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On the cover: Members of the VCU School of Nursing are making important health care discoveries through their research programs. One of those studies, led by Rita Pickler, PhD, RN, PNP, is examining feeding readiness in preterm infants. Clockwise from right, Dr. Pickler; Marty Lewis, BS, RN; Barbara Reyna, MS, RNC, NNP; and Gail Barker, RN.
Development of programs of research to advance the science of a discipline, whether nursing, medicine, engineering or others, is not an endeavor to be undertaken by the faint-of-heart or those without access to resources both human and material (fiscal and physical). Hence the mid-1990’s discussion and decision of the faculty of the School to fully embrace the research component of the mission of VCU was not undertaken lightly. The faculty recognized that for over a century this School had been known locally and nationally, first as MCV and St Philip and then as VCU, for its outstanding educational programs and the professional competence of its graduates. The intention was to extend the mission and incorporate the commitment to advancing the science into undergraduate as well as graduate programs.

The faculty set a goal of conducting programs of research consistent with the national agenda for health of the nation and the priorities of NIH for the development of the science of clinical care. An infrastructure to support the development of programs of research was identified and faculty committed to the tripartite mission of research, teaching and service were recruited. In ten short years faculty of your School of Nursing have moved us into national prominence because of the nature and quality of their work.

The work of two of our faculty are but exemplars of the work of many others here in the School. In February, two School of Nursing faculty were recognized at the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) meeting for their contributions to nursing research. Dr. Nancy McCain, who leads our Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research (CBCR), was honored as the SNRS Researcher of the Year. A member of our faculty for more than 10 years, Dr. McCain was instrumental in establishing the CBCR which supports the work of our senior scientists and our junior faculty researchers. Her research is revealing new understandings of stress management and the biobehavioral mechanisms of stress.

One of our new faculty members, Dr. Jennifer Brown, was also recognized at the recent SNRS meeting. She was named the 2007 Gloria Smith, RN, Virginia Cleland, RN, ANF/SNRS Scholar. Her project is entitled “An Examination of Emergency Department Pediatric Psychiatric Service Structure, Process and Outcomes.” Dr. Brown joined our faculty in Fall 2006. Completing her PhD by the age of 30, Dr. Brown represents a new generation of nurse scientists who can build their research over the course of an extended career as a researcher.

As we move forward, the School of Nursing will continue to strengthen its research through the CBCR. Our faculty are making new discoveries that will lead to improvements in patient care. From studying the impact of relaxation techniques on patients with early breast cancer to examining the effectiveness of sedation and oral care on mechanically ventilated patients, School of Nursing researchers are making important contributions to nursing research.

The School of Nursing is creating the evidence for clinical care. We are on the cutting edge of translational science and we are a model for interprofessional collaboration in research.

This Spring, the VCU School of Nursing celebrated the 20th anniversary of its doctoral program, which has produced a number of successful nurse scientists and educators. We commemorated this important occasion with a reunion and dinner on April 11 as we celebrated the successes of our doctoral graduates.

During this brief twenty years the faculty, students and graduates of this school have emerged as researchers and leaders in research and scholarship. You would expect no less of us than this! We invite you to visit your school, meet the faculty scientists and student scholars (from the freshmen to the doctoral students); see the transformation in our physical resources that enable us to conduct the studies; and understand the complexity of the science being undertaken here from the bench to the bed to the community.

Nancy F. Langston, RN, PhD, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Executive Director of Academic Nursing, VCU Health System
Lab coats, test tubes and research technologies are not images commonly associated with nursing careers, but VCU is changing that vision. With the establishment of its Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research (CBCR), the VCU School of Nursing places itself among an elite few institutions in the nation focusing on nursing research and technology. Through the CBCR, the School and its researchers are making important discoveries that improve patient care and safety and advance nursing education.

According to Dr. Nancy McCain, CBCR director, the idea for the Center was started in 1999 as researchers at the school examined ways to collaborate and find common ground within their various studies. “We worked a long time to examine our work and identify how it could be integrat-
VCU Prepares a New Generation of Nurse Scientists

ed through a common framework,” Dr. McCain said. “The CBCR has been a team effort from the very beginning.”

In examining their various research efforts, Dr. McCain, Dr. Rita Pickler, Dr. Cindy Munro, Dr. Mary Jo Grap and Dr. R. K. Elswick determined that while their research programs were uniquely focused, they all included a biobehavioral component. Biobehavioral research focuses on the connections between psychological, behavioral and biological factors and the impact of those factors on a patient’s health and ability to fight disease.

