solitude sits as the oldest structure on the Blacksburg campus of Virginia Tech. The oldest cabin was built in the early 1800s. The house became known as Solitude by the 1840s, and continued expansion in the 1850s brought the house to very nearly how we see it today. The oldest portion of the house dates back more than 200 years old, still young compared to the age of the land where it sits. Beginning 10,000 years ago and more, Native Peoples served as stewards of the land. Tribes like the Monacan, Tutelo and Moneton have a long history in the region. Much history remains to be discovered, to be told.

Before Solitude came into being, thousands of acres of Indian land were parceled and granted to Europeans like James Patton in the 1740s. These land grants handed over the traditional homelands of Eastern Siouan speaking natives, like the Monacan and Tutelo, to colonial settlers. Solitude’s time as a plantation ended in 1872 when a new chapter began, tied to a land-grant college financed largely through new grants of Indigenous lands much further west.

The historical Solitude encompassed the land, the buildings, and the people owned by a wealthy land merchant. Solitude came into being on the backs of enslaved people. All of these concepts are important as we discuss the space. As a contested space we are required to use public history to work toward a greater awareness of our history long past continuing through to our present time. While history has already occurred, the documentation of that history demands us to visit diverse interpretations to gather a comprehensive understanding rather than just a singular narrative. Attitudes change over time and how we interpret history tends to evolve.

A goal for the program at Solitude is to enlighten by speaking the truth and sharing truths long hidden. Questions to be addressed include: What happened in this space? How do we use the knowledge of the past to promote a healthier future? History is disturbing; so is the present. Spaces like Solitude have been a part of watching a nation grow from its humblest beginnings to where we are today. Solitude will be used as a space to bring people together, a safe space to have conversations about how the hierarchies of the past have changed. Solitude will be a site for creating the future. This is a journey that will take years and constantly evolve.

The beginning stages will be simply to get people to see the properties and learn a brief history about both the Solitude house, former home of the Prestons, and the adjacent Fraction house, home to enslaved families. The history of the Preston family is a story steeped in drama, as are some of their documented interactions with enslaved people. An exhibit portraying the people who were part of the enslaved labor force, as well as their subsequent freedom, will be on display in the Fraction cabin. The first exhibit at the Solitude house, from the History Lab, allows us to look at the development of the Blacksburg campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The next exhibit will give visitors the opportunity to record stories or messages to preserve for the future. A timeline will track the history of Solitude from the long era of Native stewardship through colonial settlement and on to the start of the land-grant institution. The hosted exhibits will evolve over the years as societal changes and advances in technology occur. Programs and presentations will be an integral part of Solitude allowing for academic and community participation while keeping the Virginia Tech Principles of Community as the cornerstone of programming.



MORE THAN A FRACTION (MTAFF)



Dr. Kerri Moseley-Hobbs
Author

Under the mantle “From Separation to Reunification”, the mission of More Than a Fraction (MTAFF) is to expand research and education on the history, life, culture, and experiences of Africans in America, African Americans, and the Indigenous Peoples in the 18th and 19th century (before the Civil War and a decade after). The MTAFF seeks to expand research, education, and programs by approaching the subject from an “Africans in America”, African American, and Indigenous Peoples centric view. By using this centric view, we promote new angles of research from innovative lenses and focal points. With consideration of the expansiveness of the African Diaspora, the MTAFF’s initial focus is those within and connected to the Appalachian region.

As of the 1872 Forward event, the MTAFF is fully engaged in an innovative case study project between the Preston family, who owned the Smithfield and Solitude plantations (currently the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University [Virginia Tech]), and the Fraction family, who were enslaved by the Preston family for multiple generations. This case study seeks to use a holistic, strength focused, and reality-based model that expands literature, philosophies, and ideas of reconciliation and reparations by testing the feasibility of reconciliation and reparations. Strength focused models are client centered and person driven care and programming, built on intrinsic self-worth, empowerment, and self-motivation. Reality-based models look at the person’s extenuating circumstances, take into consideration the total person, and build on their capabilities by building programming and strategic plans on those capabilities and adjusting as those capabilities expand.

The MTAFF hopes to use these models to develop and test functional steps and authentic social interactions, actions, and reactions that work towards reconciliation. One of the goals for the 1872 Forward event is to incorporate early findings of the case study—which suggest that one issue of addressing the unfinished business of slavery is exposure to the contested communities and cultures. With a slight emphasis on the enslaved African community because of their strong history with the Merry Tree, the 1872 Forward event celebrates perseverance and an effort to begin to address the unfinished business of the traumatic events connected to the space by acknowledging the existence and experiences of these people with a collaboration between the contested communities that were there,— Indigenous, European, and African.

