The sound of Christmas music from the Hampton University's wind ensemble graced the ears of 200 students, faculty and staff during the 35th annual tree lighting ceremony. Smells of cider and ginger lingered with the view of red and green lights, with ornaments donning the Hampton University's Christmas tree, to celebrate the season to give thanks.

“The thing that I want individuals to reflect upon is not only give thanks during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, but let's give thanks to the entire year. We have so much to be thankful for,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “Remember to give thanks for the many blessings, the people in your life who have helped you, and always remember to help others. Be of service. During this season, don't ever take anything for granted.”

After Dr. Harvey spoke about giving thanks, the ceremony continued with Hampton University's First Lady, Mrs. Norma B. Harvey lighting the tree.

“Happy Holidays to our Hampton University family. We wish you many blessings during this holiday season and for the years to come. May God bless you and your families and may He bring peace, joy and love to all of you,” Mrs. Harvey said. “As we celebrate this season, let us always remember to keep Christ in Christmas.”

Following her words, Mrs. Harvey threw a switch, lighting up the festive tree, decorated in Christmas colors. The wind ensemble serenaded as guests gathered around enjoying Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and spiced cider. The tree, decorated with dozens of Christmas colored ornaments can be seen near the entrance to Hampton University at the corner of East Tyler Street and Emancipation Drive.

Hampton University Celebrates 35th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Hampton University WRHLI Hosts Second Meet The Leaders Series, with Brigadier General Dick Abel

The Hampton University William R. Harvey Leadership Institute (WRHLI) held its second Meet the Leaders Series of the semester, welcoming Dick Abel, a retired Air Force Brigadier General and jet pilot.

Before speaking with the WRHLI Leadership Fellows, Abel got the chance to sit down and speak with Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

“I believe in leadership. I think that leadership is the key to anything that is successful,” said Dr. Harvey.

“And we’re lacking it in our country and you and I are shoulder-to-shoulder in trying to make an influence, an impact,” Abel said.

“Times have changed and I don't know if we will ever get it back. I hope so, and that's why we have to continue to do what we can do,” said Dr. Harvey.

“You're investing in the vision of this institute. You're investing in the future of our country,” Abel said.

“I believe there are people that are invested in me. I believe that the Lord has ordered my steps and because of that, I've been able to do things that are almost unheard of. I'm originally from Alabama. I was fortunate enough to get a doctorate from Harvard. I've been in the Oval Office of every single President since Jimmy Carter,” said Dr. Harvey.

Dr. Harvey was in the military at a young age. He went in as an enlisted man and he’s still in the inactive reserves as a lieutenant colonel. “There are so many things that I picked up that I still use today: discipline, structure, order, team work, having goals, I got that from my Army career,” said Dr. Harvey.

“I was Air Force, I flew cover over you to protect you!” said Abel.

“Well, thank you!” said Dr. Harvey.
Hampton University Head Women’s Basketball Coach David Six Captures 200th Career Win

Hampton University head women’s basketball coach David Six, the school’s all-time wins leader, captured his 200th career win at the helm of the Lady Pirates when they rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat James Madison University 72-65 on Nov. 20 at the Hampton University Convocation Center.

“I would like to extend my congratulations to Coach Six for another outstanding accomplishment,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. “Since his arrival at Hampton University, he has done a masterful job in all aspects of our program. Over his tenure Coach Six has maintained strong coaching staffs while recruiting and developing great Lady Pirates players both on the court and in the classroom. I look forward to seeing many more milestones in his career.”

Six’s first win at Hampton came on November 19, 2009 in his first contest as Hampton edged William & Mary 71-66. That same season he earned the first of his six MEAC Tournament titles defeating South Carolina State 57-46 on March 13, 2010.


His 50th career win came against South Carolina State on Dec. 3, 2011 (73-41), while number 100 came at the start of the 2013-14 season with a 64-37 win over Saint Peter’s on November 10, 2013.

He tied the school record held by James Sweat on Jan. 3 as Hampton rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat Columbia 60-58. Sweat went 183-40 in eight years from 1981-88 as Hampton was a NCAA Division II power.

During Six’s tenure, the Lady Pirates have won six MEAC Tournament titles, six NCAA Tournament appearances, five MEAC Regular Season crowns and earned a bid to the WNIT in 2015.