Once a common framework was determined, the School of Nursing started its search for center funding. In 2004, VCU received a grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) to establish the CBCR. Significant financial
Dr. Nancy McCain, director of the School’s CBCR, uses the Bio-Plex instrument in one of the School of Nursing’s labs. State-of-the-science labs are one of the many great features of the new building.

Opposite page: Dr. Rita Pickler’s research focuses on feeding readiness in preterm infants. Pictured above are (from left): Barbara Reyna, Gail Barker and Dr. Pickler; seated: Marty Lewis.
support has also been provided by the School of Nursing and Virginia Commonwealth University.

The CBCR provides a support system for researchers early in the trajectories of biobehavioral research. By offering pilot funding to School of Nursing faculty, the CBCR helps junior investigators initiate programs of research. Ideally, these pilot projects will allow investigators to build their research and eventually receive independently funded research.

“We have developed an infrastructure to support research and researchers. We help them collect pilot data in order to move their programs forward,” Dr. McCain said.

The School's researchers also benefit from interdepartmental collaboration within the larger VCU community. Coordination with the VCU Health System provides access to patients needed for participation in the studies and experts in other healthcare fields. This collaboration extends into other areas including bioengineering and the basic sciences.

A support network
As part of the School of Nursing, the CBCR relies on faculty researchers to mentor new investigators through every stage of the process. As director of pilot studies, Dr. Pickler oversees the call for proposals, manages work flow and ensures that proposals are prepared in a timely manner.

“I meet often with individuals who are writing pilot study proposals. We start with the basics — what is the main question. From there I work with them to refine the questions, identify methods, and seek out others who help provide guidance in specific areas. I help them with formatting their work and on the components that are part of the application process,” Dr. Pickler said.

Dr. Munro, measurement services coordinator for the CBCR, helps researchers consider appropriate outcome measures for their projects. “I help them understand and identify the nuances of measurement. Often, our investigators are exploring new areas of research and I’m there to help them work through important measurement issues.”

For example, if an investigation relies on testing cortisol levels, the researcher would need to consider important questions such as:

- Will the cortisol level be gathered by testing blood or saliva?
- At what time of day should it be measured?
- What are the collection outcomes?
The CBCR and its researchers also rely on Dr. Elswick, the CBCR's coordinator for data services. His work as a biostatistician is a critical component of the studies occurring in the School. In addition, Dr. Elswick serves as a co-investigator on several independently funded studies of School of Nursing faculty.

Dr. Mary Jo Grap serves as the CBCR's director of postaward services, coordinating a team of research assistants who support the pilot investigators in their research projects. Research assistants support investigators by reviewing charts, collecting data and approaching patients for inclusion in the pilot studies.

A major strength of the CBCR lies in its synergy and collaboration. This team approach not only benefits the pilot investigators funded by the CBCR, but the School's more senior researchers whose studies are independently funded.

"The research we can hold in common wouldn't be developed from our individual projects. We can leverage grants together and accomplish more than each of us could individually," Dr. Munro said.

Dr. Mary Jo Grap works with a research team to study the impact of sedation on mechanically ventilated patients in the ICU. Pictured above are: Dr. Grap, Dr. Curtis Sessler, Dr. Paul Wetzel, Anne Hamilton, Isti Arief, Dr. Jessica McKinney and Dr. Cindy Munro.
Since the Center was established, Dr. Munro believes the CBCR has enhanced the School in many ways. “The CBCR has helped us recruit faculty and students and moved our science ahead immeasurably. We also benefit from shared use of equipment and expertise,” she said.

Dr. Pickler also believes the CBCR has positively influenced the School’s reputation, attracting new faculty and students to the program.

“The Center has been critical in our growth as a School and as individual scientists. It has helped foster an energy and an excitement about nursing and nursing research. Numerous faculty and many students have participated in research activities sponsored by the Center,” Dr. Pickler said. “The reputation that VCU has built, in part because of our Center support, means that we attract many more qualified students to the school and many excellent faculty to our ranks.”

“Most of the people we’ve hired in adult health have a focus on biobehavioral research. The CBCR expands the research development options open to our faculty,” said Dr. D. Patricia Gray, chair of the CBCR Advisory Board and chair of the School’s Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. “It also helps recruit doctoral students. Our well-funded group of researchers provides ongoing educational activities in which students can participate.”

