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**On the cover:** VCU School of Nursing students and faculty assess the health of MetiMan, one of the many human patient simulators and clinical education tools housed in the school’s new Clinical Learning Center.
A Message from the Dean

Building Within

As I write, the 2007-2008 academic year is well underway and we are happily settled in to our new home – our beautiful new state-of-the-science nursing building. I talked with many of you at the ribbon cutting or during MCV Reunion Weekend, and I know that you share my enthusiasm for our new facility. It is a marvelous building that exceeds expectations. And this school deserves it.

For more than 115 years your school of nursing has been a leader in nursing education, community service and research. With our facility we have important new resources to advance nursing and to prepare generations of nurses and nurse educators who are vital to the health and well being of our communities.

In this issue, I invite you to learn more about our Clinical Learning Center, which is transforming the way we teach and learn (pp. 3-6), share the joy of our students at graduation (pp. 7-8), travel with some of our students and faculty to South Africa and find out what they learned about nursing there (p. 9), and revisit the milestone celebrated at the ribbon cutting (p. 15-16).

The new building is an outward symbol of the VCU School of Nursing and our presence in the community, but it is you who transform lives and communities through your commitment to nursing and healthcare. With our $10 million campaign successfully behind us (p. 13) we are now developing a new strategic plan. Going forward, much of our energy will focus on “building within” to support you – our students, faculty, alumni and the community – in new and profound ways.

Nancy F. Langston, RN, PhD, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Executive Director of Academic Nursing, VCU Health System

Strategic Hiring Supports 5-Year Plan

Outside, the School of Nursing has a new state-of-the-science building; inside, we are building for the future! New funding this year from the University allows the School of Nursing to hire additional faculty and support staff. These positions will assist the School in reaching goals established in its Strategic Plan for 2007-2012.

Applications are invited for two endowed positions, the Nursing Alumni Chair and the Judith B. Collins Distinguished Professorship. In addition, tenure-track positions in Adult Health, Community Health, Family Health, and Women’s Health are available. Qualifications include a doctoral degree in Nursing or a related discipline, with at least one graduate degree in Nursing.

We also invite applications for the following collateral-track positions: two in Adult Health (Clinical Learning Center and Clinical Nurse Specialist), and one in Family Health (FNP). Qualifications include a masters degree in Nursing, and relevant clinical experience in the specialty area.

For further information, including position descriptions, go to the School of Nursing’s website: http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/vacancies. If you are interested in applying for a position, please submit a letter of interest, CV, and three references to: Barbara H. Dunn, PhD, RN, Chair, VCU School of Nursing Search Committee, P.O. Box 980567, Richmond, VA 23298-0567; email: bhdunn@vcu.edu.
It is hard to believe but it was only a little over a year ago that the VCU School of Nursing left its long-time home, the Nursing Education Building (Cabaniss Hall). Until the move to temporary quarters in the Theater Row Office Building in May 2006, the School’s clinical simulation lab was staffed by a part-time nursing instructor, relegated to a small space in the basement of NEB and limited by the conditions of that location (it was moldy and would flood during large rains).

When the School began developing plans for its new state-of-the-science facility, one of the first strategic decisions was to dedicate the second floor to clinical learning and hire a full-time faculty member to direct the effort. As a result, the School has one of the best clinical learning facilities in the nation and is leading the way in the development of clinical simulation and scenarios in nursing education. But that’s not the only pleasant surprise. Sandra K. Voll, director of the VCU School of Nursing Clinical Learning Center (CLC) and clinical assistant professor adds, “We thought it was all going to be about the technology but it really isn’t – the Clinical Learning Center has changed how we teach and how we approach learning.”

This summer a group of faculty – Jennifer Black, MS, RNC, WHNP; Marie Chapin, MS, RN, CPNP; Carol G. Cutler, DNSc, RN; Martha Hart, MS, RNC, PNP, NNP; Debra K. Hearington, MS, RN, PNP, CS; Tanya Huff, MSN, RN, CCRN; Susan L. Lindner, MSN, RNC; Sandra K. Voll, MS, RNC, CNM, WHNP, FNP; and Jean Ellen Zavernick, MN, RN – initiated a “simulation working group” to share ideas.
and experiences about the successes, the challenges, and opportunities for improvement. Over the course of four or five meetings the group discovered that while faculty were using the CLC and simulation more than anyone realized, no one had yet explored the various theories and concepts behind these new teaching tools and strategies. By taking on this important initiative, the simulation working group identified three concepts – B.S. Bloom’s levels of learning, Albert Bandura’s social learning theory and P. Benner’s stages of clinical competence – that created a theoretical framework for the development of a model for integrating clinical simulation throughout the curriculum.

Engaged and energized by their initial efforts, the simulation working group has decided to continue their collaboration by sharing their findings with VCU Nursing colleagues, inviting others to join the group and developing the broader agenda to contribute new knowledge to the field of nursing education by writing articles for nursing journals and developing presentations for regional and national nursing conferences.

