

Dear University of Richmond School of Continuing Studies graduates,

Today marks an exciting rite of passage. For our School of Continuing Studies students, Commencement is the culmination of a demanding and enriching learning experience.

Papers have been written, final exams have been taken, and projects have been completed. The last meetings and events of the semester have drawn to a close. And today, we stand with you at the gates to your lives beyond the University.

You can look to the future with confidence. You have received an outstanding education and are well prepared for the challenges and opportunities that await you.

Throughout your academic journey, faculty members, administrators, and peers have played significant roles, inside and outside the classroom. Beyond the perimeter of campus, your family, loved ones, and friends have provided steadfast support. We all share in the joy of this day and in your accomplishments.

Please accept our best wishes for success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



William E. Cooper
President



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PRESIDING
Dr. William E. Cooper
President, University of Richmond

Academic Processional March and National Anthem.....James River Brass

Invocation.....The Reverend Dr. Daphne L. Burt
Chaplain, University of Richmond

Welcome and RecognitionDr. William E. Cooper

Introductory Remarks .Dr. James L. Narduzzi, *Dean, School of Continuing Studies*

Student SpeakerJames E. Morgan, '06

Introduction of Graduation SpeakerJoseph J. Laws, '06

Graduation SpeakerDr. Belle S. Wheelan
President, Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

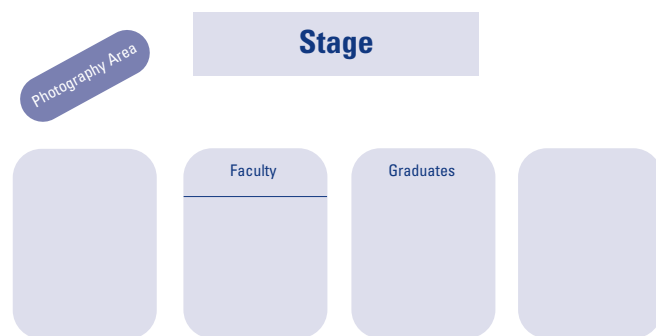
Presentation of Awards and HonorsDean Narduzzi

 2006 Itzkowitz Family Distinguished Faculty Award..... Dr. Debra W. Hanson
Adjunct Professor of Liberal Arts

 2006 Gibb Family Distinguished Alumni Award.....Andrew J. Gibb, UC '83

Conferring of DegreesDr. Cooper

BenedictionThe Reverend Dr. Burt



Seating Areas
Degree recipients of the prior August or January are placed at the beginning of their respective degree groups.

Order of Recognition
Students are recognized in the order shown in this program.

Photographs
Photographs of students at time of recognition may be taken from the Photography Area. The general location is indicated on the diagram above. On the arena floor, the Photography Area is defined by a rope boundary to the left of the stage. To avoid crowding, please occupy the Photography Area briefly only at the time your student is being recognized. A University marshal will be nearby to assist.

Kids' Korner—Robins Center Room 242
To ensure the comfort of parents and small children, as well as that of our other guests, room 242 has been designated as a family-friendly area. There will be a live video “feed” of the Commencement program in the room so parents will still be able to view the program in its entirety. Ushers will be happy to direct you to Kids' Korner.



Other Participants on the Dais

Dr. Patricia Stohr-Hunt, *Assistant Professor of Education*University Marshal

Stefanie Anne HutchisonMace Bearer

Margaret Kristen Atkinson.....United States Flag Bearer

Amanda Grammer BlakeUniversity of Richmond Flag Bearer

Thomas Allan GreenSCS Banner Bearer

Dr. Patricia J. Brown, *Associate Dean, School of Continuing Studies*Reader

Susan D. Breeden, *Registrar, University of Richmond*.....Assisting with Diplomas

Sandra S. Kirkland, *Director of Student Services, School of Continuing Studies*.....SCS Marshal

Connie E. Harvey, *UC Class of '95, President, UC-SCS Alumni Association*Presenter

Please join us following Commencement for a reception on the Robins Center Ambulatory and Patio Level, co-sponsored by the SCS Student Government Association and the School of Continuing Studies.

**Students bearing the Mace, Flags, and Banner, and other students participating in the program are selected by committee and are among the highest grade point averages of the graduating seniors.*

Students in Completion of Award Requirements

**CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED STUDIES
GRADUATES — AUGUST 17, 2005**

Pamela Denise BaileyPetersburg, Va.
Sheila Marie Kennedy.....Midlothian, Va.

CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED STUDIES CANDIDATES — MAY 13, 2006

John P. CackowoskiGreensburg, Pa.
Ronald Richard NicholasSpotsylvania, Va.
John Francis OlmsteadNorcross, Ga.
Janeen T. WallRichmond, Va.

CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL ARTS GRADUATE — AUGUST 17, 2005

Bruce Sylvester Jones.....Richmond, Va.

CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL ARTS CANDIDATE — MAY 13, 2006

Denise Yvette Paul Mechanicsville, Va.

**POST BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED STUDIES
GRADUATES — AUGUST 17, 2005**

Christopher Gerald DruyffRichmond, Va.
David Edward EllisRichmond, Va.
Kevin Wade HarrisMidlothian, Va.
Monique Nayasha Juba.....Richmond, Va.

**POST BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED STUDIES
CANDIDATES — MAY 13, 2006**

Annette Vaya AnifantisChesterfield, Va.
Jane Katherine AtticksRichmond, Va.
Mui U. BarronRichmond, Va.
Cynthia Beausang.....Midlothian, Va.
Jessica L. Beaushe.....Westminster, Mass.
Kerri D. Bilthuis.....Midlothian, Va.
Kathleen Farnsworth BraunSandston, Va.
Russell D. BryantRoseville, Calif.
Kathleen Decker BurdenRichmond, Va.
Leanne Caird.....Midlothian, Va.
Kathryn McKaig CarnealRichmond, Va.
Tammara D. Chalmers.....Richmond, Va.
Lauren Janine Cifranic.....Manassas, Va.
Angel O'Rourke CopelandMidlothian, Va.

Sarah Stenson CrowderRichmond, Va.
Crystal Lynn Dale.....Chesterfield, Va.
Brian Francis DelCorso.....Richmond, Va.
Brian Edward Del VecchioPalmyra, Va.
Rebecca Dee DimmettRichmond, Va.
Andrea Metzler EdwardsMechanicsville, Va.
Patricia A. Faini.....Glen Allen, Va.
Debra H. Farmer.....Richmond, Va.
Crystal Marie Stephens Foster.....Henrico, Va.
Grace Ellen Gillespie.....Charlottesville, Va.
Minerva R. GloverBronx, N.Y.
*Lori Brantley GrammerChester, Va.
Jefferson Christian GreenRichmond, Va.
*Ann Charron Harbour.....Dinwiddie, Va.
Nancy C. Heck.....Richmond, Va.
Kimberly Sue Hodges.....Mechanicsville, Va.
Elizabeth Anne HornbeckRichmond, Va.
Mary Clements HortonWest Point, Va.
Heather Saffold Jenkins.....Glen Allen, Va.
Amanda Beth JonesRichmond, Va.
Jeanette Marie KatonaRichmond, Va.
Brian Fitzgerald Keiper.....Richmond, Va.
Jerilyn Jane KellyRichmond, Va.
Mohammad Gamal KhalilChester, Va.
Jessica Lynn Langer.....Richmond, Va.
Blair M. LauverRichmond, Va.
Kerry Marie Burroughs LoucksMidlothian, Va.
Leonard Norman LoveRichmond, Va.
Karen Van Riper MartinRichmond, Va.
Molly Kristine McMunnHenrico, Va.
Katherine Odette Meyersohn.....Richmond, Va.
Diane Martin MurphyRichmond, Va.
Cara Trites OlexyRichmond, Va.
Charlotte Ruth PastoriusRichmond, Va.
Robert Luke PetreyChester, Va.
Eric Lewis PittsMechanicsville, Va.
April Denise PrentissRichmond, Va.
J. Todd SaleGlen Allen, Va.
Kristen Marie Schalles.....Mechanicsville, Va.
Katherine N. SchmidtMidlothian, Va.
Catherine Lynn SheltonChesterfield, Va.
Heather Butros SimpkinsShelby Township, Mich.
Erin Colleen Worley SlempeCoeburn, Va.
Kristin Blair SofieldRichmond, Va.
Pamela J. TeatesHanover, Va.
Melissa Amy Thurston.....Mechanicsville, Va.
Amanda Kay TibaChesterfield, Va.