Over the next five years, the School will continue to strengthen the research program and support faculty pursuing independent grants to fund their research efforts. Other future goals include staying on the cutting edge of research technology, recruiting and retaining new faculty and maintaining a consistent ranking within the top 20 of NIH-funded nursing schools (the school is currently ranked 21st).

Without the CBCR and its faculty researchers, the VCU School of Nursing would not be the renowned institution it is today. Moving forward, the School of Nursing is committed to preparing the next generation of nurse scientists and making new discoveries in nursing knowledge. The CBCR and VCU’s investigators are essential to our current successes and the future growth of the School.
Julie Stillman, Dr. Cindy Munro and Dr. Nancy McCain are an integral part of the CBCR.
The School of Nursing not only benefits from the NINR grant to operate the center, but also a number of independently funded research grants. While research grants come through separate resources, independently funded investigators also benefit from the CBCR. The Center allows for easy collaboration among independent researchers and shared use of equipment and resources.

Currently, four School of Nursing faculty members are conducting funded research on various biobehavioral issues. While the focus varies, all the research is aimed at improving care for patients.

For women who are battling breast cancer, feelings of fear and stress may feel overwhelming. Dr. McCain’s research, funded by the National Cancer Institute, examines the effectiveness of stress management techniques for women who have been diagnosed with early breast cancer and are undergoing chemotherapy.

Drs. Grap and Munro collaborate extensively on their research which focuses on the care of mechanically ventilated patients. Currently, Dr. Grap is engaged in a study examining the impact of sedation on mechanically ventilated patients. While sedation ensures patient comfort, an excess amount can be harmful. Working with a team of VCU researchers, Dr. Grap wants to better understand how effective hospitals are at meeting the goals of patient sedation.

Dr. Munro’s research examines the impact of oral health on the general health of a patient. Specifically, she is investigating the impact of tooth brushing and use of mouthwash on incidences of ventilated associated pneumonia.

Dr. Pickler’s work aims to improve health care for our youngest patients. Her NINR-funded project is investigating feeding care of preterm infants to reduce hospital stays and prevent developmental delays.
At December’s Recognition Ceremony, it was very clear that the VCU School of Nursing is doing its part to end the nursing shortage. More than 217 degrees were awarded to Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degree candidates!

The newest graduates celebrated in the traditional manner of the School of Nursing, showing their enthusiasm and passion through spirited ornamented mortarboards and by creating a joyful noise throughout the program.

Award Winners:

Yingling Senior Achievement Award: Teresa James
Mable Montgomery Award: Danielle Murphy
Mayme B. Wilson Lacey Award: Ashley Gunnell
Marguerite Nicholas Award: Nick Guenzel
RN Award: Leslie (Les) Waller
Temple Memorial Award: Joseph Walsh
Martha M. Borlick Research Award: Deborah Jefferson Jones
"We are aware of more than our patient’s names . . ."  
— Teresa James
More than 125 of the School of Nursing’s closest and best friends celebrated together at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on the evening of Thursday November 1st.

Enjoying cocktails, dinner and a delicious desert of warm chocolate torte covered in caramelized banana, alumni and friends caught up with each other and enjoyed the music of the Butch Taylor Trio.

The evening was a huge hit by all accounts. To become a member of the Sadie Heath Cabaniss Leadership Society, you must donate a minimum of $250 to the School of Nursing during the course of a fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).
Dr. Suzanne Ameringer
With more than 27 years of experience in nursing, Dr. Ameringer is a welcome addition to the VCU faculty. Last summer, Dr. Ameringer and her husband, a professor in VCU’s L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, made the move from Oshkosh, Wis.

Dr. Ameringer’s major teaching assignments involve nursing of children. Her focus on children is also evident in her research which focuses on pain management techniques for adolescents with cancer.

Since joining the VCU faculty, Dr. Ameringer has been impressed with the School’s commitment to both education and research. “The research occurring here is so exciting. Our faculty are conducting meaningful studies that can positively impact our patients,” she said. “The School of Nursing also places a strong emphasis on providing a great education. We successfully balance teaching and research with a commitment to community service.”

Dr. Ameringer received her BS from Towson University in 1980. After years of working as a nurse, she decided to pursue her master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She earned her MS in 2003 and her PhD in 2007.