However, for Professor Chapin the most important outcome is the effect on students. “What’s most exciting is to watch our students ‘come alive’ as we give them more opportunities to practically apply what they are learning.” Professor Voll adds, “We built the clinical learning center around the simulation equipment but it’s developed into a whole new world – a new philosophy of teaching and learning.”
I begin my work day as many people do. I unlock doors, turn on lights, check email, glance over the day’s calendar, set up for meetings, and say hello and good morning to the dummies I work with. Now I bet you are thinking “what a mean thing to write” but after deciding how best to broach the subject of the majority of “people” (I use that term loosely) I work with, “dummies” seemed as good a word as any.

Actually, I can easily count the number of dummies I work with. MetiMan is the biggest and most evolved (he can blink his eyes, urinate, and even die if I give him the wrong medication or forget to adjust his oxygen). “George” is a little easier to work with since he pretty much does whatever I tell him to. He is even a good sport when we change his gender and force him to go through labor or act like an elderly woman in respiratory distress. Ah yes, good
old George. There are numerous other dummies of varying genders, ages, and ethnic backgrounds (some of them have fewer body parts and spend the majority of their time being poked and prodded.)

By now you might have realized that my place of work is truly unique, and you’d be right. I have the great pleasure of working in the VCU School of Nursing Clinical Learning Center – a remarkable place to work and learn! It is equipped with everything that novice and veteran nurses need to supplement their learning with opportunities to practice a wide range of skills from assessment technique to wound care to simulating complex patient care situations. As a second year accelerated master’s student I have had the unique opportunity to create, run, and participate in clinical scenarios, which have enhanced my education in so many ways. The clinical scenarios provide a unique opportunity to experience and actively participate in the provision of care for a patient experiencing some sort of medical crisis that requires intervention. While it might take a whole semester before one student has the opportunity to provide care to a patient with a given complaint, SimMan or MetiMan will gladly endure repeated bouts of delirium tremens, ventricular tachycardia, diabetic ketoacidosis or respiratory distress, all without complaint!

The VCU School of Nursing is cloaked in an illustrious history and is at the leading edge of nursing education. Each day that I come to work I marvel at the technological advances and consider it a privilege to be a part of such an innovative and enriched environment. I look forward enthusiastically to creating new learning opportunities for others while at the same time receiving the benefits of supplementing and reinforcing my own nursing knowledge and skills.

If you have yet to visit our beautiful and state-of-the-science clinical learning center I would strongly recommend it. I’ll even introduce you to all of my friends!
Kathleen Martin (N’07) is a labor and delivery nurse at the VCU Medical Center. Kathleen says of the NCLEX exam that it was “more difficult that I thought it was going to be; I know a lot of that was due to nerves! My test ended after 75 questions and I found out the following Monday that I had passed! That would be my one bit of advice to anybody scheduling their test date: Don’t take NCLEX on a Friday. You have to wait until the following business day to get your results!”

For Kathleen the transition from student to RN has been mildly difficult in that it’s a major shift in responsibility and her role within the health care team. However, she says “I have a very supportive unit (Labor and Delivery, M6
at VCUHS), and everyone on the unit has been instrumental in my transition, especially my preceptors. I think the hardest thing is actually still getting my head around the fact that I am now an “official” RN; I’ve been comfortable in the student mode for the past 4 years! I have to remind myself, “You ARE the nurse now, Kathleen! You can go get her pain medication, administer it and chart it without someone else in the room watching you!” It’s very exciting and empowering all at the same time. Nursing is truly a great profession.”

**Mabel Montgomery Award**

**Shannon Whitson (N’07)** started a position at UVA in the Operating Room in Mid August and is very excited about the upcoming challenges and opportunities as a registered nurse.

“The NCLEX went really well. I arrived about an hour early and was finished just after my scheduled start time. I felt good coming out of the testing center, but was very anxious to find out if I had passed. I feel that taking the HURST Review helped me tremendously.”

**Mayme B. Lacey Award**

**Katie Miltner (N’07)** is now at Washington Hospital Center as an RN.

**Marguerite Nicholson Award**

**Atalie Doyle (N’07)** is an RN at MCV Hospital in the Respiratory ICU

**Temple Memorial Award**

**Mirjam Molenaar (MS ’07)**

**Martha M. Borlick Award**

**Patrice Hetrick (MS ’07)**

**Erin Robertson (MS ’07)**

**Charleen Nintachan (Ph.D. ’07)**

**Virginia Student Nursing Association Award**

**Chantel Skipper (N ’07)** started a position at Children’s National Medical Center in DC at the end of August.

“The NCLEX was what I expected, it was hard and stressful. I took it on a Thursday so I was stressed out all weekend waiting for my results, but you kind of forget about all of that once you find out you passed. It’s a great feeling and all of the studying seems like it was well worth it.”

