The Trojan Explosion Booster Association has been busy since its inception in July 2013. Membership has grown by 49% since our first publication. Our fund for support is increasing, but so are the costs and the needs. We can’t stop now in our efforts to recruit donors and raise much needed funds. Since our last newsletter, the band has performed in NY at the Urban League Classic and at home and away football games.

### In This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet the Booster Association Officers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band Staff Spotlight &amp; Student Spotlight</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marching Season Highlights</td>
<td>4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEBA’s First Fundraiser</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synergy</td>
<td>9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the Archives</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honoring History</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band’s Second Home on Campus</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank You Donors - We Need You</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Trojan Explosion Marching Band</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Far above the Appomattox, on it's lofty hill,
Stands the school we love so dearly,
And we always will;
Though the years may come between us, still
what e’er our fate
We will keep thy song before us, Hail Virginia State.
Barbara Steverson, President
A Business Education major at VSC, Barbara was a twirler in the VSC Marching 110. Her career included employment at General Motors, IRS and finally as an Ed. Specialist for Henrico County Public Schools. She also served on the VSU Board of Visitors from 2009 to 2013.

Bill McGee
Vice-President of Membership
Bill is a Dec ’78 graduate of VSC (B.Mus Ed.) (M.Ed. - NSU ’95) Marching 100 student director (“73-’74), staff arranger (“73-’80), Co-Founder Trussel, Instrumental Music teacher Petersburg, Richmond, Elizabeth City State, Band Director - Morehouse College, Smooth Jazz Recording Artist & Producer - 804Jazz, voting member Grammy's (NARAS), School Administrator RPS, (18 years).

Vice-President of Finance
An alumnus of VSU, Charles Finley was a musician in the Marching 110. Charles died in December 2013 and is a great loss to our boosters and the Trojan Nation. He was active in his Jackson Ward community, in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity & was a retired Assistant Superintendent of VA DOE.

We are also saddened by the passing of Mrs. Alice Butcher Jones. A member of the VSC Class of 1937 and a Home Economics Major, Mrs. Jones lived in Petersburg and retired from Sussex Public Schools as a teacher. She was 98 years of age when she died. She was a charter member of VSU Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho and her only child, Ruth Jones Bowles-Macklin and all four of her grandchildren attended VSU. Our own Maurice Bowles, Drum Major Coordinator, is her grandson.

Calling all Trojan Explosion Booster Association (TEBA) members!

Composed of a president and two vice presidents, TEBA has operated effectively for the first half of this school year; however, in order to have more of an outreach, it is important for us to build a board and committees to establish priorities and accomplish them.

As TEBA grows, we would like to involve more of our donors in our planning and upcoming activities. If you are interested in being more involved with the association by serving on a committee, please email our president, Barbara Steverson, to let her know of your interest. Tentative plans call for the following committees:

Partnership  Recruitment  Programs  Communications

We will also seek to recruit 1 student representative from the band, 1 band staff representative, 1 band parent representative and at least 1 current high school band director or assistant.

The plan calls for 4 meetings per year of the entire Trojan Explosion Booster Association. Priorities for the coming year have already been established for the association.
Assistant Band Director Taylor Whitehead knows what it takes to develop students into national champions. How lucky we are to have him as a part of the Trojan Explosion Leadership Team. Want to see a video showcasing the high school students he has taken to many championships? Click on the link below.

**Warren County High School Marching Band**

Mr. Jairamie King, better known as Coach “J”, serves as the Choreographer for the Essence of Troy Dancers. He is the former coach of Blue Satin Dancers of Johnson C. Smith University and also served as their announcer. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University and the Tri-Cities High School for Visual and Performing Arts (Atlanta, GA) [Click Here for Info on Tri-Cities High School], Coach “J” has brought a new level of choreography to Essence of Troy. Coach Salena Scott and Coach “J” work closely together to insure stellar performances from Essence of Troy at each football game. Performances at basketball games will be next on their agenda. Watch for them in the bleachers and at halftime.