Dr. Ching-Yu Cheng
Last June, Dr. Cheng joined the School of Nursing staff, a year after receiving her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Cheng’s teaching assignments are in women’s health.

Like other faculty, Dr. Cheng was impressed by VCU’s Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research (CBCR) and its clear commitment to making new research discoveries. The School’s new building, relationship with the hospital and commitment to inter-disciplinary collaboration were also important strengths.

“The faculty here is very supportive and the School is focused on technology. The new technologies that are applied in the classroom are fantastic and wonderful for the students,” Dr. Cheng said.

Currently, Dr. Cheng’s research concerns the health of pregnant women and postpartum mothers. Her study focuses on various aspects of health and factors that influence health.

Dr. Cheng received her MSN from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1995 and her BSN from the Taipei Medical University, Taiwan in 1988.

Dr. Carolyn Driscoll
Dr. Driscoll joined the School of Nursing faculty in August after several years at the University of Tennessee College of Nursing.
While Driscoll enjoyed her time at the University of Tennessee, she wanted to move closer to her family in New York and find a larger university in an urban setting. After meeting Dean Nancy Langston at a nursing research meeting, she quickly realized that the VCU School of Nursing was an ideal location for her.

The School's CBCR also influenced her decision to join the faculty. Driscoll's research focuses on the relationship between genetics and the development of diabetes related to liver disease. Specifically she's examining the development of diabetes following a liver transplant.

"The CBCR and the School's senior researchers are an incredible resource for the faculty. I've received such wonderful feedback on my own research. The faculty provides a supportive, collegial environment that isn't too competitive," she said.

Driscoll received her undergraduate degree from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y. In 1992, she received her MSN from the University of Virginia followed by a post-mater's certificate in 1998. In 2005, Driscoll earned her PhD from the University of Tennessee.

**Linda Haddad, RN, PhD**

In the Spring of 2007, Dr. Haddad left a faculty position in Amman, Jordan to join the VCU School of Nursing. She brings a wealth of experience in nursing and nursing education.

Dr. Haddad's research interests focus on smoking cessation programs for middle-aged adults. Smoking is a major public health issue in the Middle East. An estimated 40 percent of Jordanians are smokers.

Since joining the VCU faculty, Dr. Haddad has been pleased with the School of Nursing's commitment to research and education and its impressive new educational buildings.

"The School places an important focus on research. The CBCR and other faculty provide a supportive environment for moving research ideas into action. I joined the faculty at a very exciting time in the School's history," she said.

In 1985, Dr. Haddad received her BSN from Jordan University in Amman, Jordan. She moved to the United States to continue her education, earning an MSN from the University of Pennsylvania and her PhD from the University of Maryland in 1993.

**Linda Hughes, PhD, RN**

Dr. Hughes joined the VCU School of Nursing in January. Prior to joining the VCU faculty, Hughes served as a research associate professor and postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina School of Nursing.

Dr. Hughes earned her PhD at the University of Texas at Austin in 1993 after more than 20 years as a critical care nurse and nurse manager. She received her MSN from Texas Woman's University in 1978 and her BSN from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1972.

Currently, Dr. Hughes teaches in the Nursing Administration and Leadership program. Her interest in hospital organizational structure and nurses’ work environment led to her interest in studying nurses’ use of discretion in clinical decision-making and its implications for patient outcomes. Specifically, her research is focused on better understanding the link between the clinical decisions made by nurses at the patient’s bedside and the extent to which such decisions minimize unnecessary treatment delays and failure to rescue during hospitalization.

Since joining the VCU School of Nursing, Dr. Hughes has been impressed with the faculty, the School’s CBCR and the strong working relationship between the hospital and the School.

"I think I have a great opportunity to contribute to the growth of the school," she said. “I’ve been so impressed with the faculty here and the supportive team spirit at the school.”

**Victoria Menzies, PhD, APRN-BC**

Dr. Menzies is one of the newest members of the School's Adult Health faculty. She joined VCU in January after serving as assistant professor at Florida International University.

While Dr. Menzies is new to VCU, she has strong ties to Virginia. She attended the University of Virginia School of Nursing where she earned her MSN in Psychiatric Nursing in 2000 and her PhD in Nursing Research in 2004. Prior to attending UVA, Dr. Menzies worked as a nurse and nurse educator for nearly 25 years.

