



NEGRO TRAINING CENTERS OPEN AT PRINCE EDWARD
The Rev. L. F. Griffin Watches Children in Farmville Church Basement

COURTESY PRINCE EDWARD INDEPENDENCE & NEWS-LEADER

Closing and Opening Doors to Education in Prince Edward County, Virginia

In April 1951, 16-year-old Barbara Johns, a student at Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia, led a student strike to protest the inadequate and overcrowded facilities at the school. At the time, all public schools in Virginia were segregated, and Moton was the local public high school for African-American students.

Johns, along with other students at the school, initially demanded that Prince Edward County officials provide an educational facility equal to Farmville High School, the local public school for white students. Johns' action tapped into long-held grievances within the African-American community, and that community mobilized to support her and the other students. The First Baptist Church in Farmville, under the leadership of its pastor, Rev. L. Francis Griffin, became the center of protest over the school issue. Then, with the help of a legal team led by Oliver Hill and Spottswood Robinson of the NAACP, a lawsuit arising from this protest eventually became part of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, a Supreme Court decision that struck down segregation in public education nationwide.

However, the situation in Prince Edward County grew more complex and difficult at that point, since county officials refused to implement the *Brown* decision. Several years passed while the county delayed desegregation until finally, in 1959, a federal court decision was handed down ordering Prince Edward County to desegregate without further delay. Rather than do so, county supervisors decided to cancel funding for all county schools. For an astonishing five years, all public schools in the county were closed. Another Supreme Court victory led to the reopening of the schools in 1964.

This symposium marks the fiftieth anniversary of the school closings. The closing of public schools created deep and painful scars marring community relationships of all sorts. Since the schools reopened, however, a wide range of community members have sought to find paths to reconciliation, working together to create an educationally successful desegregated school system; to transform the Robert Russa Moton High School into the Robert Russa Moton Museum; and to develop community organizations and institutions, both large and small, that allow dialogue and interaction among diverse groups.

We come together during this symposium in 2009 to reflect on the events of fifty years ago, to think about what further efforts at achieving community reconciliation might involve and how reconciliation can be fully achieved, and to assess the impact of the tumultuous battles over race, education, and access, battles which remain unresolved even today.

CLOSING DOORS, OPENING DOORS

Fifty Years After the School-Closing in Prince Edward County

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24: THE STRUGGLE TO OPEN DOORS

4:30 PM, Crawley Forum—*Historical Context up to 1959 (when Prince Edward County closed its schools)*

Welcome: Dr. Robert T. Herdegen III, Dean of the Faculty, Hampden-Sydney College

Speakers: Dr. Peter R. Wallenstein, Professor of History, Virginia Tech,
Dr. Robert A. Pratt, Professor of History, University of Georgia

Moderator: Dr. Caroline S. Emmons, Associate Professor of History, Hampden-Sydney College

7:30 PM, Crawley Forum—*Historical context after 1959*

Introduction: Mr. Clem Venable IV '09, President, Minority Student Union,
Hampden-Sydney College

Keynote Address: Ambassador William vanden Heuvel, Chairman, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, former Special Assistant to U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy (1962-1968), organizer of the Prince Edward Free Schools Association in 1963

Moderator: Mr. L. Francis “Skip” Griffin, Jr., Senior Associate at Dialogos, LLC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25: INTERPRETING DIFFICULT HISTORIES

4:30 PM, Crawley Forum—*Representing Difficult Stories*

Dr. Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., Director, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute,
Birmingham, Alabama

Mr. John Franklin, Director of Partnerships and International Programs,
Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture,
District of Columbia

Moderator: Mr. Lacy Ward, Jr., Director, Robert Russa Moton Museum, Farmville,
Virginia

7:30 PM, Crawley Forum—*Personal Response to the School Closing in Prince Edward County*

The Rev. Dr. Eric Griffin, Pastor, Saint Stephen United Church of Christ,
Greensboro, North Carolina, and QEP Scholar and Visiting Professor of
Religion, Hampden-Sydney College

Mr. L. Francis “Skip” Griffin, Jr., Senior Associate at Dialogos, LLC

Moderator: Dr. Patricia Watkins, Superintendent of the Prince Edward County
Public Schools, Farmville, Virginia

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26: OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS

4:30 PM, Crawley Forum—*Public Policy Issues and Education Issues*

Welcome: Dr. Walter Bortz, President of Hampden-Sydney College

Speakers: Dr. Eugene W. Hickok '72, Senior Policy Director for Dutko Worldwide,
former U.S. Undersecretary of Education (2001-2004)

Dr. Deneese “Dee” Jones, Dean, College of Education and Human Services,
Longwood University

Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth J. Deis, Professor of Rhetoric and Humanities, Associate
Dean of the Faculty, Hampden-Sydney College

7:30 PM, Crawley Forum—*Religious Resources for Reconciliation*

Welcome: Dr. Walter Bortz, President of Hampden-Sydney College

Speakers: The Rev. Dr. Michael Cheuk, Pastor, Farmville Baptist Church

The Rev. J. P. Ashton, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Farmville

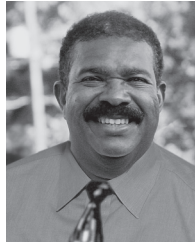
The Rev. Dr. Eric Griffin, Pastor, Saint Stephen United Church of Christ,
Greensboro, North Carolina, and QEP Scholar and Visiting Professor of
Religion, Hampden-Sydney College

Moderator: Dr. J. Michael Utzinger, Elliott Associate Professor of Religion,
Hampden-Sydney College

Music by the Hampden-Sydney College Men’s Chorus, directed by Mr. C. Frank
Archer, Jr. '73, Associate Professor of Fine Arts, Hampden-Sydney College

Participant Biographies

The Rev. JAMES P. ASHTON has served as the Pastor of the historic First Baptist Church in Farmville, Virginia, for over 20 years. As a retired educator who worked for the state department of education in Virginia for a number of years, Reverend Ashton continues to be concerned about the plight of African-American children and the children of other underprivileged groups in the educational system. Reverend Ashton is a graduate of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. During his tenure as Pastor of First Baptist he has given of himself to numerous causes and events intended to achieve reconciliation and healing among the citizens of the county whose lives were impacted by the school closings.



The Rev. Dr. MICHAEL CHEUK has been the pastor at Farmville Baptist Church since August 1, 2005. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Rice University in Houston, Texas, and his M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth. In 2004, he completed his Ph.D. in Religious Ethics at the University of Virginia. Before moving to Farmville, Michael served as an Associate Minister at University Baptist Church in Charlottesville, and as a Baptist Collegiate Minister at two community colleges in Texas.



Mr. JOHN W. FRANKLIN has been Director of Partnerships and International Programs at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture since August 2005. A historian and anthropologist, Mr. Franklin has devoted years of study and advocacy to preserving and spotlighting African American history. The son of historian John Hope Franklin, author of the celebrated book *From Slavery to Freedom*, he is a member of the board for the Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture in downtown Baltimore. He also has held seats on the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the D.C. Emancipation Commission. He was founding chairman of the Smithsonian's African American Association and has chaired several sessions of the African American Museum Association. Before assuming his current post, Franklin held a number of positions at the Smithsonian: program manager at the Center for Folklife and Cultural History, curator for Folklife Festival programs, and a program specialist in the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies.

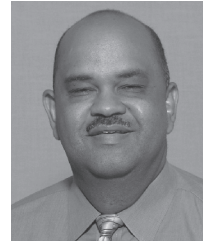


The Rev. Dr. ERIC BANCROFT GRIFFIN, SR., was born in Prince Edward County, the youngest of six children of the late Reverend L. Francis Griffin, Sr., and Adelaide Payne Griffin. He attended the public schools in Prince Edward and is a graduate of Prince Edward County High School.

A fifth-generation minister, Dr. Griffin has served for the past 12 years as the Senior Pastor of Saint Stephen United Church of Christ in Greensboro, North Caro-

lina. Inspired by the ministry of his father, who led the African-American citizens of Prince Edward in their struggle for equal schools, which helped lead to the landmark *Brown* decision of 1954, Dr. Griffin believes that a major role of the African-American minister is to serve as a prophetic voice calling for racial, social, political, and economic justice for all people.