**Student Spotlight - Band Managers Aliyah Hoye and Nicole Dunnings**

The Band Managers are a vital part of the Trojan Explosion team. They insure that practices, travel and other essential functions of the band run smoothly. Miss Hoye and Miss Dunnings make sure that water and Gatorade are available to band members as they work up a sweat during practices. Care must be taken to avoid dehydration. During road trips, it is their responsibility to load the food, drinks and other equipment, such as the director's ladder, on the bus.
**Aliyah Hoye, GPA 3.0**

My name is Aliyah Hoye and I am from Philadelphia, PA. I am a sophomore Interdisciplinary Studies major with a double minor in special education and elementary education. With this major, I would like to become a caring, competent, and effective special education elementary school teacher and to one day open my own special education charter school. Though I may not play an instrument, twirl a flag, or dance, I am a music fanatic and have always loved college bands. In high school, I managed football and wrestling, sang in the choir, and Captain of the step squad. The Virginia State University Marching Trojan Explosion blew me away the first time that I saw them on the football field performing during halftime. From that moment on, I went to the football games to strictly witness the band. I entered the pageant for Miss Zeta Psi of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity Incorporated and began to become close with the members of the band. For my sophomore year, not only did I become Miss Zeta Psi, but I also joined the band as a manager. I have grown to love each and every person in the band, and I can truly say that Trojan Explosion is my family, from the instrumentalists to dancers to flag twirlers to baton twirlers to staff and of course my fellow manager. Being a part of this first class organization has given me a new meaning to "Love the band!"

**Nicole Dunning, GPA 2.8 - English Major, Mass Communications Minor**

I was born on May 30th 1992 and spent the majority of my upbringing in a small suburban town of Delran, NJ. At a young age, my parents informed me that I have Sickle Cell Anemia. Basically, this means from time to time I would have pain and would feel very fatigued. Frankly, this disease has the potential to really take over your life, if you let it. I have incorporated this illness into my very identity, and many do not know this, but it is the driving force in everything I do. I always strive to have the most fulfilling life possible. In high school, I worked hard to become a member of various programs. I was a participant in the Minorities in Engineering Program, sponsored by Lockheed Martin, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for Women’s summer program, and attended the National Youth Leader Conference in Washington, D.C. It wasn’t all work and no play. I participated in various clubs. Now being a college student, it is extremely difficult balancing health and school. Every semester, I have to take one to three weeks off because of my illness, and unfortunately it can impact my academic standing. I counter all the stress and anxiety with the Trojan Explosion Marching Band. The TX family is full of some of the most talented people with the most colorful personalities. It is so much fun as well as a privilege being a manager to the best band in the CIAA; they are the medicine that gives me the strength to counter this journey that is college. I love the band so much, I became a proud member of Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority Incorporated. This sorority is yet another way I give back to the band that has given so much to me. Along with our brothers, Kappa Kappa Psi, we serve the band to the best of our abilities so we can have the most successful and prosperous experiences possible. To say my sorority and our brothers are my second family is not only a cliché, but an understatement. Being four and a half hours away from my nearest relatives, they keep me going every day. If I need a driver, doctor, therapist, chef, even comedian all I have to do is go into that GroupMe and I’ll have everything I could ever need. The Trojan Explosion has given me so much, and I know they are one of the reasons I always smile. In May, I will be graduating with a Bachelor’s in English and a minor in Mass Communications. I plan to pursue a Master’s degree in the very near future.

**What the band does between performances determines how well they perform and sound on performance day.**

Night falls and practice continues behind Foster Hall, where lights help band members practice until routines are perfected.
On September 14, 2013, the VSU Trojan Explosion Marching Band performed at Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey (just minutes from New York), for the Urban League Classic. Standing on the home turf of the New York Giants, The Explosion performed an exhilarating show filled with numerous genres of music and a variation of marching styles. In his 1st year as Director of Bands, Professor James Holden, Jr., has made it his mission to showcase the numerous abilities of The Explosion. The photo at left shows The Explosion poised to enter the stadium for the halftime performance.

Recruitment is an important part of away trips. The band staff has an opportunity to show the band in performance and to talk with high school students and staffs about the benefits of attending Virginia State University and being a part of this high performing marching band.