Kerri Moseley-Hobbs
www.morethanafraction.org





COUNCIL ON VIRGINIA TECH HISTORY

Formed in 2017, the Council on Virginia Tech History consists of cross-disciplinary experts from the university and surrounding communities.

The Council on Virginia Tech History explores how Virginia Tech might recognize and acknowledge its history in the context of today and the Beyond Boundaries vision for the future. Periodically, the council will communicate its findings in ways that incorporate the university's core missions of teaching and learning, research and discovery, and service and engagement. Its findings and recommendations will be shared with the president, relevant bodies of shared governance, and broader community.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chair: Bob Leonard, Professor, School of Performing Arts

Menah Pratt-Clarke, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity

Peter Wallenstein, Professor, History

C.L. Bohannon, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture; Associate Director, School of Architecture and Design

Denny Cochrane, Director of Sustainability, Office of Sustainability

Sam Cook, Associate Professor, Sociology

Clara Cox, Retired Virginia Tech Director of Publications

Victoria Ferguson, Director, Solitude

Michael Herndon, Director, Summer and Winter Sessions

Laura Jensen, Associate Professor, Center for Administration and Policy

Christopher Kiwus, Vice President for Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities

Shaheen Lakhan, Chief, Section of Pain Management | Carilion Clinic

Mark Lawrence, Vice President, Governmental and External Relations | Carilion Clinic; President, Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors

India Lloyd, President, NAACP Virginia Tech Chapter

Anza Mitchell, Graduate Student, Science Education

Mark Owczarski, Assistant Vice President for University Relations, University Relations

Barbara Pendergrass Richmond, Retired Virginia Tech Dean of Students

Peter Potter, Director, Publishing Strategy, University Libraries

Katrina Powell, Director, Center for Rhetoric and Society; Director, Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies; Co-Founder, VT Stories

Aaron Purcell, Director, Special Collections, University Libraries

Paul Quigley, Associate Professor, Civil War Studies, History

Jack Rosenberger, Campus Landscape Architect, University Planning

Emily Satterwhite, Associate Professor, Appalachian Studies; Director, Appalachian Studies

Lesley Yorke, Senior Director of Communications, University Relations

1872 FORWARD: PIONEERS



CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA TECH

150
years



IRVING PEDDREW

Hometown: Hampton, VA

Major/year: electrical engineering,
enrolled 1953 – 1956;
honorary degree received 2016

**Significance: first Black student
admitted to VT**

Accomplishments: worked in aerospace
and fruit industries; Newport News
Shipbuilding; Hampton University as
associate director of auxiliary enterprises

Currently: retired



JAMES WATKINS

Hometown: Newport News, VA

Major/year: biology 1971

**Significance: established Groove Phi
Groove, VT's first black fraternity**

Accomplishments: became first Black
president of the Virginia Dental Board;
will be honored with 2022 VT Alumni
Distinguished Service Award in May 2022

Currently: general practice dentist in
Hampton, VA



LINDA EDMONDS TURNER

Hometown: Halifax County, VA

Major/year: clothing and textiles 1970;
MBA 1974; PhD, business administration
1979

**Significance: member of VT's first class
of black women in 1966**

Accomplishments: held two college
presidencies and executive positions at
three Fortune 500 companies, served on
VT's Alumni Board

Currently: Director, Department of
Industrial Accidents, Commonwealth of
Massachusetts

Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA

Major/year: history/sociology 1970

Significance: a member of VT's first class of black women in 1966; elected to student senate in sophomore year and got rid of Dixie and the Confederate flag

Accomplishments: taught civics, history, and sociology in public schools in Virginia and North Carolina; served as adjunct professor at North Carolina State University; serves on Cornerstone Alumni Advisory Board

Currently: retired; serves as a docent at the North Carolina Museum of History



MARGUERITE SCOTT

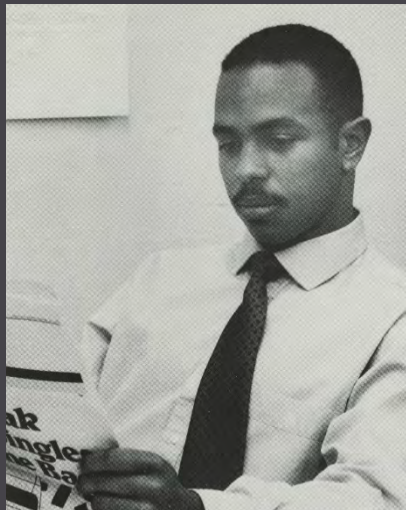
Hometown: Martinsville, VA

Major/year: marketing management 1988; health and physical education 1995

Significance: class president, 1988; First Black President of VT Alumni Association