Martin Carlyle Tiller.....Richmond, Va.
 Gennifer Michelle Torrence.....Midlothian, Va.
 *Tracy Justice Valentine.....King William County, Va.
 Cobey Goodwin Wagoner.....Midlothian, Va.
 Rebecca Traffas Wall.....Chester, Va.
 David “Will” Weaver II.....Richmond, Va.
 Jennifer Lyn Webb.....Chester, Va.
 John F. Ziegler.....Richmond, Va.

**POST BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN
 LIBERAL ARTS CANDIDATE — MAY 13, 2006**

Margaret Monroe Bethune.....Amelia County, Va.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DISASTER SCIENCE
 GRADUATE — AUGUST 17, 2005**

Charles Everette Vaughan Jr.....Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DISASTER SCIENCE
 CANDIDATES — MAY 13, 2006**

Anna Mule McRay.....Richmond, Va.
 Rhonda Keyes Pleasants.....Richmond, Va.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN RESOURCE
 MANAGEMENT GRADUATES — AUGUST 17, 2005**

JeVon Katreze Lewis.....Richmond, Va.
 Laura Corina Stephens.....Somerdale, N.J.
 Robert Allen White.....Mechanicsville, Va.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN RESOURCE
 MANAGEMENT CANDIDATES — MAY 13, 2006**

Cynthia Irene Epps.....Richmond, Va.
 Deborah L. Moir.....Richmond, Va.
 *Stephanie Diane Starling.....Richmond, Va.

**ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED STUDIES
 GRADUATES — AUGUST 17, 2005**

John Henry Boyce Jr., *magna cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.
 Kathleen Morrison.....Richmond, Va.

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED STUDIES CANDIDATES — MAY 13, 2006

Sharon S. Blackman, *summa cum laude*.....Sandston, Va.
 Vickie L. Brady, *cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.
 *Shameka Vonshay Dyer.....Ruther Glen, Va.
 John Mayo Ennis, *cum laude*.....Fredericksburg, Va.
 *Michelle Louise Gibson.....Powhatan, Va.
 Jeffrey Paul Hitchens.....Richmond, Va.
 Barbara Renee Mead Kughn, *cum laude*.....Charlottesville, Va.
 E.D. Pistolarides, *summa cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.
 Richard Steven Valack, *magna cum laude*.....Chicago, Ill.

ASSOCIATE IN LIBERAL ARTS CANDIDATE — MAY 13, 2006

Marshea Marie Moore.....Midlothian, Va.

**BACHELOR OF APPLIED STUDIES
 GRADUATES — AUGUST 17, 2005**

Tammy Tuck Alexander, *summa cum laude*.....Mechanicsville, Va.
 Terence Hakeem Ferdinand Wakeel Johnson Ali-Ber, *cum laude*.....Chesterfield, Va.
 Dale William Carter Jr., *magna cum laude*.....Powhatan, Va.
 Thomas Vincent Crosby, *cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.
 James DeLoatch III.....Norfolk, Va.
 Douglas Jason Flamm, *summa cum laude*.....Norwalk, Conn.
 Lawrence C. Halley Jr., *magna cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.
 Iris Houston.....Woodbridge, Va.
 Wendelin R. Keener, *magna cum laude*.....Wilmington, Calif.
 Mauricio A. Tovar, *magna cum laude*.....Chesterfield, Va.
 Carmen Ann Willenbring, *summa cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.

BACHELOR OF APPLIED STUDIES CANDIDATES — MAY 13, 2006

Stephen A. Aigner, *magna cum laude*.....Hanover County, Va.
 Melvin A. Bailey, *summa cum laude*.....Powhatan, Va.
 Herbert Lee Barden III, *cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.
 Margaret Brown Berman, *magna cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.
 Amanda Grammer Blake, *summa cum laude*.....Gum Spring, Va.
 *Nicole Veronica Bock.....Richmond, Va.
 Niculus L. Brescia, *magna cum laude*.....Chester, Va.
 Jennifer Ann Brown, *summa cum laude*.....Plantation, Fla.
 Todd Andrew Brozovich, *cum laude*.....Virginia Beach, Va.
 Barbara M. Burleigh, *magna cum laude*.....Richmond, Va.
 *Karen C. Carr.....Chesterfield, Va.
 Joyce S. Cook.....Richmond, Va.
 *Pamela Stacy Deininger.....Richmond, Va.
 John Edward DiBacco, *summa cum laude*.....Norfolk, Va.

