



2012 Black Alumni Reunion

**Dinner and Influential
Black Alumni Awards
Ceremony**

Saturday, March 17, 2012



Office for Diversity and Inclusion

Sponsored by





Toyota and Toyota Financial Services are proud to sponsor the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Black Alumni Reunion.

Since its inception, the Virginia Tech Alumni Association has continually kept sight of its mission and purpose to promote the welfare of the university by cultivating mutually beneficial relationships with the growing worldwide community of alumni with its programs and services which seek to strengthen alumni bonds of fellowship, professional association and university affiliation.

At Toyota Financial Services, our commitment to Diversity and Inclusion is our competitive advantage. We are continuously leveraging our differences and similarities to achieve our internal and external business goals while striving to be the most successful and respected automotive company in America.

Our mission is to develop and leverage greater workplace diversity and inclusion to achieve the Toyota business objectives by supporting the business growth and educating our internal company to external market possibilities.

We congratulate and honor Virginia Tech on its continual commitment to its mission, vision and purpose.

Sincerely,

Al Smith
VP, Toyota Financial Services
Field Services and CSC Operations

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Proudly Acknowledge

Black Alumni Reunion Committee

Ellis Savage, Chair '80	Melanie Pearson-Hurley '81
Laurie Brogdon '04	Kimble Reynolds '88
Deseria Creighton-Barney '87	Brian Roberts '85
Nakeina Douglas '98	Wayne Robinson '80
Adriane James '81	Jim Watkins '71
Cedric Owens '04	

Black Alumni Reunion Scholarship Committee

Michael Borden '81	Dennis Scott '80
Laurie Brogdon '04	Ben Stallings '84
Wayne Robinson '80	Archie Watson '77
Ellis Savage '80	

A Special Thank You To

Athletics Department	Human Resources
Black Caucus	Multicultural Programs and Services
Black Student Alliance	Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life
Black Organizations Council	Provost Office
Career Services	School of Performing Arts
Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence	Student Alumni Associates
Graduate School	Undergraduate Admissions

We honor the many celebrations of Black alumni and students at Virginia Tech
35th Anniversary of the charter line of Theta Psi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
30th Anniversary of the charter line of Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
20th Anniversary of the Black Cultural Center
Black History Month
National Pan-Hellenic Week

Career Achievement

Pierre Thomas '84, College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences



Thomas graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Communication and started his journalistic career at The Roanoke Times and World-News. He joined the Washington Post in 1987 covering local politics. In 1991 he joined the Metro projects staff and was part of a team whose work was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for reporting on illegal gun use in the Washington, DC region. He took the lead on such significant stories as the Oklahoma City bombing and the FBI's role at Ruby Ridge. He joined CNN as Justice Department correspondent in 1997 and broke many news stories including terrorism, cyber-crime, the hunt for Osama bin Laden, the FBI's Most Wanted list and the Justice Department's involvement in the Elian Gonzalez case.

Thomas currently covers the Justice Department for ABC News. He joined the network in November 2000 and reports for "World News with Diane Sawyer," "Good Morning America," "Nightline" and other ABC News programs. Thomas was a key member of ABC's team of correspondents covering the terrorist attacks of September 11. Widely recognized for its excellence, the network's coverage won several prestigious awards including the Peabody and Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, and an Emmy Award.

During his time at ABC News, Thomas has broken news on a number of fronts and won a variety of awards including a part in "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings" broadcast, which won the Edward R. Murrow Award for best newscast in 2005. In 1994 Thomas received the Pass Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency for his article "Beyond Grief and Fear." In 1991, and again in 1992, he won the Mort Mintz Investigative Award, and he was a finalist in 1993 for the Livingston Young Journalist Award.

Earlier this month Thomas was named the 2012 Journalist of the year by the Association of Black Journalists where he and his team lead ABC's coverage of many of last year's top stories such as the shooting in Tucson, Arizona that injured Congressman Gabrielle Giffords. He was the very first person in the news division to tell his colleagues that the reason the President of the United States was holding a hastily arranged press conference on a Sunday night was that mass murdering terrorist Osama Bin Laden had been captured and killed.