Accomplishments: served as mayor of Martinsville; founded the Diversity and Conflict Resolution Leadership program; recipient of the 2008 VT Alumni Distinguished Service Award

Currently: attorney with private practice in Martinsville



KIMBLE REYNOLDS

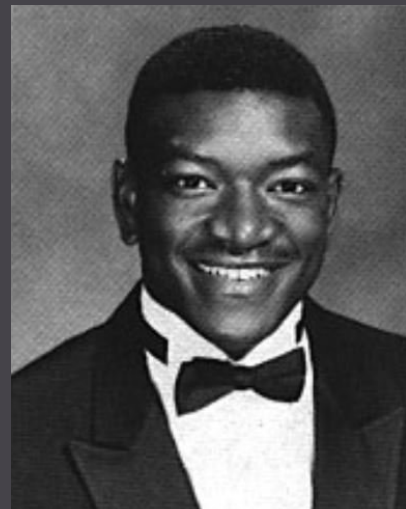
Hometown: Hampton, VA

Major/year: political science 1995

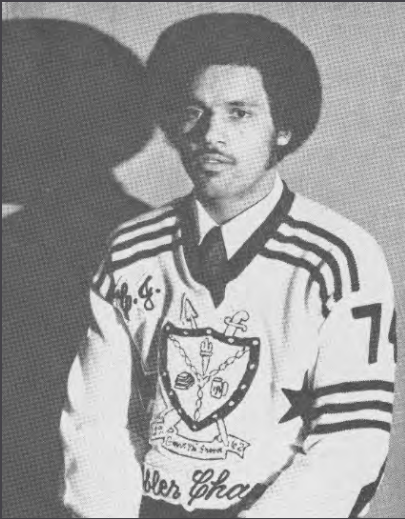
Significance: elected class president as a freshman; elected first Black president of the Student Government Association

Accomplishments: senior executive roles at companies and businesses; member of board of directors of several community organizations

Currently: Chief Operating Officer, Mbroh Engineering, Inc.



RONNIE (STEPHENSON) SPELLMAN



Hometown: Martinsville, VA

Major/year: 1981; 1986; 1988

Significance: advocate for recruitment and support of minority students

Accomplishments: Assistant to President of VT; Senior Vice President, Hampton University; VT Board of Visitors; VT Alumni Association Board; 2006 Virginia Tech Alumni Distinguished Service Award

Currently: Vice President for Business Affairs at University of Texas, Dallas

CALVIN JAMISON



Hometown: Bracey, VA

Major/year: public administration 1977

Significance: advocate for recruitment and support of minority students

Accomplishments: Assistant Director, VT Office of Admissions

Currently: retired

GLENN VALENTINE



Hometown: Jamaica/Lynchburg, VA

Major/year:
Winston - MS, animal science, 1980; PhD, animal science, 1983

Marilyn - psychology 1982

Accomplishments: Founders of Maxx Performance, Inc.; Outstanding Alumnus Award and Hall of Fame, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Alumni Association Board of Directors; supporters of VT club ice hockey team

Currently: President/CEO of Maxx Performance

WINSTON & MARILYN SAMUELS

MOSS ART CENTER PERFORMANCES

▶ DR. MENAH PRATT-CLARKE

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke is the Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity at Virginia Tech. She is also Professor of Education. She has a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Iowa, and a master's degree, PhD, and law degree from Vanderbilt University. She is also Professor of Education in the School of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, with affiliations in Africana Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and the Department of Sociology. She was selected as the 2021 Inclusive Excellence Individual Leadership Award recipient by the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. Author of four books, her most recent book, *A Black Woman's Journey from Cotton Picking to College Professor: Lessons about race, gender, and class in America* was awarded the American Education Studies Association Critics' Choice Award for scholarship deemed to be outstanding in its field in 2018.

▶ MARY LYLE BUFF

Mary Lyle Buff has a background in education and behavioral therapy and she works in Information Technology as a project manager, instructional designer, and data wrangler. She and her husband have two young sons and she would happily spend all her time out of doors exploring the world with her family. When she isn't trading hours for dollars, she practices, studies, and teaches yoga inspired movement. She is currently working with close and extended family and the More Than a Fraction Foundation to explore what it means to be a descendant with a particular focus on her Preston heritage.

