



VIRGINIA LEADERS

Linking leaders with a statewide view

Volume I, Issue I
June 2006

Southside Tour Opens Minds and Hearts

When members of Lead Virginia's Class of 2006 describe the most meaningful experience of their May tour of Southside, the word passion keeps cropping up. They were moved by:

"... the spirit of determination and the passion among local leaders to overcome specific challenges. "

"... the impression of economic depression... and passion of the people to work toward recovery. "

"... [Senator] Charles Hawkins' passion and dynamic speech of hope."

A favorite feature of the Southside session was the lecture and personal story of growing up on a tobacco farm by Dixie Reaves, Ph. D., Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, VA Tech, With both passion and hard facts, Dr. Reaves effectively set the stage for visits to tobacco and cattle farms and for the panel of producers of tobacco, cattle, poultry,

wheat, soybeans, straw, grapes, natural chickens and pigs.

The class appreciated having the "ability to see the face of the people at the action level" and "...discovering the farmer's situation and their work to overcome obstacles"

Participants gained additional insights from Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell on motorsports as a driving economic force in Southside, at Danville's Institute for Advanced Learning and Research on the growing role of technology and at Piedmont Arts Association on educating the future workforce and arts and culture in Southside.

Others observed Southside's "... overwhelming sense of innovation and cooperation" and that "the people and their love for their community are the region's greatest resources. " As the intensely packed Southern Virginia session

drew to a close, participants offered appreciation for a deeper "understanding the interests, concerns and heart of the region" and expressed a heartfelt "Thank you for giving us a window to the soul of Southside VA!"



Tobacco ready for planting at Maxey Farms - May 2006 Southern Virginia session

Lead Virginia Launches Second Season

The Class of 2006 is well underway with Lead Virginia's second program season. The class comprises 42 personally and professionally diverse participants representing all regions of the Commonwealth.

Their April orientation session in Williamsburg opened with lunch-

eon speakers Chris Gates, President of the National Civic League and Suzanne Morse, President of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change and member of Lead Virginia's Board of Directors. Lead Virginia's Board of Directors and alumni from the Inaugural Class of 2005 attended the luncheon and warmly welcomed the Class of 2006.

During the session, the class heard from statewide leaders on the past, present and future of Virginia's economy, education and transportation. The experience offered, in the words of participants, "introduction, both formal and informal, with state leaders," "hearty discussion" and a "fabulous springboard" for future sessions.

Inside this issue:

<i>Curriculum Committees at Work</i>	2
<i>New Board Appointments</i>	2
<i>Fleming Heads Alumni Committee</i>	2
<i>Resolution of Appreciation</i>	3
<i>2007 Program Schedule</i>	3
<i>In the News</i>	3
<i>2006 Contributors</i>	4

Breaking News:

- **New web site:** Please visit and enjoy Lead Virginia's updated and expanded web site, www.leadva.org. Now is also the time to encourage prospective applicants for the Class of 2007 to visit the site for the 2007 session schedule and application form for the Class of 2007.
- **Inaugural issue of newsletter:** This newsletter is another "first" for Lead Virginia. We plan to publish several issues each year and welcome your suggestions and news.



Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Danville: Southern Virginia Session, May 2006

Curriculum Planning Committees at Work

Dr. John Thomas, Director, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, U. Va., chairs Lead Virginia's Curriculum Committee. Regional Co-Chairs are:

Williamsburg

-Dr. John Thomas
-Bob Hershberger, Executive Vice President, Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Southern VA

-Randy Arno, Director., Southside Office, Cooper Center for Public Service, U. Va.
-Kathy Rogers '05, Executive Director, United Way, Henry Co. and Martinsville

Valley

-Dr. Mimi Elrod '05, Director of Summer Programs, Washington and Lee University
-Dr. Karen Wigginton, Vice President for College Relations, Bridgewater College

Northern VA

-Rich Doud '05, President, Arlington Chamber of Commerce
-Doug McDonald '05, Partner, Venable LLP

Southwest VA

-Sim Ewing, Vice Chancellor, U. Va's College at Wise and Director., Southwest Va. Office, Cooper Center, U. Va.

-Art Mead, Assistant Director, Southwest Va. Office, Cooper Center, U. Va.

