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NEWS RELEASE  
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**82 YEAR OLD FORMER VSU BOARD MEMBER PUBLISHES FOUR BOOKS  
DURING PANDEMIC.**

*VSU Alumnae and Retired Educator Pens VSU Themed Books.*

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, VA**--Former VSU Board of Visitors Member and VSU Alumnae, Dr. Daryl Cumber Dance has spent her hours of isolation during the pandemic writing three works of fiction and a revised genealogy.

Dance's history at Virginia State University is a theme throughout her works with passages on VSU and a portion of one of the books set at Virginia State College (previous name of VSU).

Dr. Dance is well known across Central Virginia as a legendary teacher, celebrated genealogist, applauded literary scholar, and famed folklorist. She is highly regarded for her twelve classic studies and collections, but one of her recent works is a first attempt at a new genre of a fiction novel.

Her novel, "Till Death Us Did Part" is a look at the issues of love, marriage, aging and death. "Senior citizens will all see something of themselves in this satirical and inspirational drama, but young adults and general readers will also find the novel a great read, a cautionary tale, and a guidebook," says Dance. The recently-released novel has received rave reviews from numerous noted writers and scholars including Nikki Giovanni and Marita Golden.

Dance also completed her first work of historical fiction. "Land of the Free... Negroes" is a spellbinding history of her own family of free Blacks in Charles City County, Virginia, as they struggle for survival, happiness, and respect in the Antebellum South.

Dance's third book, "Here Am I" includes a journal, begun in July 2012, when the seventy-four-year-old Dance discovered that she had an eighty-two-year-old sister and concluded with the unexpected death of that sister in May 2020 from complications related to the coronavirus. That sad event was a major impetus for this collection.

Dr. Dance served as a member of the Virginia State University Board of Visitors for eight years from 2012-2020. In addition, she is a Professor Emerita at Virginia Commonwealth University and University of Richmond.