Robert Louis Duffus, *summa cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Mark Edward Farina, *summa cum laude*Chester, Va.
 Jennifer Price Gibson, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Nancy Clare Goad, *cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Thomas Allan Green, *summa cum laude*Virginia Beach, Va.
 Steven Eugene Hall, *magna cum laude*Chester, Va.
 *Steven E. Hall Jr.Mechanicsville, Va.
 Ethel Jean Hayes.....Richmond, Va.
 Jeanette Grahe Hayes, *cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Debborah Lee Hobson, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Aloma Jackson Holsten, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Marla Robertson Horsley, *summa cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Mae Elnora JacksonRichmond, Va.
 Shawn Lynell JonesSussex Co., Va.
 Brian Michael Kemp, *magna cum laude*Powhatan, Va.
 Mark Edward Kirkby, *summa cum laude*Chesapeake, Va.
 Joseph Jeremiah Laws, *summa cum laude*Genoa, Ohio
 *John W. LeachChester, Va.
 William Chadwick Londeree, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Benjamin Paul Lyman, *magna cum laude*Annapolis, Md.
 *Michael D. MarrionChesterfield, Va.
 Christopher John Mason, *summa cum laude*Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Angela A. McCullum, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Janet Patrick Mills, *cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 *Sheila S. Mitchell.....Brooklyn, N.Y.
 *Richard Warren Outridge Jr.Dunkirk, Md.
 Kristin Tucker Yost Pickering.....Roanoke, Va.
 *Lona Bowen Pugh.....Richmond, Va.
 Katherine D. Redd, *summa cum laude*Midlothian, Va.
 Timothy John Riley, *cum laude*Virginia Beach, Va.
 J. Kirk ShaffierRockville, Va.
 William Joseph Shukis Jr., *cum laude*Virginia Beach, Va.
 Rebecca L. Sicheloff, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Dana Theresa Smith.....Ashland, Va.
 Lenora B. Smith, *cum laude*Mechanicsville, Va.
 Jeffrey Scott Southall, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 *Debray P. Sparkman.....Chester, Va.
 Elizabeth Paige Stangl, *cum laude*Hopewell, Va.
 Victoria Virginia Taylor, *cum laude*Mechanicsville, Va.
 *David Thomas TowbermanRichmond, Va.
 Sandra Faye Treakle, *magna cum laude*Prince George, Va.
 Terry Keith Tucker, *magna cum laude*Mechanicsville, Va.
 Deborah Jean Weymouth, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 *William Christopher ZelmsVirginia Beach, Va.

BACHELOR OF LIBERAL ARTS GRADUATES — AUGUST 17, 2005
 Heather S. Coleman, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Tiffany Ann Morris, *cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 George Edward Toney Jr., *magna cum laude*Glen Allen, Va.

BACHELOR OF LIBERAL ARTS CANDIDATES — MAY 13, 2006
 Amy Beavers Atkinson, *summa cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Margaret Kristen Atkinson, *summa cum laude*Chester, Va.
 *Andrew BenucciNewark, N.J.
 Judith Susan Coleman, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 *Kenneth Andre DavisRichmond, Va.
 Stephen George Everett, *summa cum laude*Midlothian, Va.
 *Richard Mark GajarskySouth Plainfield, N.J.
 Douglas Lane Goad, *cum laude*Mechanicsville, Va.
 Brian Scott Harper, *summa cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 *Joyce Archer HillChesterfield, Va.
 Stefanie Anne Hutchison, *summa cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Molly Elizabeth Ingram, *cum laude*Roanoke, Va.
 Melissa Louise Irving, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Lloyd G. Jackson.....Richmond, Va.
 *Derek Jason KoenigGlen Allen, Va.
 Howard Scott Margaret, *cum laude*Midlothian, Va.
 James Eric Morgan, *summa cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Michelle Leigh Nickels, *magna cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Kathleen Henry ParrishPowhatan, Va.
 *Richard Ruge PerezGlen Allen, Va.
 Elizabeth Diane Picchi, *summa cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Dagmar A. RalphRichmond, Va.
 *Reeshida De’ete Roberson.....Richmond, Va.
 Joanita Bbaale Senoga, *cum laude*Richmond, Va.
 Heather A. Simmons, *cum laude*Chester, Va.
 Wonda Tyner Smith, *summa cum laude*Midlothian, Va.
 *Antionette Thompson TaylorRichmond, Va.
 *Valerie Vandergrift-RogersRichmond, Va.
 Michael Perrine Wade, *summa cum laude*Chester, Va.
 *Heather Davison WerkmeisterRichmond, Va.
 *Mary Hanniford WoodingRichmond, Va.