Hampton Roads

-Dr. Quintin Bullock '05, Provost, Va. Beach campus, Tidewater Community College
-Dr. Richard Summerville, Provost, Christopher Newport U.

Richmond

-Jeff Cribbs '05, Dir. Richmond Memorial Health Foundation
-Cheryl Garland '05, Vice President for Community Outreach, VCU Health System.

“Lead Virginia will be recognized and honored as the premier civic leadership experience for the development of true Commonwealth-wide understanding of important issues of mutual concern.”

- Julien Patterson '05, President, Omniplex World Services

New Board Appointments

Lead Virginia's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of several new members to the board at its April 20th meeting:

Donna Fleming '05, Executive Director, National Capital Region, College Summit., Fairfax
Sheryl Garland '05, VP for Community Outreach—VCU Health System, V.C.U., Richmond

Dr. Alan Merten, President, George Mason University, Fairfax

Julien G. Patterson '05, President & CEO., OMNIPLEX World Services Corp., Chantilly

Navy Liaison to the Board:

Rear Admiral Frederic R. Ruehe, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk.

Patterson, who graduated with Lead Virginia's Inaugural Class of

2005, is also is President-Elect of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. He offered his support by saying, "I strongly believe that lead Virginia will be recognized and honored as the premier civic leadership experience for the development of true Commonwealth-wide understanding of important issues of mutual concern. Please let me know how I can be helpful."



Donna Fleming, Executive Director, National Capital Region, College Summit, graduate of Lead Virginia's Class of 2005 and Chair of Lead Virginia's Alumni Committee.

Fleming Heads Active Alumni Committee

Donna Fleming '05 is Chair of Lead Virginia's Alumni Committee. The alumni group formed immediately following graduation of the Inaugural Class of 2005 last November and elected officers:

President: Donna Fleming
Vice President: Jeff Wassmer
Treasurer: Harrell Peterson
Secretary: Sheryl Garland

The group held its first official meeting in Williamsburg prior to the 2006 Opening Luncheon. The meeting was well attended, and they have planned several additional social and networking events in the coming months.

At its April 20 meeting, Lead Virginia's Board of Directors created a new board seat for the President of the Alumni Com-

mittee, and Donna holds that seat for 2006. Donna reported to the board that the Alumni Committee wasted no time in setting goals and launching into several key activities for 2006.

They have also developed a presenter database to serve as a networking tool and are working on the first annual Year Book.



Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors Resolution Honors Lead Virginia

Kate Berger, alumna of Lead Virginia's Class of 2005 and Chair of the Pittsylvania Co. Board of Supervisors, honored Lead Virginia during our Southside visit with her presentation of a mounted plaque with the following Resolution:

Whereas, Lead Virginia is a leadership program that offers a prospective on the changing face of Virginia; and

Whereas, Lead Virginia is a nonprofit, educational program designed to examine issues in depth for a statewide perspective; and

Whereas, Lead Virginia helps develop effective leaders that are educated in regional and state-wide issues helping to develop a better quality of life for all Virginians; and

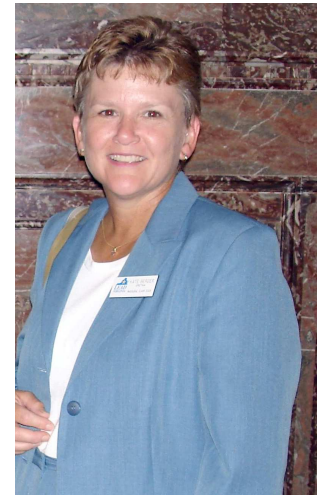
Whereas, Lead Virginia will be visiting Pittsylvania County May 19, 2006 providing a perspective on agricultural development in Southside Virginia; and

Whereas, Pittsylvania County is an example of a transition in the changing face of Virginia; and

Whereas, Pittsylvania County can provide a living example for diverse community changing itself to try to meet the problem

solving and decision making requirements of a changing Virginia; then

Be It Hereby Resolved, that the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors welcomes the 2006 Class of Lead Virginia and expresses their sincere appreciation for their participation in reviewing the changing cultures of Pittsylvania County in Southside Virginia and congratulates its participants on having the foresight and knowledge to get a broader perspective of all of Virginia recognizing the emerging trends and realities of what is necessary to shape a future for Virginia.