**To read and see more from the Recognition Ceremony,**

please visit our blog at: [http://blog.vcu.edu/nursing/2007/07/like_branches_on_a_tree_we_may.html](http://blog.vcu.edu/nursing/2007/07/like_branches_on_a_tree_we_may.html)#more
This past summer eight VCU Nursing Students studied in South Africa. The program, entitled “Culture and Health Care in the New South Africa” was the VCU Nursing’s first excursion to South Africa to discover cultural differences and similarities in nursing education, practice and life. The trip was particularly informative for study regarding the impact of national and international policy decisions on the health and well-being of individuals and communities in the new South Africa. Students documented their experience daily through postings to the VCU School of Nursing Blog.

“Culture and Health Care in the New South Africa” was offered in collaboration with the International Studies Program and the Department of Nursing at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. While there, students experienced working in home-based care for a family over the duration of the trip, working in a community health clinic with South African nursing students, working or observing in a tertiary care hospital, working closely with a South African nursing student buddy, and a visit with a traditional healer.

In their spare time, students visited a wildlife preserve, bungee jumped, visited local markets, and enjoyed karaoke. The trip truly was an experience of a lifetime for our students.

“Culture and Health Care in the New South Africa” was led by Martha W. Moon, RN, Ph.D., MPH. Dr. Moon
is an Associate Professor of Nursing in the Department of Integrative Systems in the VCU School of Nursing. She has been on faculty at VCU since 1998. Her teaching focus is on community and public health, and her research program is in HIV prevention and stigma in vulnerable populations. Dr. Moon earned a BS in Nursing from VCU in 1979 and an MS in 1984.
I watched these children play by themselves in piles of garbage with tattered clothes and dirty little bare feet. Behind their happy smiles, in the distance, I could see beautiful mountains and the bright sun.

Cortney’s blog entry – 8/30/07

But, there is more; we have seen poverty that is just incomprehensible until you stand in the middle of the wooden shanties; free clinics that are overcrowded (250-300 patients per day), and public hospitals that function with equipment dating back to the 1940’s & 50’s in many areas.

Elayne’s blog entry 0 8-23-07

Their whole health care system works differently then ours. It is much more stressed, busy, and desperate. There were many diseases and health issues that I have only read about in text books, but never seen. To be totally submerged in that world helped my nursing ability tremendously and made me personally a better person.

Becca’s blog entry 8-20-07
I quickly learned that one cannot focus on the big picture or you will become completely overwhelmed. Rather you must take it one day at a time, or better yet - one individual at a time.

— Janel's blog entry 8-20-07

On Wednesday we went to do home care. This was a very touching event. The family I was assigned to consisted of a blind man and his wife with TB. They had 5 kids and 11 grandkids. We gave them some food, blankets, and seeds for their garden.

Mica's blog entry 8-20-07

The healthcare system here in SA is unique, the nurses here have more autonomy and authority than in the US, but they also can have up to 90 pts on a night shift.

Margaret’s blog entry 8-15-97

Stay Connected

You can stay connected to the School of Nursing through our blog (http://blog.vcu.edu/nursing/). Post your comments and interact with current faculty and students.
While the Campaign for VCU didn’t officially end until June 30, 2007, the VCU School of Nursing was proud to announce at the ribbon cutting celebration on Friday, April 27 (during MCV Campus Reunion Weekend) that we had officially exceeded our $10 million campaign goal ahead of schedule. Now that the final campaign numbers are in – VCU raised more than $410 million during the seven-year campaign – we are happy to announce that our grand total was $12,362,509!

More than $7.4 million came in the form of outright gifts and pledges while another $4.9 million came in the form of planned gifts such as gift annuities and bequests. These commitments funded the construction of our new building, purchased equipment for our new clinical learning center, established new endowed professorships and scholarships, supported faculty and student travel for meetings, conferences and study abroad programs, and supported community nursing activities.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony we announced three planned gifts that put us over our $10 million goal. Dr. Michelle Romano and her husband, Don Romano, each have made planned giving commitments of $500,000 to the VCU School of Nursing to establish two endowed distinguished professorships. Dr. Romano is a 1984 graduate of the VCU School of Nursing.
Medicine and member of VCU's Board of Visitors, and Don Romano is a 1973 graduate of the School of Allied Health Profession's Health Administration program.

In addition, we announced that MCV School of Nursing alumnus Helen Shaw Birch of Lakeland, Florida, class of 1947, made a $1 million planned giving commitment to establish an endowed scholarship fund for nursing students. Birch's nursing career spanned 33 years, 17 years of which were spent at the Polk County Eye Clinic in Lakeland where she ran a glaucoma screening program. Mrs. Birch attended the building dedication ceremonies as part of her 60th class reunion.

Finally, just before the fiscal year end, Ms. Ann Steigleder, a former faculty member and alumnus from the class of 1948, made a $1 million planned giving commitment that will establish an endowed chair (professorship) in nursing research.

