

Hampton University

History

WHEN THE HAMPTON NORMAL AND AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE opened its doors in April 1868, in the days of Reconstruction, listed as assets were two teachers, 15 students, little money or equipment, and the faith in its principle of “learning by doing” and “education for life.”

The principal was Samuel Chapman Armstrong, a 29-year-old Brevet Brigadier General, son of missionary parents. He had been assigned by the Freedmen’s Bureau to help solve the problems of the thousands of former slaves who had gathered behind Union lines on the Virginia Peninsula. He founded, with the aid of the American Missionary Association, a school in Hampton, Virginia to train selected young men and women “who should go out and teach and lead their people, first by example... and in this way build up an industrial system for the sake, not only of self-support and intelligent labor, but also for the sake of character.” His goal was to train “the head, the hand, and the heart” of Hampton’s students.

Hampton may well be thankful that in the concept of “Education for Life” — including efficiency, character, and usefulness to society — General Armstrong established a standard, timeless in its appeal and usefulness. Hampton today finds this concept highly adaptable to the changing conditions of life in this century that will be the challenges of the Twenty-Second Century.

The first conditions for admission were simple: “Sound health, good character, age not less than 14 years or not more than 25, ability to read and write intelligibly, knowledge of arithmetic through long division, intention to remain throughout the whole course of three years and to become a teacher.”

Support in the early days came from philanthropic and religious groups and individuals, from Federal Land-Grant Funds (1872-1920), and numerous other sources. With the help of the Freedmen’s Bureau and northern philanthropists, the school was able to erect a classroom building — the Academy, rebuilt in 1871. In 1870, the institution’s enrollment was

reported as 86 students; by 1871 it was 133. Residence quarters, however, continued to be a problem, with the men living in army tents for three years and the women living in barracks until the completion of Virginia Hall in 1874. Some of the money for this building was raised by the Hampton Singers, who, accompanied by General Armstrong, toured northern communities.

In 1878, a group of Native Americans was sent to Hampton to be educated with the help of federal funds. These appropriations were continued until 1912. Native American students continued to attend Hampton until 1923, when Native American or “Indian” schools had become more numerous and were well enough equipped for Hampton to discontinue its successful contribution to Native American education.

After the death of General Armstrong in 1893, his work was continued and expanded for nearly a quarter-century under the leadership of the late Reverend Hollis B. Frissell. In 1916, Hampton achieved status as a four-year secondary school by the Virginia Department of Public Instruction. The first bachelor’s degrees were awarded in 1922. Courses at the elementary and secondary levels were dropped gradually, and all resources of the institution were applied to education at the college level. In 1930, the school’s name changed to Hampton Institute and the title of its chief officer from principal to president. Accreditation as a Class “A” College was achieved during the 1932-33 academic year.

In line with its broadening education program, the College inaugurated graduate courses in 1928. The Master of Arts degree in the field of education was offered with all work done toward the degree required to be undertaken during summer school sessions only. Although discontinued in 1949, graduate study was reactivated in 1956, and for the first time was offered during the regular year as well as during summer school. The Division of Graduate Studies was organized in 1956 as the administrative unit to replace the former Division of Summer Extension Study. Then in October 1967, following a visitation by representatives of

the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a new all-institution faculty committee, the Graduate Council, was organized. A Master of Arts in Nursing was added in 1976 and Communication Disorders in 1977. The degrees of Master of Science in Biology, Communicative Disorders, and Nursing were approved for the 1978-79 academic year.

It was in 1978 that Dr. William Robert Harvey was appointed to serve as President of Hampton Institute. Since 1978, Dr. Harvey has served with distinction as president. He initially served as President of Hampton Institute, a high quality liberal arts college, then as President of Hampton University, an undergraduate and graduate comprehensive university, with a strong liberal arts undergirding, offering undergraduate and graduate, professional and research degrees up to the doctorate. In recognition of the growth and evolution of the school in 1984 the Board of Trustees officially adopted the name Hampton University, while continuing to use the name Hampton Institute for the Undergraduate College.

When Dr. Harvey arrived, the institution's endowment was \$29 million. Now it exceeds \$265 million. The university's first capital fundraising campaign under Harvey in 1979 had a goal of \$30 million. That campaign raised \$46.4 million. Its most recent campaign had a goal of \$200 million and raised \$264 million.

Over his 35 years of leadership, Dr. Harvey created a monumental legacy having one of the longest tenures of any sitting president of a college or university in the country. He has served as President of Hampton University longer than any of his predecessors. In addition to being named one of the most outstanding and in the top five, of all HBCU presidents in history, President Harvey, an astute businessman, is also 100% owner of a Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Houghton, Michigan.