▶ VICTORIA FERGUSON

Victoria Persinger Ferguson is an enrolled member of the Monacan Indian Nation of Virginia and is a graduate of Marshall University with a degree in Dietetics. She has 30 years background in researching science methodologies and historical documentation to help explain and support theories on the daily living habits of the Eastern Siouan populations up through the early European colonization period. Victoria has been involved with public history as a historical interpreter for over 20 years and participated in a number of educational documentaries. She is also the Director/Docent for the Solitude-Fraction Site.

▶ BINTOU AND AMADOU KOUYATE

As a performance project of Memory of African Culture, Inc., The Kouyate Family presents African cultural expressions emphasizing their family heritage in the Manding dialiya tradition. The Kouyate Family presents traditional and contemporary songs, recitations of Manding histories, self-accompanied on various traditional African musical instruments including the 21-string kora, and dances accompanied by the djembe and koutiro drums. Honoring their Dialiya heritage and the teaching of their father, Diali Djimo Kouyate, the Kouyate Family includes Mady Kouyate, Amadou Kouyate and Bintou Kouyate and are sometimes joined by other family members including Crystal Shakelford Kouyate (Amadou's wife) and their mother, Akua Femi Kouyate as well as other guest artists as they celebrate through music, song, oral history and dance, the traditions of their family heritage.

As in the Manding tradition of "Fa Kae" --that which is passed down from father, -- Mady Kouyate, Amadou Kouyate and Bintou Kouyate continue the cultural and musical path of their father, mother and ancestors as dynamic musicians and performers of Manding traditions. They are the 150th generation of the Kouyate lineage.

MOSS ART CENTER PERFORMANCES

▶ CULTURAL DANCE CREW

Cultural Dance Crew was founded at Virginia Tech in October 2018, by Jay Hazel. Currently, the team is led by Director Deshawn Murchison and Co-Director Aniyah Cooke. We aspire to grow as individuals by developing our dance and teamwork skills while also encouraging community engagement. We'll achieve this by incorporating multiple dancing styles and levels to foster cultural sensitivity throughout the community. The team's motto is "Letting our love for dance connect us together."

▶ WAHALA

The dancers of Wahala are deeply rooted in their African cultures, traditions, and heritage here at Virginia Tech. They strive to educate the Virginia Tech community about African culture through dance. Through modern and traditional dances Wahala tells the stories of Africans' harsh past as well as the fun and lively culture. Wahala will encompass the evolution of African dance through this performance by taking it back to the tribal days and ending in the modern times.

▶ VIRGINIA STATE GOSPEL CHOIR

The Virginia State University Gospel Chorale is the most requested performing group at Virginia State University. Its dynamic voices, precise choreography, and bold attire have helped garner local, state, national, and international acclaim as a professional Gospel choir in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Chorale has toured in the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Alabama, Illinois, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Washington, DC. It has also toured internationally in the Virgin Islands, Canada, Barbados, and Europe (Italy, Hungary, France, Switzerland, Romania, and Sicily) numerous times.

The Chorale has had the opportunity to share the stage with a number of recording artists of multiple genres. Artists include Michael Bolton, DeeDee Bridgewater, B.B. King, Cheryl "CoCo" Clemons, Mary Mary, Tye Tribbett, Earnest Pugh, Hezekiah Walker, J.J. Hairston and Youthful Praise, Yolanda Adams, Martha Munizzi, Dr. Ricky Dillard, Kirk Franklin, Jason Nelson, and poet Nikki Giovanni.

The Chorale has an extensive lists of accomplishments. Most recently, it was named HBCU Digest's Best HBCU Choir in 2019 and performed in the Umbria Jazz Festival (which features Gospel and R&B singers from around the world) in 2019 in Umbria, Italy. The Chorale was named HBCU Digest's Best HBCU Choir in 2016, first place winner and Best College Choir in the National College Choir Competition (2016), and first place winner and Best Church Choir in Steve Harvey's Neighborhood Awards (2015). Its biggest accomplishment, to date, was appearing as a quarterfinalist in Season 8 (2013) of "America's Got Talent." This not only garnered national and international exposure for the Chorale, but for the University as well.

The Chorale is under the leadership of Mr. James Holden Jr. (Faculty Director/Advisor), Mr. Perry Evans II (Choir Director), Mr. Charles "Chico" Wiley (musical director), and Dr. Michael Rainey (Business Operations Director)

COUNCIL ON VIRGINIA TECH HISTORY

Examining Virginia Tech's histories in the context of today and the Beyond Boundaries vision for the future as the university celebrates its sesquicentennial.

<https://strategicaffairs.vt.edu/CouncilonVTHistory.html>



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