It took gifts of all sizes to reach our $10 million goal and, more importantly, to fund strategic initiatives that support our mission of teaching, research and service. Thank you to all of our alumni, friends, corporations and foundations who generously supported the VCU School of Nursing during the campaign and who continue to invest in the future of nursing.
“This new building serves not only as the end of a long journey in the history of the school – to have a place and space that supports and makes visible the work of nursing and the School, but also as the cornerstone of new beginnings and even greater things to come.”

— Nancy F. Langston, RN, PhD, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Executive Director of Academic Nursing, VCU Health System
The words of Dean Nancy Langston ring true from the School of Nursing Ribbon Cutting and Building Dedication on Friday, April 27th, 2007. Over 700 alumni and friends gathered to cut the ribbon and join in the celebration of our new 70,000 square foot, state-of-the-science nursing education facility. Three days of festivities included an art opening to celebrate 106 in 2006: Watercolors by Baxter Perkinson, a gift of over 106 original large scale watercolors painted specifically for the School of Nursing; the Ribbon Cutting and Building Dedication, and a Saturday Open House, followed up by the Alumni Cocktail Reception to cap off the MCV Alumni Association Reunion Weekend.

The MCV Alumni Association recognized four graduates with awards at the Alumni Cocktail reception on Saturday evening. The award winners were: Deborah Raines, PhD ’92, MCV Outstanding Alumnus Award; Linda Hancock, MS ’84, PhD ’01, Outstanding Practice Award; Francine Barr, MS ’82, Outstanding Nurse Alumnus Award; Deborah Kirkland, BS ’91, Outstanding Service Award.

Having alumni and friends join in the celebration to inaugurate the new home for Nursing at VCU made the weekend all the more special and significant. The School of Nursing looks forward to many years in our new home and to having the capacity to invite alumni and friends in to share the excitement of cutting edge nursing education.
From the Alumni Chair, Nursing Division

This has been an extremely exciting year for VCU’s School of Nursing! We have so much for which to be proud. The dedication of the new VCU School of Nursing Building on April 27 coincided with one of the most successful Alumni weekends ever. If you were able to attend the dedication, or if you have had the opportunity to tour the new building since, I believe that you will agree that it exceeds all expectations.

I want to encourage you to visit the VCU School of Nursing website. This site provides an excellent overview of all aspects of our School. Please take time to review information regarding the Clinical Learning Center (CLC) located on the second floor of the School of Nursing Building. The Center is utilized by undergraduate and graduate nursing students and offers interactive learning using human patient simulators and complex scenarios. I believe all of us would have loved and benefited from the opportunity to practice in such a realistic learning environment.

I was recently interviewed by my niece Christy Siddons, who is in her final semester in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science Program, “regarding strategies to be implemented by a new nurse, that will prepare him or her for a nursing leadership role.” As I thought about my answer it became clear to me that all graduates of the VCU School of Nursing are nursing leaders and will continue to be leaders throughout their lifetime whether actively practicing in the profession or not.

Here is the advice I would give to all nursing alumni: First, become or stay active in the industry by joining a nursing organization, whether it be MCV Alumni Association, a local chapter of one of the national nursing organizations such as the VNA (Virginia Nurses Association) and/or a trade organization representing an areas of nursing specialization like AACN (American Association of Critical Care Nurses). All of these types of organizations serve as vehicles for sharing talent and having a voice in our profession. Second, give back by getting involved as a volunteer to educate or promote health within your community. One thing I have learned over the years is that people seek and respect the advice of a nurse.

Please be a nursing leader. Our profession and our community needs you! Remember … “Once a nurse, always a nurse.”

Beth S. McNeil, RN, MSN
Chair, MCV Alumni Association
Nursing Division Board
9th Annual Anthem Gurney Tourney

The VCU School of Nursing participated in the Anthem Gurney Tourney on Saturday September 15th. With a Scooby Doo theme, complete with the Mystery Machine, our team gave it their all! Kristin Filler served as team captain and assembled a great team. Congratulations on a job well done!

Student Awards

Congratulations to JeanMarie Digges who is the recipient of the Elaine Gelman Scholarship awarded at the NAPNAP conference. This NAPNAP Foundation award recognizes NP students who participate in a PNP program and have interest in health policy or advocacy.

Mamoona Arif, a 2nd year doctoral student, received an award notification of her NRSA titled “Facial Expression During Pain”.

Mamoon Arif

Mamoon Arif, a 2nd year doctoral student, received an award notification of her NRSA titled “Facial Expression During Pain”.

Dr. Jacqueline McGrath

Dr. Jacqueline McGrath has been selected for induction as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing at the ceremony to be held on November 10, 2007 in Washington, DC. To receive this honor, one must make significant national and/or international contributions to nursing and health care. In addition, each nominee must be sponsored by two current Academy Fellows. The mission of the Academy is “to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge.”

The American Academy of Nursing is comprised of many of the nation’s top nursing executives, policy makers, scholars, researchers, and practitioners.” This year, the Academy will induct 54 new honorees.