Kate Berger, President/Owner, Southside Paralegal Services, Chair, Pittsylvania Co. Board of Supervisors and graduate of Lead Virginia's Class of 2005

2007 Program Schedule

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Opening/Orientation Session: (Thursday 12 noon to Saturday 12 noon)	April 19-21	Williamsburg
Regional Program Sessions: (Thursday 6 p.m. to Saturday 12 noon)	May 17-19	Southern Virginia
	June 21-23	Shenandoah Valley
	July 19-21	Northern Virginia
	Sept. 13-15	Southwest Virginia
	Oct. 18-20	Hampton Roads
	Nov. 15-17	Richmond

In the News

Congratulations to Lead Virginia:

Alumni

Donna Fleming '05 - recently named as Executive Director, National Capital Region, College Summit.

Board of Directors

Dr. Thomas Morris - appointed by Governor Kaine as Secretary of Education of the

Commonwealth of Virginia.

Margaret Lewis - featured as one of the Most Powerful Women in Richmond in the May issue of *Richmond* magazine.

Participants

Scott Hill '06 - accepted the position of CEO of Montgomery Regional Hospital, Blacksburg.

Rex Hammond '06 - appointed to the US Chamber of Commerce's Committee of 100.

Bela Sood - honored by the Richmond YWCA as Outstanding Woman in Health and the Sciences award in April. Bela also received her Master of Health Administration degree in May.

Bob Steere '06 - new position as COO of Reston Limo, Sterling.

Please send news to:
stimmans@leadva.org

“Thank you for giving us a window to the soul of Southside VA!”

- 2006 Participant



Dr. Thomas Morris, Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia, member of Lead Virginia's Board of Directors and presenter in the 2006 Williamsburg session



Linking leaders with a
statewide view

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Lead Virginia's Mission

Lead Virginia links diverse proven leaders to promote a statewide perspective and improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth.

2006 Contributors

Lead Virginia proudly recognizes the following organizations and individuals for their contributions in 2006 and express heartfelt appreciation to each:

2006 Sustaining Sponsors (Gift of \$25,000 each year for four years, 2006-2009)

Bon Secours
HCA Virginia

2006 Sponsors (Gift of \$25,000 during 2006)

Landmark Communications, Inc.
Norfolk Southern Corporation
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SunTrust Bank

2006 Session Sponsors (Gift of \$10,000 during 2006)

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2006 Day Sponsors (Gift of \$5-10,000 during 2006)

Dominion
Wachovia Corporation

2006 Susan Timmons Scholarship Fund

Class of 2005
Harrell Peterson '05
Kathy H. Rogers '05
Marvin Gilliam
Omniplex World Services
The Harvest Foundation

Other 2006 Financial Contributors

Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Fitz-Hugh, Jr.
Charitable Gift Fund
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2006 In-Kind Contributors

Joey and Kathy Arrington
Chatham Baptist Church
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City of Danville: Economic Development, Parks and Recreation,
Water Treatment, City Manager's Office
Danville Community College:
Regional Center for Technology and Training

Danville Science Center
Honduras coffee Company
Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
Kaufman & Canoles
Martinsville/Henry County Chamber of Commerce
Martinsville Speedway
Patrick Henry Community College
Pew Partnership for Civic Change
Philip Morris USA
Piedmont Arts Association
Pittsylvania County: Pittsylvania Economic Development Organization
The Supply Room Companies
United Way of Henry County and Martinsville
Venable LLP
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service – UVA (Charlottesville, Richmond,
Southside and Southwest Virginia Offices)
Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia International Raceway



Participants in Lead Virginia's Class of 2006 at the Southern Virginia session:

Front row, from left:

Susan Horne, President, Leadership Fairfax, Leesburg Town Council, Lead Virginia Board of Directors
Cherry Evans, Director of Communications and Education, Dept. of Aviation, Commonwealth of Virginia
Jennifer Sager, Vice-Chancellor, Virginia Community College System
Back row, from left:

Steve Clementi, Director, External Affairs, Verizon
Scott Hill, CEO, Montgomery Regional Hospital, HCA-Virginia