Prior to being named the Lady Pirates’ head coach, his first collegiate coaching job, Six spent a year as the Director of Intramurals at Hampton University. That position came after Six established himself as one of Virginia’s top high school coaches, embarking on a career that saw him win 331 games over 14 seasons and take home two state championships (2001, 2007).

Six was a two-time Virginia High School Coaches Association (WHSCA) Coach of the Year, and in 2007—after leading Hampton (Va.) High School to the girls state title – he was named Associated Press Coach of the Year. The Lady Crabbbers were 30-2 that season.

During his time at Hampton High School, Six was instrumental in helping more than 30 players receive basketball scholarships, while transforming the Hampton High girls basketball program into one of the elite programs in the country.

In addition to his two state titles, Six won one regional title, made 10 regional appearances, made five state Final Four appearances, won nine district titles, and won nine district tournament titles.

From 1996-98, Six was the boys varsity coach at Gloucester (Va.) High School, where he twice led the team to the Peninsula District Tournament. He is the only boys varsity coach to ever qualify for the district tournament at Gloucester.

For more information on Hampton University women’s basketball, please contact the Office of Sports Information at 757-727-5757 or visit the official Pirates website at www.hampton-pirates.com.
Wil Haygood Visits Hampton University for the Reading of His Newest Book, ‘Tigerland’

On Tuesday, November 14, 2018, The Hampton University William R. and Norma B. Harvey Library hosted a conversation with best-selling author Wil Haygood for the reading of his new book, “Tigerland.” This new novel is an emotional, inspiring story of two teams from a poor, black, segregated high school in Ohio, who, in the midst of the racial turbulence of 1968 and 1969, win the Ohio state baseball and basketball championships in the same year.

“Our Home By the Sea was inspired to invite Mr. Haygood to our campus. We are an institute of higher learning and our students can absorb a great deal from such a gifted storyteller like Mr. Haygood,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey.

Wil Haygood is the author of “The Butler: A Witness to History,” “Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination” and many more. “The Butler” was later adapted into the critically acclaimed film directed by Lee Daniels, starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey.

Students, faculty, and outside visitors filled the Harvey Library Conference room eager to join a conversation with Historian and Associate Producer of the film, “The Butler” Wil Haygood. Haygood shared many stories with the guests and answered various questions, revealing inspirational stories about how he found the untold stories of his most recent books.

Students were curious to know about the inspiration behind his career as motivation for their own. “When I came out of college, I went through the executive training program at Macy’s department store in New York. After two years, I got fired from Macy’s. My manager told me to take a notebook home and write down what you wanted to do in life,” said Haygood. “I took my notebook home to my little New York apartment and started to write about the things I missed in my life instead. I came back the next day to show my manager who fired me. After reading a few pages, she stated, ‘Wil, whatever you do in life, you must go write.’” Haygood credits the launch of his career to the motivation he received after being fired from his job at twenty-three years old.

Haygood has had an extensive career. He has received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, and the 2017 Patrick Henry Fellowship Literary Award for his research on his newest novel, “Tigerland,” recently listed as a finalist for the Andrew Carnegie Medal.

Haygood is currently a visiting distinguished professor in the department of media, journalism, and film at Miami University, Ohio. For nearly three decades, he was a journalist, serving as a national and foreign correspondent at The Boston Globe, where he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and then at The Washington Post.

Hampton University Alumna is Recognized at Great 100 Nurses Celebration of Louisiana

Danita Potter, Hampton University alumna, has recently been recognized at the 32nd Annual Great 100 Nurses Celebration of Louisiana as an Honoree for outstanding mentoring, caring, and commitment to nursing. Only exemplary nurses are selected based on their concern for humanity, their contributions to the profession of Nursing, and their mentoring of others.

“We are incredibly proud of our prosperous alumni, who are striving every day to uphold THE Standard of Excellence they learned here at Hampton University,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “Congratulations to Ms. Potter on her honorable recognition.”

Currently, Potter is the program director of RN-BSN and professor at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. She oversees a 100% online non-traditional undergraduate program where her students are registered nurses and are pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She teaches nursing leadership and management, informatics and guides doctoral students pursuing their doctor of nursing practice.