During his tenure, Dr. Harvey has made countless contributions to the University, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation. Currently, 15 of his senior administrators have gone on to serve as presidents of other colleges and universities and one has gone on to serve as president of a bank. Dr. Harvey has been an advisor to governors on social and education

issues and has served publicly on boards appointed by Presidents of the United States, including Chair of the White House Initiative on HBCUs during the Obama Administration. Few individuals have demonstrated the dedication to education and national interests that Dr. Harvey has demonstrated throughout his distinguished career.

Since being named President, Dr. Harvey has introduced countless innovations which have solidified Hampton University's stellar position among the nation's finest and most successful colleges and universities. His innovative leadership is reflected in the growth and quality of the University's student population, academic programs, physical facilities, and financial base. He has masterminded the creation of 10 additional residential buildings, 12 additional world-class specialty academic structures (including two three-story biomedical research buildings), six Division I world-class quality sports and recreation facilities, and 14 new administrative buildings. Under his administration, \$50,000,000 was invested on the renovation of existing facilities. Older structures were either completely modernized or replaced with newer buildings. In addition, he has assured the University's future by expanding the University's financial base. He has created revenue-producing investments such as having (1) developed the Hampton Harbors 246 two-bedroom apartments and shopping complex, (2) established a business incubator, (3) created one of the finest university museums in the country, (4) built the world's largest Proton Beam Cancer Treatment facility, (5) purchased the Strawberry Banks properties for the expansion of real estate investments, and (6) purchased the tallest building (13 stories) in downtown Hampton.

During Dr. Harvey's tenure as President, the student enrollment increased from approximately 2,700 students to over 6,300. Moreover, the average SAT score of entering freshmen has increased approximately 300 points! His commitment to expansion and innovation in academic programs has resulted in 76 new academic programs being implemented under his watch. Some of these new thrusts

include undergraduate programs in Journalism, Computer Science, Marine Science, Entrepreneurship, Chemical, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Airway Science, Emergency Medical Assistance Management; graduate programs in Business Administration (MBA), Applied Mathematics; and doctoral degree programs in Physics, Pharmacy, Atmospheric and Planetary Science, Nursing and Physical Therapy, Business Administration, Educational Management and Nursing Administration. Under his leadership the faculty engaged in world class research, including cancer treatment using proton therapy, launching of NASA Satellites to study noctilucent clouds and global climate change, skin of color research focusing on skin diseases that disproportionately impact people of color, Alzheimer's research and alternative fuels to nanodevices combining diagnostic and therapeutic functions for early diagnosis and treatment of arthritis. Under the leadership of President Harvey, Hampton University rose to be a leader in research and technology not only in the Hampton Roads area and Virginia, but nationwide.

The University boasts of having the distinction of serving as a National Physics Frontier Center, winning a \$92 million dollar grant to launch weather satellites into orbit, winning a \$12 million contract to provide 4.5 million textbooks and supplemental materials to African countries, winning numerous STEM research grants including a 13.5 million dollar Minority Men's Health Initiative Grant.

In his commitment to the success of others, Dr. Harvey initiated the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute to teach students principles and ethics of effective leadership. After developing the Harvey Principles of Effective Leadership Model 13 years ago, he initiated an annual William R. Harvey Executive Leadership Summit designed to educate and expose senior higher education executives, institutional presidents and others to the effective use of his ten leadership principles: (1) Vision, (2) Work Ethic, (3) Academic Excellence, (4) Team Building, (5) Innovation, (6) Courage, (7) Management, (8) Fairness, (9) Fiscal

Conservatism, and (10) Results. Participants in these annual summits have included senior executives; senior officers of state and federal agencies; and sitting college and university presidents, representing the full range of academic institutions: small, mid-size, and large institutions, predominantly white and predominantly black institutions, private and public, as well as in- and out-of-state institutions of higher education.

Hampton University's online education program was operational prior to 2009, however, it became fully operational under a nationally marketed brand called HUOnline housed within the College of Education and Continuing Studies in 2010. Several new graduate degree programs were introduced online, including the Ph.D. in Education Management and the Ph.D. in Business Management. The online program at Hampton University further transitioned into HU University College in 2013, incorporating the online program and continuing studies. The existing College of Education and Continuing Studies became the College of Education and Human Development. Today, Hampton University is comprised of the Undergraduate College, the Graduate College, University College, and the College of Virginia Beach.

In sum, Dr. Harvey has transformed Hampton University from a small black college to a world-class leader in the field of higher education and world-class research. Today, the University boasts a number of distinctions that set it apart from other mid-sized institutions in the nation. Students are afforded unique opportunities to engage in world class research, compete nationally and internationally in athletics, enjoy the niceties of an equestrian program, and an opportunity to join the sailing team. Faculty members remain poised at the leading edge of discovery with patents on such items as a breast cancer detection device and prosthesis for artificial limbs.

From humble origins, Hampton University has evolved into a prestigious, nationally acclaimed university that exemplifies The Standard of Excellence in education.

