

**February 2012**

One of the great privileges I am afforded as Regent University's president is the opportunity to welcome some of the extraordinary men and women who regularly visit our campus to speak to students, faculty and staff, as well as to members of the public. The blessing, of course, comes with the added privilege of hearing these speakers and being inspired by their words. January brought more than one such opportunity.



Dr. Carlos Campo,  
President

On January 12, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore—recognized as having one of the nation's top-ranked undergraduate schools—shared his insights about higher education with more than 400 guests at Regent's Executive Leadership Series luncheon. He quoted his mother, who became a teacher and credits literature for changing her life. "I now understand that teachers touch eternity through their students," she said.

Only a few days later, Regent hosted the Urban League's 28th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Awards Breakfast, held at The Founders Inn. Kay Coles James, president and founder of the Gloucester Institute, was the keynote speaker. James, a former dean of Regent's Robertson School of Government, told a crowd of more than 700 that to advance Dr. King's work we all must embrace the importance of prayer, the importance of family and the importance of education.

The words of great leaders like Dr. Hrabowski and Mrs. James remind me of why Regent's dedication to doing all things in excellence to the glory of God is so important. That dedication is why we continue to attract students like Rev. Jim Wood, who, well into his career as a pastor and leader, finds value in a Regent University education that is committed to Christ-first excellence.

**Partner Profile: Rev. Jim Wood**

Rev. Jim Wood

He likes to run, ride his bike, ride the waves, backpack and read. He recently reached the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro with his eldest son. He serves as a traditional tribal elder in the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya, where he spends several months each year. So deep is the love of Rev. Jim Wood's entire family for the people of Kenya that they were all adopted into the Kikuyu tribe.

The senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Norfolk for 13 years, Wood, a South Carolina native, is closely connected to Regent University. "I first heard about the school from Conoly Phillips, one of our church members and former chairman of Regent's board," Wood explains. "But there have always been Regent staff, faculty, students and alumni in our congregation, and I've been impressed with all of them."

Wood says that his affinity for and impressions of the school were immediate. "To this day I marvel at the people at Regent who are filled with ideas, who are great visionaries," Wood says, adding that he also finds the excellent caliber of guest speakers Regent brings to the campus—people like John Maxwell and Dan Cathy—to play an important role in the vibrancy of Hampton Roads. "But Regent's reputation extends far beyond Hampton Roads," Wood explains. "I've heard people in Africa talk about the university and its programs with such respect."

Wood also has firsthand experience with Regent's excellence in the classroom; he just finished the classwork for his Ph.D. in Global Leadership in the university's School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE). With degrees from several leading universities, including the Princeton Theological Seminary, Wood says that he has been more challenged by the quality of academics at Regent than anywhere else. "And," he adds, "there is a heart for application in the Kingdom at Regent that is unparalleled."

Wood says that the GLE Ph.D. program was the perfect fit for him because of the work he does in Kenya. "But for me, it's not so much about the degree as it is about what I have learned. It has had a huge impact on my ministry; I see things differently now."

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**Annual Campaign Raises Funds for Local Charities**

In the true spirit of loving thy neighbor as thyself, Regent employees again showed their generosity in contributing to the United Way of South Hampton Roads' annual campaign—exceeding last year's giving. [Read the story.](#)

**Community Leaders Awarded in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr.**

Regent was privileged to host the Urban League of Hampton Roads' 28th Annual Community Awards Breakfast at The Founders Inn on January 16. More than 750 guests were inspired by the keynote speech delivered by Mrs. Kay Coles James. [Read the story.](#)

**RSG Announces Master of Public Administration**

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has approved the Robertson School of Government's new Master of Public Administration degree program that will launch this fall. The program will be offered online and on campus. [Read the story.](#)

**Licensure-Track Master's Program Gains CACREP Accreditation**

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) has extended existing accreditation of the professional counseling programs offered at Regent's School of Psychology & Counseling to include the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. [Read the story.](#)

**Did You Know?**

A regular feature of insights and personal facts about President Campo and his staff. This month:

Tori Ackerman loves the mountains, and while living in Colorado, she hiked up one of the "Fourteeners"—mountains 14,000 to 15,000 feet high—on multiple occasions. Pikes Peak is one of 53 "Fourteeners"—about 25 miles round trip. Tori once hiked it up AND back in 11 hours!

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