Back home the band gets ready for the first home game. One of many firsts for this year was the tunnel formation for the football team. As the team is introduced, they run out through a tunnel created by the band and the Woo Woos. Practice makes perfect.

There’s nothing like a pep rally to get the student body excited about the upcoming football game. This photo shows the first band pep rally practice in front of Foster Hall. Hesitant band members need reassurance before they step on the Trojan Head.
With the band playing on University Avenue and the Woo-Woos cheering in front of Foster Hall, the band director and Troy decide to get into the action.

Mr. Holden’s brother and sister-in-law surprised him by traveling from Atlanta to see the band’s first home game performance.

Mr. & Mrs. Linares, parents of Shawn Linares, Percussion Section Leader, music major and graduate of Varina High School, are true supporters of their son and the Trojan Explosion Marching Band.

A peek into the band room shows Maurice Bowles, Drum Major Coordinator, leading the band in dance routine rehearsal.
Mr. Holden can’t direct a single note without his Trojan Scarf.

1962 Whiffettes, do you recognize your friend, Claudia, wearing her Trojan Scarf?

Like those Trojan Scarves on our football players? Looking Good!

TEBA’s first fundraiser was launched during Homecoming Weekend 2013. This fundraiser has been very successful and all proceeds will be used to support the financial needs of the Trojan Explosion Marching Band. An order form for this fundraising item can be found on the next page. **If you have not gotten your Trojan Scarf, be sure to order soon so that you can wear it at the CIAA Basketball Tournament. Show your Trojan Pride!**

Scarf Mania 2013

Hey VSU Crew, I only see 4 Trojan Scarves in this photo. I need another photo from this group because I know you purchased many more. Thanks for the support!

Scarves are packaged for mailing to supportive Trojans before the Christmas holiday.
The Trojan Explosion Booster Association
Proudly Offers the Trojan Scarf

Keep warm while showing school pride!
This Jacquard knit scarf measures 7” x 54” and is made of 100% acrylic.

The double-sided scarf has fringed ends and displays the word TROJANS and the VSU logo on the orange side and the words VIRGINIA STATE and the Trojan logo on the reverse navy blue side.

This is our 1st fundraiser!
Funds used to support the Trojan Explosion Marching Band

Cost: $20 per scarf, plus S&H

This order form should be used for all orders placed after December 15, 2013.

Order Form (PLEASE PRINT)

Name __________________________________________

Mailing Address ____________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ____________________________________________________________

Telephone # ________________________________

Email Address ______________________________________________________________

How many scarves? ___________________ @ $20.00 each = ___________________

Shipping & Handling
1 – 3 scarves = $5.00  ___________________
4 – 7 scarves = $6.00  ___________________
8 – 10 scarves = $7.00  ___________________

TOTAL ___________________

Mail check and order form to
Trojan Explosion Booster Association
1726 Hungary Road
Henrico, VA 23228
Checks made to: VSU Foundation
Memo Line: TEBA Fundraiser

Thank you for your support!

Questions to VSUBandBooster@comcast.net
Honoring Our History and Building on the Past

Football team, Woo Woos and Band on the Blacktop

We stand together at the end of each game and sing the Virginia State University Alma Mater.

Twirlers and friends from each university meet during the after game reception given for Virginia Union’s band by the Trojan Explosion Booster Association.

While the rest of both bands enjoy cake, punch and light snacks, the drum lines have a friendly competition in the dark.
TEBA held its first official meeting on Nov 9, 2013 before the VUU/VSU football game. The 18 attendees discussed the progress of the association and plans to grow the number of donors and partner with other campus organizations.

Ivy Benton, band parent, and Jimmie Steverson, donor attended the meeting, the game and are seen here during the reception for the VUU visiting band.

Yvonne Singleton and Sylvia Statton, Richmond Chapter Pre-Alum sponsors, volunteered to assist as hostesses for the VUU band reception.

VUU Band Director Mrs. Fayesha Cousins and VSU Director of Bands, Mr. James Holden, join the students at the reception.