Evening at a Glance

- 🌀 Reception
- 🌀 Group Photograph
- 🌀 Welcome and Introductions
- 🌀 University Welcome
- 🌀 Remarks
- 🌀 Student Reflections
- 🌀 Invocation
- 🌀 Dinner
- 🌀 Keynote Address
- 🌀 Influential Black Alumni Awards
- 🌀 Dessert Extravaganza
- 🌀 Dancing

Wine Service with Dinner

Cash Bar Available Throughout the Evening

Reception

Passed Hors d'oeuvres 🍷 Vegetarian Mini Quiche 🍷 Chicken Cordon Bleu Croquettes

Dinner Program

Welcome and Introductions. Lisa Carter Ellison '86
National Alumni Association Board of Directors

A. Jerome Fowlkes '88
National Alumni Association Board of Directors

Welcome. William T. Lewis, Sr.
Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

Thomas C. Tillar, Jr.
Vice President for Alumni Relations

Special Introduction. Calvin D. Jamison '77
Board of Visitors

Remarks Charles W. Steger
University President

Student Reflections Nikki Roy
President, Black Organizations Council

Rawlin Jefferson
President, Black Student Alliance

Invocation Johnny Shelton
Fellowship of Christian Athletes VT Football Chaplain

Salad

Spinach Salad w/Bacon, Croutons, Bermuda Onions & Herb Vinaigrette

Dinner

Top Sirloin with Rosemary Demi & Mushroom Ragout
Atlantic Salmon with Lemon Butter
Haricot Verts 🍷 Roasted Potatoes 🍷 Rolls and Butter
Iced Tea and Freshly Brewed Coffee

Wine Service

Leese-Fitch Cabernet Sauvignon
Cortenova Pinot Grigio

Career Achievement

Dr. Harold Martin Sr. '80, College of Engineering



Dr. Martin holds undergraduate and master's degrees in electrical engineering from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State College (NC A&T) and a doctorate in the field from Virginia Tech. He joined the A&T faculty in 1980 and was named chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1985 after nine-months as acting chairman. Four years later, he was named dean of NC A&T's College of Engineering, a post he held until being named vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1994. From 1987 to 1994, he also served as an adjunct faculty member in North Carolina State University's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

In 2000, Dr. Martin was tapped to provide stable, interim leadership for Winston-Salem State University following the resignation of the Chancellor. During Dr. Martin's six-year tenure at WSSU, enrollment nearly doubled, SAT scores climbed by nearly 70 points, and the campus underwent a dramatic physical transformation made possible by the 2000 Higher Education Bond Program.

Dr. Martin currently serves as the twelfth Chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Previously Dr. Martin had served as senior vice president for academic affairs of the multi-campus University of North Carolina.

Dr. Martin has written and lectured widely on computer architecture and increasing the representation of underrepresented minorities and women in engineering. He has received many awards including the 2001 Man of the Year by the Winston-Salem Chronicle, 2008 Thurgood Marshall College Foundation Award for Excellence, Duke Power's 2005 Citizen and Service Award, and McDonald's 2005 African American Achievement Award for Education.

The A&T Alumni Association has recognized Martin as Alumnus of the Year (1976), while Virginia Tech has inducted him into its Academy of Engineering Excellence (2008) and honored him with its Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award (2004) and the Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni Award (1998). He is a former chair of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering Advisory Board.

Philanthropy

Dr. Benjamin Z. Stallings II '84, College of Science



Dr. Stallings graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Biology. While at Virginia Tech, he was a member of the track team, tutored and mentored underclassmen, and founded an organization for minority students interested in attending medical school. He attended the Medical College of Virginia for his medical degree, afterwards training at the University of Maryland for his internship and then completed his residency in Radiology at the Medical Center of Delaware in 1993.