This year’s Great 100 Nurses Celebration took place on October 24, 2018 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana.

Potter received her doctorate of nursing from Hampton University in May, 2011. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Grambling State University and a Master of Science degree from Akron State University. Her experience at Hampton was a true life-changing experience. “I truly enjoyed my experiences at Hampton University, my ‘Home by the Sea.’ The PhD program is the best; it better prepared me for my role in higher education and beyond. The friends and family that I gained at Hampton; we are still family. We continue to support each other in scholarly activities around the world. All of the faculty and staff in the school of nursing guided us to do our very best and for them I am grateful to have earned my PhD at HU,” Potter said.

“The School of Nursing Administration, faculty, staff and students congratulate Dr. Potter for her outstanding service to the profession. She distinguished herself as a student in the PhD program, and is reaping the rewards of her labor. I am not surprised that she received the award. While she was enrolled in the program, she was selected as a Johnson & Johnson-AACN Minority Nurse Faculty Scholar,” said Dr. Shevellanie Lott, Dean of the Hampton University School of Nursing. “Again, on behalf of the Hampton University School of Nursing, we congratulate Dr. Potter on this achievement.”

Hampton University Alumna is Recognized at Great 100 Nurses Celebration of Louisiana

Hampton University football and track standout Jerome Mathis was announced as a member of the 2019 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Hall of Fame Class. The class will be inducted on March 14, 2019 during the MEAC Basketball Tournament at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel.

“I wish to congratulate Jerome on his impending induction into the MEAC Hall of Fame,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. “His speed and prowess not only on the football field but on the track in his collegiate career helped propel him into a successful pro football career and now into the MEAC Hall of Fame.”

Mathis excelled on both the football field and the track for Hampton in the early 2000’s. As a wide receiver for the Pirates, he averaged a touchdown every 4.4 receptions. A consensus All-American in 2004, Mathis also excelled in the kick return game. In 2004, Mathis led the nation in receiving yards, averaging 29.8 per catch, and his 35.5-yard kickoff return average also led all of I-AA. He returned six kickoffs for touchdowns in his college career, breaking the NCAA career record at the time, and he had 4,541 all-purpose yards in just 35 career games.

Hampton University Football and Track Standout Jerome Mathis Named to MEAC Hall of Fame

On the track, Mathis was a two-time NCAA East Region champion in the 200-meter dash, setting the regional and school record with a personal-best 20.32 in 2004. He was also a two-time All-American in track & field, finishing runner-up in the 200-meter dash in 2003.

Mathis was a Pro Bowler with the Houston Texans, who drafted him in the fourth round in 2005, and also played for the Washington Redskins.

The MEAC Hall of Fame highlights former student-athletes, coaches, university and conference administrators, as well as special contributors, who have enriched the legacy of the conference since its inception in 1970. Honorees were chosen by a 13-person committee consisting of administrators and representatives from member institutions.

The inaugural Hall of Fame class was inducted on May 29, 1981 during a 10-year anniversary banquet in Greensboro, N.C. Since its establishment, the MEAC Hall of Fame has enshrined 148 people, including the Class of 2019.

Information about the ceremony can be found on www.meacsports.com or www.meachoops.com.
Hampton University Celebrates 2018 Fall Open House

The Hampton University Office of Admission welcomed over 1,500 high school students, parents and guardians, including 101 students who were invited to the Honors Visitation program, during the 2018 Fall Open House on November 10, 2018.

Prospective Hampton University students, parents and guardians began the day with a formal welcome in the Hampton University Convocation Center from HU Administrators, members of the Student Recruitment Team, newly crowned Miss Hampton, Ludwidge Louizaire, and Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, where he thanked parents on their willingness to attend this event.

“There are so many challenges that are facing today’s youth, and quite frankly, many do not have the skills to cope. They need guidance like you and I did. They need support from those who can serve as role models in their everyday lives. They need role models to talk about what is going on in their lives. Not role models you only see on TV and in the movies, they need role models who are interested in their lives, role models who desire for them to have a bright future,” said Dr. Harvey.

“Your continued support and encouragement is critical to their success. So I’m thanking you for your presence, your participation and your persistence. Together, we can make a difference in these young people’s lives.”