Dr. McGrath is faculty in the Family and Community Health Nursing department at VCU. She teaches research, evidence-based practice, and junior synthesis. She is a federally funded researcher and a neonatal nurse practitioner. She is considered a national expert on integration of developmental interventions with infants and families. Congratulations to Dr. McGrath!

MCV Hospital Auxiliary to Offer Love Lights in December

The MCV Hospital Auxiliary will sell Love Lights during the month of December as a fundraiser for the VCU School of Nursing. The Auxiliary will be set up in Main Hospital near the Three Bears Gift Shop during the week of December 3rd through 7th.

Purchasing a Love Light is a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one during the holiday season. For a $10 donation, a special tag bearing the name of your loved one will be hung upon the Love Light Tree in the lobby of Main Hospital at MCV Hospital.

To honor or remember a loved one, please send a check ($10 per name) to MCV Hospital Auxiliary at Volunteer Services, P.O. Box 980256, Richmond, VA 23298-0256 (your check should be written to MCV Hospital Auxiliary). A Love Light will be hung on the tree for you and a card mailed to the person, or the person’s family, that you are honoring. In order to notify the honoree or family, we ask that you provide their name and full mailing address. Please clarify if the tag is to be in honor or in memory of your loved one.
School Notes

Graduates of the Family Health Concentration in our master’s program who took the ANCC Certification exam in 2006 all passed. Not only that, their scores on the six component areas of the exam all exceeded the national average.

The Virginia Commonwealth University Graduate School of Nursing ranked among the nation’s best in the latest survey by U.S. News and World Report of “America’s Best Graduate Schools.” In addition, two programs are ranked no. 1 in the country – Nurse Anesthesia and Sculpture. The School of Nursing is among the top 15% of all schools that offer graduate nursing programs.

Faculty News and Notes

Dr. Debra Lyon, PhD, RN has been selected as an Associate Editor of the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing. Her bi-monthly column will focus on Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice Nursing. Dr. Lyon has also been invited to serve as a reviewer on the 2007 Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Predoctoral Traineeship Panel.

Jean Ellen Zavertnik, MN, RN and Tanya Huff, MSN, RN, both clinical instructors for the Adult Health Department, were approved funding for their project, Center for Teaching Excellence. This fall, they will be testing an approach to teach nurse-family communication skills to the incoming sophomore students. The intervention group will have both the standard education about communication and practice with a “standard” family member–trained actors who both act the role in an established scenario and provide immediate feedback on communication skill/performance.

Rita Pickler, PhD, RN has been selected as the chair of the Special Emphasis Panel at NINR for review of the End of Life P20 and P30 applications. She was also appointed to the ANF Research Review Committee for a 3 year term.

Dr. Nancy Langston, RN, PhD, FAAN, Dean of the School of Nursing, will be honored and recognized as AORN’s 8th recipient and of the prestigious Richard B. Caspari Award. She is the first woman to receive this award.

The Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research has announced the new pilot investigator awards. These Pilot Study PIs will work with the Center for the 2007-2008 funding year: Dr. Chinyu Cheng, PhD, RN, (MCN) will examine “Physical Health, Depressive Symptoms, Happiness, and Maternal Competence of Mothers after Childbirth to 6 Months Postpartum.”

Dr. Jackie McGrath, PhD, RN, (MCN) will be studying the “Feasibility of a Mindful Touch and Massage Intervention” among preterm infants.

Dr. Jolynne Robins, PhD, RN, (CBCR Postdoctoral Fellow) will conduct a pilot study entitled “Exploring the Complexity of the Trajectory of Coronary Heart Disease Risk in Women.”

Dr. Dinah Welch, PhD, RN, (IS) was awarded for her study of “Residential Social Inequalities and Biological Burden.”

Jean Ellen Zavertnik, MN, RN, passed the ANCC certification exam as an Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist. This certification is a wonderful validation of Jean Ellen’s educational preparation and her extensive clinical background.

Linda G. Haddad, joins VCU School of Nursing as an Associate Professor of community/public health nursing. Before coming to the VCU school of Nursing, Linda worked as Deputy Director of King Abdullah University Hospital in Jordan. She also was the Dean of Jordan University of Science and Technology School of nursing between 2000 to 2005. Her credentials include a PhD in nursing from University of Maryland at Baltimore (1993), and MSN in nursing from University of Pennsylvania (1989). Linda brings a strong background in global health as she was a short term consultants with WHO. Her research area is around health promotion and lifestyles issues such as tobacco prevention.

Dr. Jeanne Salyer has been elected a Distinguished Scholar in the National Academies of Practice in Nursing. In the letter notifying her of her election, they noted her “significant and enduring contributions to health care practice.”

Dr. Jenny Brown has been selected as a 2007 Gloria Smith, RN, Virginia Cleland RN and SNRS ANF Grant Scholar. Her funded project is entitled “An examination of emergency department pediatric psychiatric services: Structure, processes and outcomes.” The limited number of ANF grants that are awarded makes this a highly competitive national competition!