Cake, Punch and Snacks for Panthers and Trojans
Dion Futch, one of the captains of the football team, wrote a letter to the band expressing his appreciation on behalf of the team. In response, the band invited Dion to practice and surprised him with a framed certificate, making him an honorary member of the Trojan Explosion. Because no member is official without official apparel, Dion was presented a band shirt and cap. The band then played two of Dion's favorite songs.

**The Trojan Explosion**  
**And**  
**The Football Team**

Members of the band boosters traveled with the football team parents to away games. This photo was taken at the game in Lincoln, PA. Parents from left are Ms. Niki Johnson (Niko #12), Ms. Alana Stubblefield (Willie #13) and Ms. Pam Mayfield (Daryl #55).

Several members of the Athletic Club traveled on the parents' bus also. Retired Colonel Jona McKee (above center) lets the world know that the Trojans are #1. Members of Code Blue joined us in the stands.

Parents brave the cold to cheer their sons on the field.  
**And**  
**The Trojans won!!!
At home or away, we end the game with all of the Trojans present singing the Alma Mater as the band plays.

Virginia State University’s Department of Disabilities Services kicked off its Fifth Annual Wheelchair Basketball Game in observance of Disability Awareness Month. The Explosion and Woo Woos are shown with several of the basketball players. VSU’s Department of Disability Services partners with Athletics to show the University community that even with a disability, an individual has the ability to compete in athletics.

Dr. Rozelia Roy (standing front right) is Coordinator of Student Disability Services at Virginia State University, and coordinates this event.
Where Is He Now?

Bruce V. Ayers, Jr. (in circle), former drum major, with Franklin H. Johnson, Jr. (Recruiter & VP of National Alumni Association), Jozelle Charles (drum major), Isaac Lee (drum major) and Maurice Jones, Operations Director, during the 2012-13 marching season. Barbara Steverson, then a member of the VSU Board of Visitors, is shown front center. Photo at right was taken just after Bruce graduated in December 2012.

Bruce Ayers

After graduating from Dover High School in Dover, Delaware, Bruce Ayers joined the VSU family. Arguably one of the best students to matriculate through the Dept. of Music, Bruce can play almost every instrument in the band. In addition to being an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., he participated in numerous music ensembles and served as a Commander of Troy (Drum Major) for 3 of his 4 years in the Trojan Explosion.

Since his graduation in 2012, with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, Bruce was accepted into graduate school at Tennessee State University.

As a graduate assistant, Bruce works in the Music Dept., traveling with the TSU Marching Aristocrat of Bands and also conducts one of the small ensembles.

Bruce is currently pursuing his Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Music.

He plans to obtain his Ph.D. and become a Director of Bands at a University.

Guess Who?
Answer on page 14.
Honoring Our History and Building on the Past

Do you have any idea how we came to have the historically black college and university marching bands that we have today? We owe it all to the military and the bands created by the various arms of the military. The history seems to go back to the days of the militias when the drum, fife and bugle were the instruments that made up the bands. As soldiers left the military, where they had learned and honed their skills, they began to play in non-military bands and minstrel shows around the country. Their music became part of the social fabric of the country.

Through the years, many African Americans were members of these early bands. Before the abolition of slavery, African Americans and American Indians were forced to join the military, but were not allowed to carry guns for fear of an uprising. However, they were allowed to play in the military bands. As they were discharged from the military, they too began to play in bands and in minstrel shows that traveled the country.

Eventually a few of the ex military band members became faculty at black colleges. They took their military style marching and music to those colleges. The football field provided a perfect stage for marching and playing for audiences. It was not until the 1960s that the bands with the styles that we see and hear at HBCUs today became popular, with drills and formations on the field.

At Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute (Now VSU) the first band was formed in 1906 as an attempt to form a “boys” cadet corp. to improve discipline and to teach leadership. To see our first band, click the link below.

To learn more about the history of marching bands, click on the link below and once at the site, scroll down to the article.

First Marching Band

Celebrating a Milestone

Professor Holden is celebrating his 30th year as a faculty member at VSU. As Faculty Advisor/Director of the VSU Gospel Chorale and Director of Bands, he took pride in seeing both groups representing Virginia State University at the Inauguration of Governor Terry McAuliffe. After the VSUGC sang (and Professor Holden played saxophone), President Clinton asked one of the VSUGC members, “Where is the guy who was playing the saxophone?”