Dr. Griffin received a B.A. degree in philosophy from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond in 1988. He received a Master of Divinity degree from the School of Theology of Virginia Union University in 1991 and a Master of Theology degree from Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 1993. He received a Ph.D. in Theology and Ethics from Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 2007. Dr. Griffin has served as an adjunct instructor at the School of Theology of Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, and is presently the QEP Scholar and Visiting Professor of Religion at Hampden-Sydney College.



Mr. LESLIE "SKIP" GRIFFIN, JR., is a Senior Associate at Dialogos. A consultant with corporations, international agencies, and foundations to provide effective strategies and programs for large-scale systems change, leadership-managerial development, executive coaching, and corporate social responsibility, he specializes in dialogue facilitation, dialogic systems change, and transformational coaching.

For 15 years (1986-2001), he was the director of community relations and public affairs at the *Boston Globe* newspaper, where he championed high-quality public outreach between the newspaper and ethnic associations, non-profit organizations, special interest advocacy groups, and small town and county governments. Skip was one of a nine-member consortium team representing *The Boston Globe*, Fleet Bank, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to successfully organize a major conference on the future of development in the waterfront area. He has also organized other major conferences, including one on health care for 400 top-level executives, which featured as presenters the U.S. First Lady, seven senior United States Senators, top health officials, and economists. As an executive on the Board of Directors of the *Boston Globe* Foundation (1990-2001), he awarded grants totaling 2.5 to 4 million dollars annually.

Mr. Griffin has a significant background in civil rights, community organizing, and community education initiatives; he served as a strategist and media relations adviser for the Ten Point Coalition. He was a plaintiff in a landmark school desegregation case *Griffin vs. Prince Edward County, Virginia*.

Mr. Griffin holds a B.A. in government from Harvard College and a Master's of Education in organizational and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He also has done additional work towards an Ed.D. degree in administration and social policy.



Ambassador WILLIAM J. VANDEN HEUVEL has worked tirelessly throughout his distinguished career as a lawyer, diplomat, businessman, and scholar, to realize Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's ideals of social justice, human rights, and collaboration among nations. Born in Rochester, New York, in 1930 of immigrant parents, William vanden Heuvel attended public schools and worked his way through Deep Springs College, Cornell University, and Cornell Law School, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *Cornell Law Review*. He began his career in public service as executive assistant to William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan during his ambassadorship to Thailand, and later served as Counsel to New York State Governor Averell Harriman.



In 1964, as Assistant to U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, Mr. vanden Heuvel led the efforts to defeat local resistance to school desegregation in Prince Edward County, Virginia. The establishment of the Prince Edward Free Schools Association in 1963, for which Ambassador vanden Heuvel was singularly responsible, is considered a landmark in the civil rights struggle.

During the Carter Administration, Mr. vanden Heuvel was U.S. Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva and U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador vanden Heuvel has eloquently defended the UN's mission and importance. As Co-Chair of the Council of American Ambassadors, he has written reports on Israel and Cuba, and reported on the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

Ambassador vanden Heuvel has served since 1955 as a director of the International Rescue Committee, a non-profit agency assisting refugees from political persecution and violent conflict. He serves on the Advisory Board of the International League for Human Rights.

Dr. EUGENE W. HICKOK '72 is senior policy director at Dutko Worldwide, a government relations and public policy firm in Washington, D.C. Dr. Hickok served as the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush. He also served as Under-Secretary of Education for President Bush. During his tenure at the U.S. Department of Education, he had broad responsibility for the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act and oversaw the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). For six years he was Secretary of Education for Pennsylvania. Dr. Hickok was on the political science faculty at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for many years, as well as on the faculty at the Dickinson School of Law. The recipient of numerous awards for his teaching, he has published articles and books on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the role of the judiciary in American society, and American politics and law. In 1986, he served in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice. He was a Bradley Fellow at the Heritage Foundation in 1990. Dr. Hickok received his undergraduate degree from Hampden-Sydney College and his Master's degree in public administration and his doctorate in government from the University of Virginia.



Dr. DENESEE L. JONES began her service as Professor and Dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Longwood University on June 25, 2005.