Carolyn Driscoll, PhD, RN, FNP-C joins VCU School of Nursing an Assistant Professor. She was previously on faculty at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Dr. Driscoll is a certified family nurse practitioner whose practice has been focused on the care of people with liver diseases, such as Hepatitis C, and liver transplantation. Her research interests include examining the relationship between genetics and the development of diabetes associated with liver disease/liver transplantation.
Ching-Yu Cheng, PhD, RN joins VCU School of Nursing in June as an Assistant Professor. This fall, she is a clinical instructor for the course, Nursing of Women. Cheng graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006. Before coming here, she was a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing. Her specialization is in Women’s Health, Maternity.

Milagritos (“Millie”) Flinn, Hispanic Coordinator for the VCU School of Nursing, graduated this spring as a member of the 2006-2007 class of Leadership Metro Richmond, a 9-month training program for emerging leaders in Greater Richmond.

Millie continues to serve on various healthcare boards, including Governor Kaine’s Advisory Board on Respiratory Care, one of 13 volunteer boards responsible for regulating healthcare providers in Virginia, and the Promotoras de Salud of CrossOver Health Center, Virginia’s largest free clinic.

Millie’s recent presentations have included “Patient/Provider Relationships: An Orientation for Hispanics” and “Forgiveness and Health: Implications for New Immigrants.”

In August, Millie was interviewed for the October issue of Minority Nurse magazine related to her work in marketing the SON’s RN-BS Weekend Program.

Mrs. Susan L. Lindner, MSN, RNC, Prior to joining the VCU School of Nursing last spring, Sue taught at the Southside Regional Medical Center School of Nursing and was the course coordinator for Fundamentals of Nursing.

She has been a nurse since 1984, spending much of her time in Maternal Child Health and Labor and Delivery. Sue completed her BS at VCU in the weekend program in 2004, and graduated from ODU in the Nurse Educator program with a MSN in Nursing education in 2006.

Suzanne Ameringer, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor of Child Health Nursing (Department of Family and Community Health Nursing) joined the School in August. Dr. Ameringer received her BSN from Towson University in 1980, and her MSN as a Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist in 2003 and PhD in 2007 from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Ameringer has extensive clinical experience in pediatrics. Her research focuses on pain and symptom management in adolescents with cancer.

Faculty Publications
*the highlighted entries are instructors at VCU SON.

Books


Journal Articles


**Recent Dissertation Defenses**

Wantana Thinganjana, “The Lived Experience of Spirituality among Thai immigrants who are living with Type 2 Diabetes”

Patcharin Nintachan, “Resilience & Risk Taking Behavior Among Thai Adolescents living in Bangkok, Thailand”

Chantira Chiaranai, “Self-Care and Quality of Life in Patients with Heart Failure”

**Congratulations to our new PhD’s!**

**Administrative Notes**

Chris Wallace has been appointed the full time Project Assistant and Data Entry Technician for the Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research. Chris has been a loyal employee for several years, first as a student, then as an hourly employee.

Patricia C. Allen joins the School of Nursing as a part-time office clerk in the Academic Programs Office. Patricia is not a stranger to the campus. In the past, she has worked in the School of Medicine’s Admissions Office and the Social and Behavioral Health Department. She enjoys shopping, reading, traveling and spending time with her husband and daughter.

Marisa Cosco joined the School of Nursing in August as the new Pre-Enrollment Counselor. Prior to starting at the School of Nursing, Marisa was the Program Outreach Coordinator for the Virginia Area Health Education Centers housed here on the VCU Medical Campus. She received her Bachelors of Science from VCU where she majored in Public Relations.

**Whitney Carswell** joined the School of Nursing as the recruiter in March 2007. Whitney moved back to Richmond earlier this year from Raleigh, NC, where she was the Phone-a-thon Coordinator for Meredith College. Prior to that, she had been the Assistant Director of Annual Campaigns at Temple University in Philadelphia. Whitney holds a Bachelor of Science from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, where she majored in Public Relations.

Elizabeth Miles worked in private industry for 15 years before joining the University of Richmond as a Help Desk technician. In 2000 she moved to U.R.’s Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology where she partnered with faculty to design, create, and evaluate innovative learning experiences. When she isn’t dabbling in computers, Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her husband, children and three dogs.

**Alumni Notes**

Christine Codling Cornett, BSN ’72, is currently a Church Administrator for the Newport Center United Methodist Church in Corona del Mar, California.

Kathleen Mays, BSN ’68, has earned her PhD in psychology and obtained training in psychoanalysis. For over 30 years, she has been involved in private practice of psychoanalytic psychotherapy and psychoanalysis in New York City. She sends the message, “I am forever appreciative of my nursing training and background at (back then) The Medical College of Virginia School of Nursing, as it enhances my understanding of people and the life challenges that they bring to me. I also love nursing as a professional practice and have great respect for the essential contribution that nurses make to patient care and to patient’s families, as well as to the community at large”.