Dr. Stallings is a board certified radiologist who presently serves as Director of the Department of Imaging at Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham, Maryland, where he has worked for 19 years. He is also the President and CEO of Diagnostic Imaging Associates, a radiology practice dedicated to using state-of-the-art technologies to diagnose and treat all forms of ailments and diseases of the human body, ranging from minor broken bones to advanced peripheral vascular disease. Dr. Stallings is a member of the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association, and the Radiology Society of North America. He serves on numerous boards including the Dimension Health Systems (treasurer), the Maryland State Medical Society, and the Prince George's County Medical Society, a prestigious medical society for which Dr. Stallings recently completed his tenure as President. He also dedicates some of his limited free time serving in various organizations that primarily address preventive health concerns in his local community.

Dr. Stallings serves as a member of the Virginia Tech Foundation and was instrumental in creating the Black Alumni Scholarship Fund that was introduced at the Black Alumni Reunion in 2010.

Keynote Address *Standing on the Shoulders of Others*
Benjamin Z. Stallings '84

Special Presentation Wayne Robinson '80
Nucor Corporation

Poetry Reading Nikki Giovanni
University Distinguished Professor

Influential Black Alumni Awards Ceremony Dr. James D. Watkins '71

Young Alumni

Ericke S. Cage '02
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

Ut Prosim

Matthew M. Winston Jr. '90
Pamplin College of Business

Philanthropy

Dr. Benjamin Z. Stallings '84
College of Science

Career Achievement

Pierre Thomas '84
College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences

Dr. Harold L. Martin Sr. '80
College of Engineering

Closing Ellis M. Savage '80
Chair, Black Alumni Reunion Planning Committee

Dessert Extravaganza

Viennese Display of Petite Desserts
Chocolate Fountain with Delectable Accompaniments

Dancing

Reception and Dinner Music by Prestige Jazz
DJ Services by Prestige

Influential Black Alumni Awards

Outstanding Young Alumni

Ericke S. Cage '02, College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences



Cage graduated from Virginia Tech in Political Science and the Corps of Cadets after a distinguished student career that included the founding of a formalized cadet unit—VPI Company—to provide leadership training at the unit level for non-ROTC cadets. After graduation, he taught Government to high school students in the Halifax County Public Schools for two years before entering law school at Rutgers University where he earned his law degree in 2007.

He worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and then as a legislative counsel for United States Congressman Tom Perriello while he was in

office. He is currently the Policy and Research Director for the Virginia branch of Obama for America.

Since 2008 Cage has been a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Board of Directors providing insights and giving us a better appreciation for the views of our younger alumni. A highlight of his tenure on the board was his leadership in setting up a first-ever visit to the United States Congress in the late spring of 2010 for the Commandant and four senior cadets. They spent an entire day learning about the legislative process at the national level including visits with both Virginia senators and breakfast with several Virginia members of the House of Representatives.

Ut Prosim

Matthew M. Winston Jr. '90, College of Business



Winston graduated from Virginia Tech as a marketing management major and served as the public relations director of the Student Government Association where he focused on developing a positive working relationship with the university administration. He led the effort for the joint collegiate license plate promotion with student government and the administration – a program that today has raised over \$250,000 for the university. Upon graduation Matt was hired to direct the university's News Bureau.

Winston began his career with the University of Georgia as the news bureau manager in the University Communications Office, served as the Acting Director for UGA's Office of Institutional Diversity from 2005-2006 and currently serves as Assistant to the President at the University of Georgia where he oversees staff and student issues, athletics, auxiliary services and diversity issues for the president's office, serving as an adviser and speechwriter for the president.

Winston is currently a member of the International Board of Trustees for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). In addition, he served as a member of that organization's Commission for Communications and Marketing from 2009-2011. He also is a member of the CASE District III Board of Directors where he has served in a variety of roles including Secretary and Communications and Marketing Program Chair.

Winston serves his community as a member of a variety of organizations including the Friends of the Georgia Museum of Art board of advisors, the Clarke County Mentor Program, LEAD Athens steering committees, the Clarke County Board of Education Multicultural Task Force, the University Relations committee of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, and the Clarke County Neighborhood Relations Roundtable.

Winston currently serves as vice president of the board of directors of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, served a three year term on the Black Cultural Center Alumni Advisory Board, and played a key role in organizing the Athens Alumni Chapter and has served as president since the chapter was formed.