MASTER OF DISASTER SCIENCE CANDIDATE — MAY 13, 2006
 *Charles Everette Vaughan Jr.Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

**MASTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CANDIDATES — MAY 13, 2006**

Donald A. Bewkes Jr.....	Crozier, Va.
Jennifer Dixon Bloomer	Newark, N.Y.
Steven A. Braccioldieta.....	Monroe, N.Y.
Leonard Fitzgerald Broadnax	Ridgeway, Va.
Richard Lee Bucher.....	Powhatan, Va.
James Daniel Dillon	Farmville, Va.
Jeffrey William Byron Ensor	Richmond, Va.
Wesley Ryan Fertig.....	Richmond, Va.
Gregory Aaron Jackson.....	Courtland, Va.
Kimberly S. Lettner	Cumberland, Va.
Kylene Raechelle Pecht.....	Richmond, Va.
Roberto Nicholas Possumato	Vineland, N.J.
Andrea Leah Riesmeyer.....	Moon Township, Pa.
Vincent D. Robenson	Lynchburg, Va.
Jodie Lawrence Warren	Prince George County, Va.
Robert Drew Wershale	Richmond, Va.
Daimon D. White.....	Richmond, Va.
Jason M. Zaccarine	Chesterfield, Va.

Awards and Honors

JEAN H. PROFFITT STUDENT SERVICE AWARD

Established in 1996 by the School of Continuing Studies and the SCS Student Government Association, this award is presented to a graduating senior recognized by his/her peers for outstanding service to the University community and/or the community at large. The recipient of this award for 2006 is:

Marla R. Horsley

DEBORAH L. PETERS MEMORIAL THESIS AWARD

Established this year by the School of Continuing Studies faculty program directors, this award is named in honor of their colleague who tragically passed away earlier this year. Deb Peters was faculty program director of the Human Resources Management program and Public Safety University programs. This award is presented to the graduate student who has written the best thesis as judged by a committee composed of SCS faculty and staff. The recipient of the inaugural award is:

Wesley R. Fertig

ELIZABETH SPINDLER SCOTT BOOK COLLECTION AWARD

Given by her children, her friends, and her students, this award is presented to honor long-time adjunct professor Betty Scott and promote a scholarly interest in books, the development of personal libraries, and encourage undergraduate students to accumulate collections pertaining to some particular area of interest. Student collections are eligible for the award during a student's last year of study leading to a bachelor's degree. The recipient of the inaugural award is:

Jennifer A. Brown

**COLONEL (USA, RET.) PORCHER L. TAYLOR JR., PH.D.
BOOK AWARD IN LEADERSHIP**

Established this year, this award honors Dr. Porcher L. Taylor Jr. and the servant leadership he has exemplified his entire life. Dr. Taylor, a Tuskegee Airman, served in World War II, Vietnam and the Korean Wars. Dr. Taylor also served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Virginia State University and has spent his entire life involving himself in civic, charitable, educational and religious activities and causes, and serving as a role model for youth. This award recognizes a graduating student who has demonstrated natural leadership qualities inside and outside the classroom and exemplified Dr. Taylor's role model standard in leadership. The recipient of the inaugural award is:

Marla R. Horsley

JOANITA BBAALE SENOGA BOOK AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE BY A STUDENT WHOSE NATIVE LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH

Established this year, this award is given to the student with the highest undergraduate grade point average whose native language is not English. This award is named in honor of its first recipient:

Joanita Bbaale Senoga

Ms. Senoga, a refugee from Uganda, has overcome many hardships to earn her degree, including escaping persecution in her native land and then struggling to bring her family to the United States. Ms. Senoga worked three simultaneous part-time jobs and raised a family all while attending classes full time.

ACADEMIC HONORS

General academic honors of three ranks are awarded to members of the graduating class on the basis of their cumulative grade point average on work completed in the School of Continuing Studies.