Lori Hayes Lape, BSN ’78, currently resides in Richmond and is an RN in Mental Health Intensive Case Management at the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Jeannette Harwell Deaton, BSN ’61, currently residing in Clemson, SC, was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (Familial) and successfully received a lung transplant on May 11, 2004 at UAB Birmingham, AL and has been doing well since the operation.

Brenda Kiser Stubbs, BSN ’59, is residing in Pearisburg, VA where she has retired.

Sandra Macon, BSN ’98, is a student at the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing. For the last nine years she has been working in obstetrics; including home practice, at the Martha Jefferson Hospital, and the University of Virginia...
Hospital. She expects to earn her certification as a Nurse Midwife by January of 2010.

Gwen Hale Seiler, BS ‘85, is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Northfield Foundation, an organization that provides teenage girls and young women who experience disordered behaviors with free comprehensive evaluation, medical intervention, counseling, emotional support, and education.

Michelle Hereford, BS ’98, MSHA, is currently residing in Glen Allen, VA, and is the CEO of the Kindred Hospital in Richmond, VA.

Melanie White, BSN ‘85, is a Clinical Research Nurse at VCU Medical Center Division of Hematology.

Marie Cornwall, BS ’94, MS ‘03, is currently pursuing her PhD at VCU’s School of Nursing. She is an ANP at the MCV Hospital in the Pre-OP Anesthesia Clinic.

Ms. Augustine S. Allen, N’74, is raising two teenagers and is currently a Clinical Coordinator at the MCV Hospital.

Corliss V. Booker, BSN ’89, MPH, is the owner of Nursing Education Resources. She also received her PhD in 2005 concentrating on Public Policy.

Elizabeth Day, RN, BSN ’95, MSN ’01, CHPN, is residing in Fresno, CA, where she is a Nursing Instructor for Fresno City College.

Cathey C. Hall, BSN ’80, resides in Fishersville, VA with her family; a daughter, Candace, who has a BS in Accounting from VA-Tech, daughter Meghan has her BS in Biology from VA-Tech, and son Wil is a junior at Wilson Memorial High school in Fishersville, VA. Her husband, Ron, is the Assistant Chief at the Department of Corrections Inspector General’s Office.

Zachary McCluskey BSN ’02, has been appointed Associate Administrator of CJW Medical Center for the Johnson Willis Campus. In May of 2007, Zach received his Masters Degree in Health Administration from VCU’s School of Allied Health. Since receiving his Masters, he was selected from over 500 applicants to participate in HCA’s COO Development Program. Since his graduation from the School of Nursing, Zach worked as a pediatric and critical care RN at the Main Hospital at the VCU Health System.

Col. Dennis Oakes, BSN ’82, MSN ’92, resides in Washington, D.C. where he has been promoted to Colonel in the USAF and has assumed command of the 579th Medical Group at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

Darlene Coffey Fishman, BSN ’71, lives in California and has taught nursing since 1978. Currently she is the director of Nursing at Cypress College, in Cypress, CA. She, her husband of 33 years, and their youngest son have just returned from a trip to China and Tibet.

Grace L. Liem, BSN ’75, is a Family Nurse Practitioner with Carolinas Medical Center- Northeast in Concord, NC where she also resides. She operates Liem and Associates as well. Grace shares that she “still regrets not marching at graduation since she had to work the nightshift at MCVH”. (She got her degree in the mail.)

Janice Neil, MS ’94, PhD ’98, has assumed the role of chair for the Department of Undergraduate Nursing Science– Junior Division effective August 6, 2007. Dr. Neil joined the East Carolina University School of Nursing in 1998 as a tenure track faculty member. She earned tenure in 2004 and was promoted to the rank of associate professor. Dr. Neil brings considerable experience at both the School and University levels in the areas of curriculum, student appeals, and faculty grievance. Since 1994, Dr. Neil’s refereed work includes 14 poster abstracts, 15 journal articles, three book chapters as well as the editing of a recent book with Elsevier. Prior to joining ECU, Dr. Neil taught at Virginia Commonwealth University in the area of adult health as a clinical instructor.

Margaret Williamson, BSN ’79, is an RN at VCU Health System. This year she is proud to announce that she has been certified for PCCN and has attained Clin III. Margaret is currently residing in Rockville, VA.

In Memory

Ms. Yvonne D. Bass ‘76, February 2007
Mrs. Marjorie P. Boone SP’57, September 2006
Dr. Nancy (Clark) Bruffey ’88, March 2007
Ms. Jan A. Bker ’91 May 2007
Miss Barbara A. Dale ‘52, June 2007
Mrs. Frances (Shewey) Denny ’44, March 2007
Ms. Bonny DeLauney Hamrick ’89, March 2007
Ms. Theresa G. Harless ’95, February 2007
Mrs. Bernice M. Hill ’92, March 2007
Mrs. Dorothy (Fleming) Martin ’64, August 2006
Mrs. Rosalee (Hassell) Thomas SP ’42, April 2007
Ms. Rose (Austin) Tucker SP ’50, March 2007
Mrs. Elizabeth (Healy) Wildman ’54, January 2007
Nominate a Nurse!