Dr. Jones earned her Master of Education degree and Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Texas A&M University. Her bachelor of science in elementary education is from Texas Woman's University. A native of Dallas, Texas, Dr. Jones moved to Farmville from the University of Kentucky at Lexington, Kentucky, where she had served as an associate professor in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction in the College of Education, teaching undergraduate and graduate literacy classes and, for four years, as an Associate Dean of the Graduate School. She was co-founder and Director of the Center for the Study of Academic Achievement in Learning Environments and was a co-researcher for the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development. She garnered more than 2.5 million dollars in grant funding for research on literacy instruction for diverse populations. From 1998 to 2001, Dr. Jones was editor of *Action in Teacher Education*, the national refereed journal for the Association of Teacher Educators. Dr. Jones was appointed an American Council on Education Fellow for 2002-2003 and served at the University of Kansas in the Office of the Chancellor under Dr. Robert Hemenway.

She is the co-author of a field experience textbook, *Preparing Student Teachers for Pluralistic Classrooms*, published by Allyn and Bacon, and more than 30 refereed articles, book chapters, and conference monographs. A former public school classroom teacher in inner-city environments of Texas, her research area is equity pedagogy, which focuses on culturally-responsive teaching practices. Dr. Jones is the recipient of three University of Kentucky teaching awards, two Outstanding Service Awards from the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, an outstanding recognition award from the Association of Teacher Educators, an Outstanding Researcher Award from the Kentucky Reading Association, and a Torch of Excellence Award from the University of Kentucky Alumni Association. More recently, Dr. Jones has been honored with the 2006 Outstanding Alumni Award from Texas A&M for her career of scholarship, teaching, and service; a Longwood University Citizen Leader Award (2008); and an award of appreciation from the College of Education and Human Services Athletic Training Program (2008) at Longwood University.



Dr. LAWRENCE J. PIJEAUX, JR., has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) since July 1995. The Institute brings to life both the anguish and the accomplishments of the long march to freedom through interactive, multi-media exhibits along with an impressive archive and oral history collection that records first-hand accounts from over 480 of the Movement's courageous followers and celebrated leaders.

A native of New Orleans, Pijeaux received his bachelor of science degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge; a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Tulane University in New Orleans; and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Under his leadership, BCRI achieved full accreditation from the American Association of Museums



in July 2005. The Institute has received two consecutive national awards, presented at the White House by First Lady Laura Bush, for community service—the Coming Up Taller Award in 2007 and the inaugural National Medal for Museum Service in 2008. In April of 2007, the Institute was named an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. In 2006, Pijaux was named Alabama Tourism Executive of the Year.

His past work experiences include service as a museum and public school administrator, college instructor, secondary school teacher, lecturer, and consultant. He has received numerous honors including the *Reader's Digest* American Hero in Education Award, the Association of African American Museums' Service and Achievement Award, the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Award for Civic Service, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Educational Leader of the Year Award, and the Smithsonian Institution's Award for Museum Leadership.

Dr. ROBERT A. PRATT is professor of history and chairman of the department at the University of Georgia. He received his bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and earned his Master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia. He is in his twenty-second year as a member of UGA's faculty.



Professor Pratt teaches courses in U.S., southern, and civil rights history. His expertise is the modern African American experience and the black freedom struggle. He has published essays and articles in numerous magazines and journals, including *Rutgers Law Journal* and *Howard Law Journal*. He is the author of two books: *The Color of their Skin: Education and Race in Richmond, Virginia, 1954-89* (1992), which was recognized as an Outstanding Book by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights, and *We Shall Not Be Moved: the Desegregation of the University of Georgia* (2003). He is the recipient of numerous prizes, grants, awards, and other honors.

Dr. PETER WALLENSTEIN is professor of history at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where he has taught since 1983. His research in U.S. (especially southern) history emphasizes racial identity, interracial marriage, and higher education. His books include *Tell the Court I Love My Wife: Race, Marriage, and Law—An American History* (2002), *Cradle of America: Four Centuries of Virginia History* (2007), and, most recently, an edited collection of essays, *Higher Education and the Civil Rights Movement: White Supremacy, Black Southerners, and College Campuses* (2008).



Mr. LACY WARD, JR., is director of the Robert Russa Moton Museum in Farmville, Virginia. The Museum honors the role Prince Edward County played in bringing about racial desegregation in America's public schools, including the 1951 Moton student strike; the 1954 and 1955 *Brown v. Board* decisions; the 1959 public school closings; the 1963-64 Prince Edward Free Schools; and the 1964 public school reopenings.

