

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A MONTHLY COMMUNIQUÉ FROM DR. SCOTT D. MILLER
PRESIDENT OF VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

becoming BATTEN UNIVERSITY July 1, 2026



Momentum and Milestones

April 2026

Dear friends,

March marked a period of meaningful progress and institutional affirmation as we continue preparing for our future as Batten University.

We recently completed our comprehensive review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), and we are pleased to share that all areas received unequivocally favorable reviews, including our 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation, the Prison Education Program (VWU-Chesapeake), and the proposed integration of Sentara College of Health Sciences. This outcome affirms the strength of our academic programs and the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, and students.

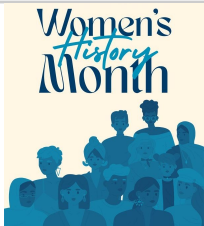
During a month dedicated to celebrating Women's History, it was especially fitting to recognize Jane P. Batten, namesake of our future Batten University, as she received the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities Distinguished Virginian Award, the organization's highest and most rarely conferred honor. We also celebrate Provost and Vice President Deirdre C. Gonsalves-Jackson, Ph.D., who was named a recipient of Virginia Business' 2026 C-Suite Awards, recognizing the Commonwealth's most accomplished and influential executive leaders.

Campus life remains vibrant. We launched our inaugural varsity women's flag football program, the first of its kind in Hampton Roads. Creativity and collaboration were on full display through the SHIFT: Endangered & Extinct Languages exhibit, featuring the work of Professors Derek Eley and John Rudel, as well as the 27th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner, where students, faculty, and community partners used art to support efforts addressing food insecurity across Hampton Roads.

Looking ahead, April offers many opportunities to connect and celebrate. Spring Alumni Weekend (April 10–11) will welcome Marlins back to campus, and we look forward to celebrating with our partners at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art as they open their new home on campus on April 18. Later in the month, we will come together for *Rooted in Impact*: Marlins Day of Giving on April 24, followed by a campus-wide celebration on April 28 honoring faculty, staff, and friends in operational services for their years of service and dedication.

As always, I am grateful for the continued support and engagement of our extended University community. With each milestone, we move forward with purpose and confidence as we prepare to become Batten University on July 1, 2026.

Sincerely,



Celebrating Women's History Month

A month of reflection, empowerment, and community.

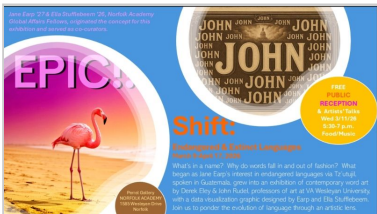
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Deirdre Gonsalves-Jackson Selected as Recipient of Virginia Business' 2026 C-Suite Award

The VWU Provost and Vice President is among 38 leaders honored for excellence, innovation, and impact across the Commonwealth.

[Read More](#)



SHIFT: Endangered & Extinct Languages Opens at Norfolk Academy, Showcasing VWU Faculty

Professors Derek Eley and John Rudel explore identity, memory, and meaning through the evolving power of language.

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VWU Helps Shape Community Tradition at 27th Annual Empty Bowls Charity Dinner

Art students, faculty, and campus partners contribute to annual effort to fight hunger in Hampton Roads.

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Mark Your Calendars for Spring Alumni Weekend: April 10 - 12

Join the festivities at the Marlin Family Picnic, alumni games, class reunions, intercollegiate athletics, and more.

[Read More](#) | [Full Weekend Schedule](#)



Rooted in Impact: Marlins Day of Giving

Spring into action by helping VWU grow, connect, serve, and give back.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES



Sentara
College of Health Sciences



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