The MCV Alumni Association of VCU invites you to nominate a Nursing alumnus/a to be recognized for outstanding accomplishments and service. You do not have to be an alumnus to submit a nomination. Most awards will be presented during the MCV Campus Reunion Weekend (April 11-13, 2008). For more information, contact the MCV Alumni Office at (804) 828-3900, or (800) 628-7799.

**Nursing Alumni Star** – recognizes alumni for their community, humanitarian, professional achievements and university service. Honorees are selected through faculty recommendations and alumni committees. This award will be presented at University Commencement on May 17, 2008.

**Nurse Alumnus Award for Outstanding Practice** – honors an alumnus who exemplifies an innovative, professional and scholarly approach to their practice and contributes to the development of others.

**Nurse Alumnus Award for Outstanding Service** – celebrates an alumnus who has shown outstanding leadership and service to the community, the School/University, professional or community organizations.

**Outstanding Nurse Alumnus Award** – honors an alumnus as a leader and expert who has contributed to health-related and other groups and has impacted the nursing profession with creativity and innovation.

**MCVAA Hodges-Kay Service Award** - presented to an alumnus of the MCV Campus in recognition of service to the MCV Alumni Association and participation in the activities of the association, their school and/or the University.

**MCVAA Outstanding Alumnus Award** - presented to a graduate of the MCV Campus who is nationally recognized and acknowledged by leaders in their chosen profession as having made distinguished contributions to health care.

**To submit a nomination:**

Please send nominee name, address and resume/vitae along with your name and phone number to:

MCVAA Awards Committee
Post Office Box 980156
Richmond, VA 23298-0156

Or e-mail your nomination to Barbara Payton at bpayton@vcu.edu

**Deadline: By January 8, 2008**
Heritage Room Preserves School’s Past and Informs Our Future

Currently on display in the Heritage Room are historical artifacts collected by the VCU School of Nursing, donated by members Nursing Division of the MCV Alumni Association of VCU, or preserved by Special Collections and Archives at the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences. They were assembled for the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the new building to illustrate the rich resources that are available to tell the story of the VCU School of Nursing. Over the next year a new exhibition will be developed to accurately and engagingly portray the School’s history.

This room is for you! Please help the Heritage Committee write our School’s story by sharing your thoughts about the legacy of the VCU School of Nursing. What stories do you think we should tell? What is important to you? Please contact James Parrish at (804) 828-5172 or jtparrish@vcu.edu.
The Heritage Room concept was born when planning began for the new School of Nursing building. Those associated with the School were anxious to have a place where students and others could gain insight into the profession’s past and develop a framework for understanding contemporary nursing. The School’s history is a complex, multi-faceted story that stretches back over 115 years and through it one can discover the triumphs and challenges that have shaped nursing today.

The Heritage Room is now a reality but the stories that will be told here have yet to be written. Dr. Nancy F. Langston, dean and professor or the VCU School of Nursing, has created the Heritage Room Committee to assist with this process. The group meets monthly to articulate vision, develop policies, create content, and establish a mechanism to capture tomorrow’s history today. In addition, the committee is soliciting input from students, faculty, alumni and friends through meetings and surveys. During MCV Reunion Weekend 2008 the committee hopes to dedicate this room and unveil an exhibition that engagingly conveys the proud heritage of the School.

Today the Heritage Room showcases the portraits of the six deans who served the School of Nursing from 1925 through 1988 and highlights selected artifacts, books, and photographs that document the institution’s history. The room also provides a home for some antique furnishings that once graced the parlors, lounges, and reception areas of old Cabaniss Hall.

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**Heritage Room Committee Members:**

Betsy Bampton  
Katherine Bobbitt  
Corinne Dorsey  
Sue Harrison  
Jodi Koste

James Parrish  
Rita Pickler  
Elaine Tinsley  
Burlette Trent  
Mary Beth Willis
Reunion Classes 2008
Put Your Picture Here!

Calling all Nursing alumni from years ending in 3 or 8! Have you got a great photo from your days as a student nurse at the St. Philip, MCV or VCU Schools of Nursing? If so, please send it in and we might just use it for our Reunion Invitation! All photos will be scanned with the utmost care and returned to the owner.

This is a great way to personalize your reunion and encourage participation among your class. To send in a photo for use, please mail it to:

Kelly Gotschalk
Assistant Director of Development
VCU School of Nursing
P.O. Box 980567
Richmond, VA 23298-0567

To send a jpeg or tiff, please be sure the resolution is set to 300 dpi and e-mail your image to Kelly at kjgotschalk@vcu.edu.

In order to give the graphic designer time to produce the invitation, we will need to have your photo by February 1st, 2008. If you have questions, please call Kelly at (804)828-2993.

MCVAA Reunion Weekend will be April 11th, 12th and 13th. More information will be forthcoming.