She is a graduate of the Asbury Hospital School of Nursing and holds a BA in English from Columbia University and a Master’s in Education from Temple University.

The School of Nursing’s CBCR was a factor in Dr. Menzies’ decision to come to VCU. She recently completed a pilot study examining the effects of guided imagery and relaxation on Hispanic patients with Fibromyalgia.

As she expands her research, Dr. Menzies will examine the relationships among perceived stress, immune function biomarkers and physical symptoms (pain, fatigue and functional ability) in persons diagnosed with fibromyalgia.

“I’m very happy to have joined the VCU School of Nursing. The School has a supportive, collaborative faculty focused on advancing nursing research and education and it is exciting to be a part of it,” Dr. Menzies said.
Four members of the School of Nursing faculty were recently honored by the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) for their contributions to nursing research. **Drs. Nancy McCain, D. Patricia Gray, Cindy Munro and Jennifer Brown** were all recognized for their important achievements during the SNRS meeting, held in Birmingham, Ala.

Dr. Gray was honored as the outgoing president of the SNRS, recently completing a two-year term in this role. Through her commitment to the School, the SNRS and the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, Dr. Gray has worked steadfastly to enhance the organizational effectiveness of the SNRS and to advance nursing research both nationally and in the Southern region.

A leader in nursing research, Dr. McCain was recognized as the SNRS 2008 Distinguished Researcher. Dr. McCain’s program of NIH-funded research in psychoneuroimmunology has generated discoveries leading to new understandings of stress management and the biobehavioral mechanisms of stress. In collaboration with other senior scientists at the VCU School of Nursing, Dr. McCain also received an NINR grant to establish the School’s Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research.

Dr. Brown was named the 2007 Gloria Smith, RN, Virginia Cleland, RN, ANF/SNRS Scholar. Her project is entitled “An Examination of Emergency Department Pediatric Psychiatric Service Structure, Process and Outcomes.”

Dr. Munro was elected to the Southern Nursing Research Society Board of Directors. Her work is leading to new discoveries for patients and nursing research.
From the Alumni Chair, Nursing Division

The MCV Alumni Association sponsored The 8th Annual Nursing Roundtables on April 23. Nursing alumni representing areas of nursing specialization chosen by the senior nursing students meet with the students each year over lunch to make presentations outlining their experiences in their professional roles. Time is routinely set aside for the students to ask questions. This year, the class chose nurse anesthesia and forensic nursing. It is very interesting to see the students’ choices from year to year.

We are grateful for the work done by the Nursing Awards Committee who met in February to select the 2008 Outstanding Nurse Alumnus, Outstanding Nurse Service and Outstanding Nurse Practice Awards which were presented during Reunion Weekend. We will also present the 2008 Alumni Star Award during Commencement Activities. I want to personally thank Trish Bernal BS ’80, MS ’91 for agreeing to chair this committee on behalf of the Nursing Division. I also want to recognize Judy Collin NP ’75 for her years of leadership and dedication as the former chair of the Nursing Awards Committee.

I am excited to announce that Mary Ann Mugel, MS ’90 has agreed to chair the Nursing Lectureship Committee. Our plan is to have her work with her committee to plan a Nursing Lectureship for the fall. She is relieving Ann Hardy BS ’99 who served as the Nursing Lectureship Committee Chair for many years. I want to thank both of them for their dedication.

Beth S. McNeil, RN, MSN
Chair, MCV Alumni Association of VCU
Nursing Division Board
Reunion weekend
More than 100 guests gathered for the VCU School of Nursing’s Garden Party, featuring artist and VCU School of Dentistry alumnus, Dr. Baxter Perkinson. The event provided a way to thank our generous supporters for their important contributions to the School.

As part of the event, Dr. Perkinson completed an original watercolor, giving guests the chance to see him paint in person. A strong supporter of VCU, Dr. Perkinson donated 123 original watercolors when the new School of Nursing building opened in 2007. Through an Adopt-A-Painting program, funds have been raised to construct a garden behind the school. Work on the garden is set to begin this summer. Once completed, the garden will provide a relaxing space for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and nurses across the Commonwealth.
It’s hard to believe, but it’s been more than 20 years since the VCU School of Nursing established its doctoral program in nursing. To celebrate this anniversary, a special reunion celebration was held April 11 drawing a number of doctoral alumni.

