Donna Price Henry was elected Chancellor of The University of Virginia’s College at Wise by the University of Virginia Board of Visitors on December 7, 2012 and assumed office on January 18, 2013. As the College’s eighth Chancellor, she is responsible for leading UVa Wise and its constituents in fulfilling its mission of student success and service to Southwest Virginia and the Commonwealth. Under Chancellor Henry’s leadership, UVa-Wise is realizing its vision for the future through the implementation of its strategic plan, Envisioning 2020. Accomplishments include recruiting and retaining faculty through more competitive salaries; securing and filling endowed professorships; establishing a success coaching model to improve freshmen retention; partnering with U.Va. on a joint admissions program for wait-listed students; targeting financial aid to attract talented students with diverse interests; expanding students’ experiential learning opportunities such as research fellowships and study abroad; enhancing STEM-H opportunities through the launch of an Early College Academy, increasing resources, and summer enrichment programming; creating a new interactive website and award-winning recruitment materials; transitioning to NCAA Division II athletics; securing multi-million grants to spur economic development in the region - among many others.

Chancellor Henry is active in the community and Commonwealth. She serves on the Wise County Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Virginia Public Education Consortium, Cove Ridge Foundation and Advisory Committee, Southwest Virginia Health Authority, LEAD Virginia, GO Virginia and the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)-

Keynote Speaker Bios

Megan Atkinson Hamilton received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance from Columbus State University and a masters in Liberal Studies from East Tennessee State University. She is the founder and creator of Barter Theatre’s award-winning Project REAL (Reinforcing Education through Artistic Learning). Her work with Project REAL has lead her to create a Masters of Art and Graduate Certificate Program concentrated in Applied Theatre/REAL Pedagogy at East Tennessee State University. Megan has also collaborated with Virginia Tech to provide and evaluate a professional development program for math and science teachers. Because of her work with Virginia Tech, she was invited and spoke on how REAL addresses education and social change at the International Academic Forum in England in the summer of 2016. Megan has also studied at the Institute of Movement in Manhattan, Michael Chekov Studio, Gas and Electric Arts Company. Her career as a theatre artist began as a Barter Player in 2006, after which she moved to the Boston, MA area, where she worked for multiple theatre companies as an actor and director. Those companies included Shakespeare Now!, Shakespeare in the Valley, Boston Actors Theatre, Company One, 11:11 Theatre Company, Zeitgeist Theatre, Hampstead Stage, and the Longwood Players. Before leaving Boston in 2011 to return to Abingdon, she worked with the Cambridge Council for the Arts using theatre techniques to help solve problems with the local transit system. She also worked with an organization that used theatre to work on self image with a group of young at-risk girls. Megan is very excited to now be using theatre to help educate the future of America in local schools.

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Josephine Rodriguez is an Assistant Professor of Biology in the Department of Natural Sciences at The University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVA-Wise). She is a self-described Professor-Scientist-Mom that received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in the Department of Entomology. At UVA-Wise she teaches courses in Introductory Biology, Invertebrate Biology, Ecology, Evolution, Entomology, and Environmental Science and has mentored several undergraduate researchers in areas of dragonfly diversity, soil arthropods, and the antimicrobial activity of bee venom. She is also active in initiatives that broaden participation in STEM for underrepresented groups and provide training for local K-12 STEM educators. While at UVA-Wise she was honored as “Professor of the Year” in 2015 and the “Rising Star Award” in 2016 given to the faculty member with fewer than five years of teaching experience who exemplifies excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

Dr. Rodriguez has many scientific publications as well as national and international scientific presentations. Her dissertation titled: Integrating molecular, ecological and morphological data to explore the biodiversity of microgastrine parasitoid wasps used molecular, morphological, and phylogenetic tools as well as biodiversity inventory, field collecting, and taxonomic techniques for a group of parasitic wasps (Microgastrinae: Braconidae) in Costa Rica. Following her doctoral work, she held a was Postdoctoral Fellowship at the NSF-funded National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara, CA and held an appointment as a Smithsonian Fellow at the Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

A biologist with extensive experience in higher education, Chancellor Henry spent 16 years in a variety of positions at Florida Gulf Coast University. She was a founding faculty member at FGCU, was faculty senate president and served as a member of the University Board of Trustees. Henry served as dean of the FGCU College of Arts and Sciences, an assignment that demanded meticulous strategic planning and leadership that allowed the College to grow rapidly while continuing to improve academic quality.

Chancellor Henry earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Basis of Behavior from the University of Pennsylvania, where she also minored in Spanish. She earned a Doctorate in Physiology from Thomas Jefferson University. Chancellor Henry is a professor of biology on the UVA-Wise faculty.

Henry is married to Allen Henry, a pilot for Federal Express. The Henrys have twin daughters, Jessie and Margaret, who attend Central High School in Wise, Va.

Michael J. Quillen is a Distinguished Alumnus of Virginia Tech, having graduated with undergraduate and master’s degrees in civil engineering. Mr. Quillen has almost 40 years of experience in the coal industry, beginning as an engineer and rising to the senior executive level. He has held positions as vice president for operations of Pittston Coal Company, president of Pittston Coal Sales Corporation, vice president of AMVEST Corporation, vice president for operations of NERCO Coal Corporation, and president and CEO of Addington, Inc. In 2002, he joined the Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. (ANR)’s management team as president, becoming its CEO in 2003.

Retiring as Alpha’s chairman in 2012, Mr. Quillen now serves on the board of Martin Marietta Materials, Inc., as well as the VT Board of Visitors 2010-2018 (Rector 2013-2014), the Go VA Region One chairman, Mountain Mission School, and so forth. His impact on the region, state, and nation has been great, with numerous awards including Virginia Business Magazine Businessman of the Year (2012), Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Greater Washington Area Winner in Energy (2006), and the William P. Kanto Award for significant contributions to Public Education (1989).