<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	3.80–4.00
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	3.50–3.79
<i>Cum Laude</i>	3.20–3.49

2006 BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS

Book Awards recognize academic success and dedication to the School of Continuing Studies and the University. They are presented to a student in each program, as chosen by the faculty.

Disaster Science

Master of Disaster Science Book Award.....Charles Everette Vaughan Jr.

Emergency Services Management

Louis J. Narduzzi Memorial Book Award.....Christopher J. Mason

Human Resource Management

Richard W. Leatherman Sr. and

Ida May Leatherman Book Award.....David T. Towberman

Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management

Book Award.....Deborah L. Moir

Steve Neal Book Award for the Outstanding Undergraduate Students

in Public Safety University.....Karen C. Carr and John E. DiBacco

Steve Neal Book Award for the Outstanding Graduate Student

in Public Safety University.....Kimberly S. Lettner

Information Systems

George E. Christopher and

George W. Swartz Memorial Book AwardKatherine D. Redd

Liberal Arts

Investment Consultants and Management Company

of Virginia Book AwardJames E. Morgan and Stephen G. Everett

Paralegal Studies

William R. Marshall Jr. Memorial Book Award Joseph J. Laws

Teacher Licensure Program

Samuel E. Perry Jr. and

Nancy B. Perry Book Award (Grades K–6).....Tracy J. Valentine

Ann C. Taylor Book Award (Grades 7–12).....Blair M. Lauver

GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL HONOUR SOCIETY

Golden Key International Honour Society is a non-profit academic honor organization founded for the purpose of recognizing and encouraging scholastic achievement among students from all academic fields. Junior/Senior status and a GPA of 3.3 or higher are the criteria for membership. At graduation, all senior members are recognized by a stripe on their mortarboards. Additionally, the member with the top academic average in each college is awarded a medallion to be worn at graduation. There currently are over 300 chapters around the world, and the University of Richmond chapter has the top membership acceptance rate in the society.

Biographies

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Belle S. Wheelan is president of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a job she has held since July 2005. Wheelan is the first African-American and female to serve in this capacity.

Recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity University and a Master of Arts degree in developmental/educational psychology from Louisiana State University, Wheelan worked for ten years as assistant professor of psychology at San Antonio College. In 1984, Wheelan earned a doctoral degree in educational administration from the University of Texas and accepted the position of director of developmental education at San Antonio College, where she established a new administrative office. Three years later, she came to Virginia as dean of Student Services at Thomas Nelson Community College. In that role, she was responsible for the areas of admissions and records, counseling, financial aid, and student activities, among others.

Wheelan went on to accept roles as provost of the Portsmouth campus of Tidewater Community College in 1989, president of Central Virginia Community College in 1992, president of Northern Virginia Community College in 1998, and Secretary of Education in Governor Mark Warner's cabinet in 2001. She is the first African-American female to serve as president of a two- or four-year public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Wheelan holds memberships in numerous state and national organizations including the Presidents' Round Table of the National Council on Black American Affairs and the Jobs for Virginia Graduates board. She is a member of the board of directors of Northern Virginia Family Services, American Heart Association, Tower Club, Virginia Economic Bridge, and the Women's Forum of D.C.

Wheelan attributes her success to hard work, endurance, tenacity, and being in the right place at the right time. She recognizes that prayer and support from family and friends make anything possible.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Andrew J. Gibb graduated from the School of Continuing Studies in 1983 with a Bachelor of Applied Studies degree in real estate. He is founding partner of Commonwealth Commercial Partners, formerly known as Property One Realty Inc. For the past two years, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce has recognized Commonwealth Commercial Partners among its "Rising 25" fastest growing private companies.

Active in the Richmond commercial real estate community since 1979, Gibb is past president of the Virginia chapter of Society of Industrial and Office Realtors and the Virginia chapter of Certified Commercial Investment Members (CCIM). He is past director of the James River Certified Development Corporation, SBA Loan Committee, and a former member of the board of directors for Richmond Association of Realtors, Virginia Association of Realtors, and National Society of Industrial and Office Realtors.