Before joining the Moton Museum, Ward served as an assistant professor and project manager at Central Virginia Community College and as executive director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Central Virginia. Ward returned

to Central Virginia from Tuskegee, Alabama, where he served as superintendent of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site and vice president for marketing and communications at Tuskegee University. In 2002 President George W. Bush appointed him to serve on the *Brown v. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary Commission.



A semi-native of Virginia—Ward has family ties back to the Colonial Era in Prince Edward County, but was born in Philadelphia because his mother was out of town at the time—Ward served on the staffs of two Virginia congressmen, and was an agent with Equitable Life. He served nine years on active duty as a Naval Flight Officer, commanding the Grumman E-2C Hawkeye. He is a veteran of the Gulf War and participated in combat operations in Libya and Iran.

Ward received his Master's degree from Virginia Tech and his bachelor's degree from Virginia State University. He is a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' Virginia Advisory Committee, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Living History and Public Policy Institute, and the APVA-Preservation Virginia board of trustees.

Dr. PATRICIA WATKINS was born in the province of Bocas del Toro, Republic of Panama. She obtained a B.A. from the University of Panama; an M.A. from the University of South Florida; a doctorate in education leadership (Ed.D.) from the University of Sarasota; and a doctorate of philosophy (Ph.D.) from Florida State University. In addition, she completed post-doctoral studies at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Dr. Watkins has been a classroom teacher, principal, college professor, and Superintendent of Schools in the Northeast; she is now the Superintendent of the Prince Edward County Public Schools. Dr. Watkins was one of the first minority females to attend the Urban Superintendent Academy in 2002. Dr. Watkins received the Extraordinary Woman Award in Education in 2003 while serving as Superintendent in the Northeast.



Robert Russa Moton Museum

The former Moton High School, a National Historic Landmark, stands as a nationally significant site in the history of the civil rights movement and a stirring reminder of the struggle for Civil Rights in Education. Here a student-organized strike in April 1951 led to a federal case heard by the Supreme Court of the United States as part of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* suit. The Brown decision, one of the Court's most important actions, ruled that separate educational systems are inherently unequal and that all jurisdictions must cease segregation within their schools.

Yet even more than a monument to the past, the Robert Russa Moton Museum stands as a monument to a community moving from a divided past into a common future. A 1994 *New York Newsday* report commended Prince Edward County as the only area involved in the *Brown* decision to desegregate its schools successfully and peacefully.

The Robert Russa Moton Museum serves as a Center for the Study of Civil Rights in Education, providing programs to explore the history of desegregation in education and to promote dialogue about community relations. The Moton Museum is also an anchor site of the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail. The trail contains 41 sites across southside Virginia which depict the broadening of educational opportunities. The museum houses exhibits containing Moton High School memorabilia, artifacts of the Civil Rights Movement, and oral histories of former teachers and students who recall their experiences of the student walkout and the school closings. Guided tours, books, and DVDs are available.



Hampden-Sydney College

Hampden-Sydney College is a liberal arts college for men, founded in 1776. Along with Wabash College and Morehouse College, Hampden-Sydney is one of only three remaining traditional four-year, all-men's liberal arts colleges.

Hampden-Sydney enrolls over 1,100 students from thirty states and several foreign countries. The College enrolls young men of character and ability who will benefit from a rigorous and traditional liberal arts curriculum.

The school's mission is to "form good men and good citizens." As such, Hampden-Sydney has one of the strictest Honor Codes of any college or university. Upon entering as a student, each man pledges that he will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do, while he is a student at Hampden-Sydney. This simply-worded code of behavior applies to the students on or off campus. Though it is strict, the justice system is student-run, allowing for a true trial of peers, adjudicated by a court of students that is both thorough and compassionate to the College and their fellow students.

The most popular majors are economics, history, and political science. The student-faculty ratio is 11 to 1. Every student must prepare for and take the Rhetoric Proficiency Exam, a three-hour essay that is graded upon coherence of argument, quality of argument, style in which the argument is presented, and grammatical correctness. After graduating, many alumni have stated that the Rhetoric Program was the most valuable aspect in the Hampden-Sydney information.

The alumni include leaders in many fields and occupations. One in ten is president, CEO, or owner of a business; as many again are self-employed professionals.