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, chief executive officer of the National League for Nursing, provided the keynote address, Revolution: Transformation with Daring Ingenuity. Other speakers included Dr. Nancy Langston, dean of the VCU School of Nursing; Francis L. Macrina, PhD, VCU vice president for research; and Sheldon M. Retchin, MD, MSPH, VCU vice president for health sciences and CEO of the VCU Health System.

Following a reception in the School’s garden, guests enjoyed a dinner at The Jefferson Hotel. D. Patricia Gray, PhD, RN, department chair of Adult Health and Nursing Systems, delivered the remarks following the dinner.
On April 12, the School of Nursing hosted an Open House, Alumni Receptions and Awards Program. Participants enjoyed tours the new School of Nursing Building and explored nursing history in the Heritage Room. In addition, the School hosted special events for the Class of 1958 and alumni of the St. Philip’s School of Nursing.

During the awards program, the following alumni were recognized for their contributions to nursing:

- Jennifer Hopkins Matthews (BSN ’74, MSN ’76) for Outstanding Nurse Alumnus Award
- Catherine Mooklar Courtney (BSN ’70, MSN ’77) for Outstanding Nurse Service Award
- Sara Phillippe (BSN ’98) for Outstanding Nurse Practice Award
**Faculty News and Notes**

**Dr. Tony DeLellis** has been appointed to a standing committee of the International Leadership Association. The committee focuses on Applied Leadership, and will conduct peer review of proposals for presentations at the international annual conference.

**Tanya Huff MSN, RN** joins Anne Boyle PhD, RN, in successfully passing the NLN’s Nurse Educator certification exam.

**Robin Hills, MS, RNC, WHNP**, has been selected to be an NLN Ambassador.

At the September NLN Education Summit in Phoenix, Ariz., **Dean Nancy F. Langston, PhD, RN** was recognized for her visionary leadership in founding the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education. She first began this activity in 2002, served as the Foundation’s first president, and has just completed her term on the Foundation’s Board of Directors. The NLN Foundation has funded efforts to transform nursing education, including research grants, dissertation support and fellowships for minority nurse educators.

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

Twenty percent of the articles published in the December 2007 issue of *Progress in Transplantation* were contributed by **Adult Health and Nursing Systems faculty**.

**Debra Lyon, PhD, RN** has been selected as a participant in the 2007-08 Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute of Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Alumni Notes**

**Ok Chon Allison, Ph.D ’03, ANP, CDE, FAANP**, is currently an adult nurse practitioner in the Division of Gastroenterology at Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Since Graduation, Dr. Allison was the recipient of an “Outstanding Research Presentation Award” presented at the American Academy of Nurse Practitioner Annual Conferences in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

**Melissa Anderson, BSN ’06,** is currently working as an RN at the VCU Health System in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

**Elizabeth (Barnes) Bell RN, BSN ’03**, resides in Morehead City, N.C. where she is currently a senior level advance degree nursing instructor at Carteret Community College.

**Golden H. Bethune-Hill, RN, MSN ’85, CNA, BC**, executive vice president/administrator of Riverside Regional Medical Center in Hampton, Va. was chosen as the 2008 School of Nursing Alumni Star.

**Georgene Roth, N ’71,** has published her second book, *Living Beyond*. This book, written in a novel form, is the story of Edith, a registered nurse who is wrongly admitted to a dementia unit after suffering a stroke while teaching staff to care for residents with dementia. You can read more about the author and her book on her website at: www.trafford.com/4dcgi/robots/07-0335.html

**Katherine Berry, MS ’81**, resides in Richmond, Va., and is a clinical nurse specialist at Bon Secours Hospice and Palliative Care.

**Eleanor H. Garrett, BSN ’60, PhD ’96**, has been part of VCU School of Nursing as an adjunct faculty member. She also spent some time working as a pediatric nurse practitioner on the Central Virginia Medical Mission Team of which she has been a member for five years. Each year they go to Jamaica to work at St. Thomas Parish. Currently, she teaches at Amherst County High School as a Program Coordinator School of Practical Nursing.
John S. Daniels BSN ‘76, lives in Washington, Mo. and works as an RN for St John’s Mercy Hospital.

Bethany Geldmaker, PhD ’01, is the program director of Early Childhood Health at the Virginia Department of Health.

Emily E. Drake RN, PhD ’05, resides in Charlottesville, Va. and works at McLeod Hall at the University of Virginia as an Assistant Professor.