Gibb currently serves on the dean's advisory council for the School of Continuing Studies and the Third District Disciplinary Committee for the Virginia State Bar. For the past twenty-one years, he has received the Distinguished Achiever Award from the Richmond Association of Realtors. He is the only member of the National Association of Realtors to hold each of the following designations: CPM (Certified Property Manager), CCIM, ALC (Accredited Land Consultant), and SIOR (dual member, Office and Industrial Designations and Society of Industrial and Office Realtors).

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Debra W. Hanson started working with the School of Continuing Studies in 1993 in the study abroad travel program. However, her long and distinguished career with the University of Richmond began in 1980 as an adjunct professor of art history and humanities.

In the School of Continuing Studies, Hanson has taught American and European art, spanning the eighteenth to twentieth centuries, as well as special social and cultural topics on women in the arts, Impressionism, and the Age of Jefferson. A professional artist herself, Hanson specializes in nineteenth-century American art, particularly the works of Lilly Martin Spencer and Thomas Eakin. She also is an instructor in the education and outreach programs for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

While at the School of Continuing Studies, Hanson has received several Quest teaching grants that have helped support the development of courses regarding the Age of Jefferson (which she co-taught with Elisabeth Wray), Perspectives on Truth in Nineteenth-Century Art History, Aesthetics and Social Theory, Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, and Americans on the Move. In April, she was awarded a PETE Course Development Grant from the University of Richmond.

Hanson earned an undergraduate degree in art history and English from Mary Washington College in 1973, a Master of Fine Arts degree from East Carolina University in 1978, and a Ph.D. in art history from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2005 with a focus on American art and gender studies.

STUDENT SPEAKER

James E. Morgan, earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from the School of Continuing Studies and a certification in elementary education from the school's Teacher Licensure Program. A native of Richmond, Virginia, Morgan is currently a third grade teacher at Linwood Holton Elementary.

Morgan designs and implements curriculum instruction based on Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) in reading, language arts, science, math, and social science for third graders. He is a member of the Accelerated Schools Program and Data Cadre, and he is instrumental in planning instruction to meet needs of students of all ability levels. Morgan has had experience as a student teacher at William Fox Elementary School in Richmond, and he is currently a guest instructor of theatre at Henrico High School Center of the Arts. A professional actor, Morgan has appeared on many stages in Richmond, including four productions at the University.

In recent years, Morgan has worked as a real estate specialist at Manpower/SunTrust, a team manager at Service Master/General Motors, and a corporate trainer at Circuit City. He is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, Kappa Delta Pi education honor society, and Alpha Psi Omega dramatic honor society.

His philosophy of teaching emphasizes the creation of an empowering classroom setting that fosters trust and respect among all. His approach is student-centered and focuses on creativity and fun. The greatest reward for Morgan is helping his students achieve their personal best.

Academic Regalia

The commencement ceremony is the means by which an institution publicly acknowledges and honors the accomplishments of those who have satisfactorily completed one or more programs of study. Although usually a solemn occasion, it is not without color and pageantry. The academic attire is of special significance to the participants as each part of the costume represents academic accomplishments and traditions.

Commencement attire has its origin in the universities of twelfth-century Western Europe. Gowns and hoods were probably designed for warmth in the damp, unheated lecture halls. The first American institution to use this garb was King's College, now Columbia University, copying the British academic dress in the eighteenth century. Other colleges adopted the attire shortly thereafter, modifying and personalizing it. As the number of colleges and universities increased during the post-Civil War years, so did the styles of the academic attire. A need for uniformity was recognized, and in 1895, the Academic Costume Code was established. Academic regalia basically remained unchanged until 1960, when a committee of the American Council of Education issued revised guidelines.

At the present time, there are three articles of approved academic attire: cap, gown, and hood. The Oxford cap, or mortarboard, is nine inches square on a soft pointed cap. It matches the gown in color and material with a similar color tassel. The doctoral cap is velvet with a gold tassel. The gown for the baccalaureate degree, and all higher degrees, is usually black. The designs of the gowns are basically the same with varying degrees of fullness, sleeve length, and trim as determined by the academic level, the doctoral gown having velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on the sleeves.

In addition to the approved academic attire, faculty members who have rendered a quarter century or more of service to the University will be wearing the 25-Years of Service Medallion inscribed with the official University seal.

The University of Richmond hopes you enjoy the color and pageantry of these Commencement Exercises.

University Motto

“Verbum Vitae et Lumen Scientiae” means “word of life and the light of knowledge.”