The day also included a guided campus tour for all attendees, as well as student and parent panel discussions. An Academic and Administrative Services Fair hosted in Hampton’s three-story state of the art Student Center allowed the prospective students, parents and guardians to meet representatives from all academic departments plus Residence Life, Freshman Studies, Honors College, Student Financial Aid and other student services departments.

The annual Open House is organized by the Hampton University Office of Admission.

“I think that people are pleased with what they’ve seen thus far, and I think they are pleased with the organization of it. I think they are impressed by our students, and they are excited about the future for their children,” said Angela Boyd, Hampton University Dean of Admission.

Jada Orie, prospective student from Hampton, VA, really enjoyed her first official visit to campus. “It’s been a really great day. The welcome and the campus tour really showed me a lot about Hampton University that I didn’t know before,” said Orie. “I’m a dancer and so I’d love to continue dancing in college and I want to study business and be in a program at the best school, because I want to be the best.”

Tony Harris, a prospective parent from Charlotte, NC, came to the Open House to check out the school that his daughter will be calling her ‘Home by the Sea’ next year. “When we were looking at colleges, we were looking for a school of excellence, with a sure foundation. We also were looking at the athletic program for track and field,” Harris said. “We like the long history of Hampton University and we’ve heard from many individuals we know that have graduated and all the awesome things they have had to say about it, so we know our daughter will have a great experience here.”

Hampton University Kinesiology Students Receive VAHPERD Awards

Several Hampton University students received awards at the Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (VAHPERD) convention on November 10, 2018 at The Founders Inn and Spa in Virginia Beach, VA.

“Congratulations to these bright students for receiving and being recognized for these awards. They will no doubt go far in their respective fields. These are Hamptonians who embraced their education and these awards show that dedication,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Tiffani Williams, senior, Kinesiology major from Newport News, VA, will be receiving the 2018 Outstanding Athlete - Team Sport award. Williams is graduating from Hampton University this December but wants to continue her education to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy. She is currently a member of the Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society, as well as the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

“Thank you for the opportunity for this award. My family and I will be attending the awards ceremony and I am excited to receive it,” Williams said.

Marcus Doyle, junior, from North Hollywood, CA, will be receiving the VAHPERD Outstanding Majors Award for showing outstanding personal qualities, high ideals, good scholarship, and professional ethics. The award is given to those majoring in health, physical education, recreation, and/or dance. Doyle will also become a member of VAHPERD at the time of receiving the award. Doyle is currently in AROTC, Kinesiology Club, and the vice president of Phi Epsilon Kappa at Hampton University. “I want to go to Baylor University for their Doctor of Physical Therapy program after graduating from Hampton and become a physical therapist as an officer in the United States Army. I am grateful for being recognized for this award,” Doyle said.

“Dr. David Hunter, Dr. Rodney Gaines and Ms. Stacey Privett, as our Kinesiology faculty, have worked hard with our students to ensure the academic and professional success of our majors. The awards are a reflection of a great collaborative effort between students and faculty in the department,” said Dr. Ralph Charlton, associate professor and chair of the Hampton University Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

VAHPERD is a professional association of educators that advocate quality program opportunities in health, physical education, recreation, dance, and sport. They seek to facilitate professional growth of its members through current research, best educational practices, and legislation that will impact the profession.

“Hampton University, through its Kinesiology major, provides students with the opportunity to take on versatile careers in physical therapy, doctors, sports medicine, athletic trainers, etc. With the addition of the new Phi Epsilon Kappa Honors fraternity in our HPER department, our students are now equipped with both academic and leadership skills to be top professionals in the field upon graduation,” said Dr. Rodney Gaines, assistant professor for the Hampton University Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. “Students are being awarded for not only academics, but their leadership skills in service learning, fundraising, networking, and administrative excellence.” Dr. Gaines will be receiving the 2018 College/University Physical Educator of the Year award at the ceremony.

The following is a list of Hampton University students who received awards at the ceremony:

- Lauryn Pepall
- Marcus Doyle
- Tiffani Williams
- Leslie Rolle
- Marcus Chavis
- Zahra Hill
- Jasmine Sellers
- Brittany Faison