Janice A. Neil, MS’94, PhD ’98, lives in Winterville, N.C. and works at East Carolina University as an Associate Professor.

Barbara Reynolds Caldwell NP ’04, is in Mt. Laurel, N.J., working as a CRNP and CNS at Drenk Behavioral Health.

Michael Hoerr BSN ’92, is a retired Major from the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Michael is currently the director of critical care nursing at the Arizona Heart Hospital in Phoenix.

Melody Haines RN, BSN ’03, lives in Peebles, Ohio and is an RN at Clermont Mercy Hospital.

John Morgan BSN ’96, is living Grover, Wyo., where he and his wife started the company, Star Valley Alpacas. When not raising Alpaca, he works as an RN in the Medical/Surgical Unit of the Star valley Medical Center.

Barbara Lindsay BSN ’81, MS ’83, is a senior nursing officer with the National Guard Health Affairs in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In Memory

Mrs. Lorraine G. Baise ‘51, July 2007
Mr. Clarence A. Burkett ’97, October 2007
Mrs. Jean Scott Diggs ’52, January 2008
Ms. Jamison H. Farmer ‘67, August 2007
Mrs. Curtura W. Gaines ’49, January 2008
Mrs. Gayle T. Gwaltney ’77, January 2008
Mrs. Josephine Hague ’36, November 2007
Mrs. Lottie J. Howard ’37, August 2007
Mrs. Peggy T. Humphreys ’74, June 2007
Mrs. Virginia Patterson, ’33, April 2007
Ms. Genna C. Wiley ’03, December 2007
Mrs. Virginia M. Wright ’39, July 2007
This year, the Class of 1958 celebrated its 50th reunion during the 2008 Alumni Weekend. A number of alumni returned for a weekend of festivities and the chance to catch up with old friends.

Beauty Crummette, a member of the class of ’58, has fond memories of her time at the MCV School of Nursing. In reflecting on her experiences, she considers the many changes the school has experienced within the last 50 years, particularly advances in nursing education and technology. Today’s students use patient simulators as part of the educational process, allowing for time to practice and work on skills that may not come as easily.
"The new educational technologies constantly amaze me. Students today learn so much through simulators, video and other technologies," she said. "The way we learned was so different than it is today."

Technology is not the only change in nursing education. Students in the Class of '58 were given an increased amount of patient responsibility early in the educational process.

"People's lives were entrusted to us very early. We were expected to do things correctly," Crummette said. "We took our hospital responsibilities seriously and relied on each other to ensure that there was enough staffing for the shift. In our sophomore year, we were taught to be in charge. The responsibility of the entire unit would fall to us. Today’s students are not placed in that level of responsibility."

Crummette has always had the highest opinion of the School and took her education seriously. A native of Fluvanna, Va., Crummette’s high school guidance counselor encouraged her to pursue a nursing degree. After a visit with the School of Nursing dean, Crummette was admitted into the program.

While the nursing program was demanding, Crummette said she enjoyed the time with her classmates. "We helped each other by studying in groups. There was always someone there to confide in when you needed someone to talk to," she said. "The School provided me with an excellent education and an excellent foundation. I felt very prepared for a career in nursing."
Founded in 1893, the VCU School of Nursing has a long, respected nursing heritage. Drawing on the traditions and excellence of the Medical College of Virginia School of Nursing, the St. Philip School of Nursing, the Richmond Professional Institute and others, our students, faculty and alumni have made significant contributions to nursing and the lives of untold numbers of patients.

When the School developed the plans for its new, state-of-the-science facility, it dedicated prominent space on the first floor for a Heritage Room to celebrate our rich history of nursing and nursing education. Exhibits will provide today’s nursing students with a better understanding of the school’s rich history, showing how the VCU School of Nursing and the nursing profession have changed throughout the years and highlighting the significant contributions and accomplishments our students, faculty and alumni. Moving forward, the Heritage Room will chronicle new memories as our students and faculty make history and new discoveries every day.

**Donate today to become a charter supporter**
As part of their upcoming 50th reunion celebration, the Class of 1959 is leading an effort to establish an endowed fund for the Heritage Room. Join the Class of ’59 and become a charter supporter today.

You can also support our efforts by donating photographs, uniforms or other nursing artifacts reflecting the life of a nursing student. For more information or to make a donation, contact the School of Nursing at vcunursing@vcu.edu or 804.828.2993.