Answer from page 13 – Mr. Harold Haughton

Mr. Haughton, right, and Mr. Holden, left, came to VSU in 1984 and built the marching band, which numbered 17 upon their arrival, to 150 when he retired in 2003. Mr. Haughton is Professor and Director of Bands Emeritus at Virginia State University.

Click for info on Harold J. Haughton, Sr.
Your contributions to the Trojan Explosion Booster Association provide funding for changes in band facilities and assistance for travel and scholarships. Students know the importance of keeping the new carpeting and chairs in great condition and they value the positive changes being made.

Use the information and form on the next page to forward your donation to TEBA to help support the Trojan Explosion Marching Band.

Student worker, Mr. Dominique Quartermann, takes a second from his daily duties to pose for the camera. A transfer student from Bethune-Cookman University in Florida, Dominique is in his 2nd semester at VSU, plays trumpet and is a tremendous help to the program!
Help us fill the donation level boxes below. Our goal is to fill a page with thank you names.

There are several ways to donate to the Trojan Explosion Marching Band. Whether making a cash donation to help with scholarships, travel and other needs of the band or buying a Trojan Scarf, your assistance is needed and welcomed. Another option is to purchase a Trojan Explosion Booster cap (shown above). These caps sell for $25, of which $15 covers the cost of the cap and $10 will be used to purchase two cases of water for the band.

**Director’s Club Level**
$1000 - $1500
Mrs. Annette D. Rose
Mrs. Nellie Spann
Mrs. Barbara R. Steverson
Mr. Jimmie L. Steverson

**Drill Master’s Club Level**
$500 - $999
Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Kylor Reed
Dr. Conrad Gilliam

**Cadence Club Level**
$250 - $499
Mr. Charles Finley
Mrs. Joyce E. Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Linares

**Tempo Club Level**
$56 - $249
Dr. H. Ray Davis Ed. D.
Ms. Phyllis Lee
Mrs. Colleen Lewis Hesson
Mr. James R. Clark, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Benton
Ms. Daphne Maxwell Reid

**Supporter**
$55
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Ponton
Mr. Alga Evans

**Student (with college ID)**
$30
Miss Dominique Spann

**Hydration Donations**
(to buy cases of water)
Mr. Charles Finley
Mr. Bill McGee
Ms. Peggy Dunn
Ms. Alisha Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Linares

**Troy’s Troupe**
(K – 12 Student)
$15

Thank you, donors, for your generous contributions to The Trojan Explosion Booster Association. Your gift will make a huge difference in the quality of the band program at VSU.

We need enough donors/boosters to justify buying the tape shown left. Band booster seating next to the band would be such a show of support. Mr. & Mrs. Linares have started the section - we need to fill it with band boosters. (See photo page 6)
Donor Levels for the Trojan Explosion Booster Association (TEBA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director's Circle</td>
<td>$1000 - $1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drill Master's Club</td>
<td>$500 - $999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student (with a College ID)</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy's Troupe (K-12 Student)</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Water@$5/case   Gatorade@$12/case **

Trojan Explosion Booster Association

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name ____________________________ (First Name) ____________________________ (Last Name)

Address __________________________

City ____________________________ State ______ Zip ________________

Home Phone __________________________ Cell Phone __________________________

Email __________________________

Circle one - Director’s / Drill Master’s / Cadence / Tempo / Supporter / Student / Troy’s Troupe

If band alumnus, instrument __________________________ Year ____________

Who was your band director? __________________________

Auxiliary? ______ Which (Ex: Flag, Twirler, etc.) __________________________

Band Parent? ______ Band Student’s Name __________________________

Donation Amount __________________________

(Make checks payable to VSU Foundation & add Trojan Explosion Booster to memo line.)

Mail checks to Trojan Explosion Boosters
c/o Barbara Steverson
1726 Hungary Road
Henrico, VA 23228

Thank you for your support.

For Office Use Only

Member #__________
Happy New Year from the Trojan Explosion Marching Band
and The Trojan Explosion Booster Association

Visit us at http://band.vsu.edu

Thank You for Your Support