

## Alumni Launch Black Men Ventures, A Community for Black Entrepreneurs



**Alfred Duncan (AS '98)** wrote and performed the song "BLM Plaza" with Steve Roy in 2020 amidst a rise in awareness about racial injustice and during a global pandemic that affected businesses of every size. The chorus features the repetition of the line "Breaking bread, making plans, building with my brothers." That sentiment and an alliance with the Black female entrepreneurship community Black Girl Ventures led Duncan and fellow former student-athletes **Billy Blake (AS '99)** and Shawn C. Williams and several of their colleagues to found **Black Men Ventures**.

Intended to be the "plug" to community and provide capital for Black male entrepreneurs nationwide, Black Men Ventures, according to its website, "envision(s) a world where Black men founders have equitable access to professional and financial capital to meet business milestones that lead to sustainable economic advancement and narrow the wealth gap through entrepreneurship."

As a newly formed organization, the founders hope to eventually provide a resource hub for Black male entrepreneurs worldwide.

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### Hit The Links For A Great Cause With The Legacy Golf Tournament

Ready to have fun for a great cause? Then come join us at the Winchester Country Club for a day of golf and reconnection. The senior class of the Shenandoah University School of Business is organizing the first Legacy Golf Tournament for scholarships—and you are invited!

Visit [su.edu/golf](http://su.edu/golf) to learn more. We hope to see you on Friday, May 7!

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



### The Harold Herman Lab Theatre Is Now Open!

We recently celebrated the opening of a new state-of-the-art teaching and student performance space: the Harold Herman Lab Theatre. In that virtual celebration, we provided an overview of the space, remembered our beloved Harold "Hal" Herman, and honored the many donors and friends who made this special project possible.

The Harold Herman Lab Theater builds upon Hal's reputation for excellence in theater, his commitment to the highest levels of teaching and student performance, and his legacy at Shenandoah. The Harold Herman Lab Theatre is equipped with state-of-the-art lighting design and sound tools and offers the flexibility of both a multi-use performance space and classroom with seating for approximately 60 guests.

We are now thrilled to share an exciting virtual experience with you. To view the virtual celebration and to learn more about Harold Herman and his contributions to Shenandoah Conservatory and Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, please visit [su.edu/hhl](http://su.edu/hhl).

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### A Message From Susan Wyatt Helsley '76, '85

Greetings from Winchester!

Spring is in the air! The Winchester campus is lovely – trees and flowers are blooming, and the grass is turning that beautiful shade of spring green. It's a pleasure to drive through campus this time of year. Students, faculty and staff are outside taking advantage of the beautiful weather.

Speaking of blooming, Winchester is gearing up for Apple Blossom! Yes, the Bloom is happening this year.

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### Join Us For The Public Service: Values To Action Virtual Panel

Join the Center for Civic Engagement at 7 p.m. (EST) tonight, April 14, as they host this virtual panel discussion. During this interactive event, public leaders will discuss how their experiences and backgrounds have influenced their values and engagement in the community and state. Panelists include members of the SU family: Delegate **Wendy Gooditis '12 (D)**, Judge **Chris Collins '92, '00 (R)**, Mayor **Charles Harbaugh '09, '11 (I)**, and **Tinesha Allen '21**, a member of the Stafford County board of supervisors. The group will have a moderated conversation and will leave time for an audience Q&A.

Participate in this event to better understand how to advocate for issues that impact you and your community the most! For more information, contact [serve@su.edu](mailto:serve@su.edu).

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### Shenandoah Podcast Shares Teaching Tips And Trends In The Classroom

Transformative Teaching and Learning is delighted to announce its new podcast, Buzzwords: Conversations About Teaching and Learning at SU. Hosted by Associate Professor of Esports Joey Gawrysiak, Professor of Psychology Scott King, and Women's Head Basketball Coach Melissa Smeltzer-Kraft and produced by graduate student Zander Merle-Smith, Buzzwords features a different faculty member in each episode.

Over the course of 30 minutes, guests share their highs and lows, their favorite "buzzword" related to teaching, their technology tool tips, and more. Guests thus far include Alida Gibson (Psychology), Montressa Washington (Business), and Erika Francis (Physician Assistant Studies). Future episodes will feature Phil Liversedge (Health and Physical Education), Hakeem Leonard (Music Therapy), Mohammad Obeid (Applied Technology), Lisa Levinson (Nursing), and Amber Wesner (Pharmacy). After only three episodes, Buzzwords has nearly 200 downloads.

You can hear Buzzwords for yourself via [Podbean](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#). Take a listen - and as they say at the end of each episode - Keep On Buzzin! Questions? Email [buzzwords@su.edu](mailto:buzzwords@su.edu).

[LISTEN TO THE PODCAST HERE](#)



## Additional University & Alumni News



### Spread the good word about the Shenandoah University School of Business!

With the leadership of Dean Astrid Sheil and President Tracy Fitzsimmons, the School of Business is aggressively seeking to expand the business school's footprint in Northern Virginia and, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with virtual classes, to all potential students. They need your help in spreading the word among your professional colleagues and friends. Today, Shenandoah offers an array of graduate business programs, from its flexible format MBA to short-term, stackable graduate certificates in Cyber Security, Digital Marketing, Esports Management, and Health Care Management, with more soon to follow in Data Analytics, Supply Chain Management, and Logistics.

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### 2021 University Commencement Update -- Good News

The Governor of Virginia has released preliminary guidance for how colleges and universities may safely hold in-person graduation and commencement events this spring and summer. With this heartening news, the university will be able to hold its multiple, in-person University Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 22, and Sunday, May 23, and students will be able to walk across the commencement stage in front of their loved ones as part of a special and safe event.

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### Successful Alumni Profile: Michael Sbandi '10, Business Administration

Michael Sbandi '10 is the vice president for global information security and senior manager for Bank of America Merrill Lynch. In this position, he leads teams that develop technology and automation to protect their customers and assets.

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**Featured Class News Of The Month: Jeffrey Huston (P '18)** was appointed by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine in January 2021 to the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, with his first term ending June 30, 2024. [READ MORE](#)

