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Summer 2006

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR **VCU**

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

The Power of Personal Philanthropy

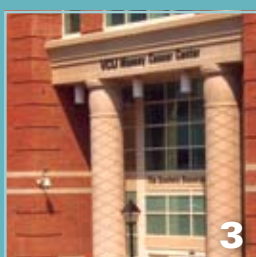
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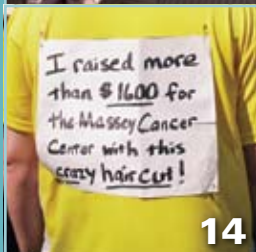


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Photo courtesy Dan Currier

Participants at the May 6 ribbon-cutting ceremony included (from left) William E. Massey Jr., Becky Massey, Morgan Massey, Alice T. Goodwin, Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., Dr. Gordon D. Ginder and William H. Goodwin Jr.

Massey's new 'jewel' shines at dedication

May 5 was shaping up to be quite a hectic day for Lila Putney. But after a year and a half of planning to get to this point, she was OK with a little bit of hectic.

Putney, co-chair of the Dedication Committee for the Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center with Vickie Snead (B.S. '76), had spent part of the morning with the other committee members arranging huge bouquets of roses and other flowers that would adorn tables at that night's gala celebrating the dedication of Massey's new state-of-the-art research laboratory. As she walked out of the building carrying the flowers over to the tented area across the street, she noticed traffic was backing up at the hospital because of the activity at Massey. The valets were working hard to keep the flow moving, but it was a slow process.

"I was trying to stop at each car, thanking them for their patience and giving them each a rose," Putney said.

When she stopped at one car, she spoke with a female passenger using oxygen and wearing a scarf on her head. She was at the hospital for her daily cancer treatment. The woman told Putney that she had watched the building take shape from the time it was just a hole in the ground. "This is such an exciting day — to realize the wonderful discoveries that will be coming from this building," she said.

The conversation left Putney teary. That type of community awareness about the importance and accessibility of Massey was one of the committee's major goals in planning the dedication, she said.

The new, \$41.5 million, 80,000-square-foot lab, which was named The Goodwin Research Laboratory in honor of the generous support of William H. and Alice T. Goodwin, is designed to foster greater collaboration, generate new ideas and allow researchers to work more efficiently. In the fight against cancer, this is ground zero.

VCU researchers had to apply for space in the lab and were selected based on their research funding and potential for collaboration. Initially, 150 people (27 research teams) will move into the lab. One-third of the lab space has been left open so nationally recognized researchers can be recruited. About 250 people eventually will work in the new lab.

"In the next 10 years, researchers at Massey will make important new discoveries that will improve the lives and life spans of people with cancer in Virginia and

★ see [Massey](#), continued on Page 4

around the world,” said Dr. Gordon D. Ginder, Massey’s director.

Ginder and the work he’s fostering is one of the main reasons the Goodwins became involved with Massey.

About six years ago, the Goodwins decided to learn more about cancer, Alice Goodwin said. After some research, the Goodwins decided the one area of cancer research that really needed a boost was translational research — where the promising ideas generated in a lab are adapted to patients.

“We picked Massey because Massey is dedicated to this type of research, particularly work by Dr. Steven Grant. In addition, we think the world of Dr. Ginder. This city is very fortunate to have him here,” she said.

A year ago, Becky Massey, a key player on the dedication committee and a Massey Advisory Board member, asked Alice Goodwin to serve as honorary chair of the committee. She readily accepted. “It was such an education and a pleasure to work with this group, dreaming of what we could create,” Goodwin said.

The committee agreed that the dedication events needed to take place on-site, not at a club or a hotel, which admittedly would have been much easier to organize.

“We wanted it to be a wonderful, elegant evening to celebrate what was once a diamond in the rough now becoming a new, shining jewel in our community,” Putney said. “We wanted not only our monetary supporters but also the community-at-large to have the opportunity to see our fabulous National Cancer Institute-designated cancer research center in Richmond.”

So the group went to work planning a Friday night gala and a Saturday community dedication. That meant arranging parking, security, city permits, a huge tent ... the list went on and on. About 370 people attended the gala, and nearly 300 enjoyed Saturday’s community festivities.

Another of the committee’s main goals was to raise money for cancer research. That aim hit especially close to home for Snead.

“My mother died of ovarian cancer when she was only 61,” said Snead, who also serves as co-chair with her husband, Tom (B.S. ’76), of the Campaign for VCU. “Tom and I have always felt a commitment to finding a cure for cancer. When Tom worked at Anthem, he saw Massey’s potential in becoming a leading NCI center and quickly got me involved. The sincerity and generosity of the community as well as corporate world has taken Massey to a new level.”

The committee raised more than \$260,000 for Massey through corporate and private donations.

The Goodwin Research Laboratory is a shining example of a successful public-private partnership that is crucial to the research process, said Matthew Thompson, co-chair of the Campaign for Massey and vice chair of the Massey Advisory Board.

“This new lab and the success of the campaign have given us terrific momentum. Dr. Ginder now needs the resources to help attract additional top-level researchers,” he said. “We can’t stop here.”

For more information about contributing to the VCU Massey Cancer Center, contact Rosemary LaVista, executive director of development and external relations, at (804) 828-1452 or rlavista@vcu.edu.



The “Fab Four” — (from left) Vickie Snead, Becky Massey, Alice T. Goodwin and Lila Putney — worked for months to organize the dedication celebration.

Attacking a health care crisis through philanthropy

The health care field is in emergency mode. As the state's population continues to explode, a shortage of skilled workers looms.

A pair of recent gifts from industry leaders to Virginia Commonwealth University will help address the issue by bolstering faculty and preparing students for the challenges they'll meet in the field.

Bon Secours Health System, which operates four hospitals in the Richmond area, has donated \$250,000 to endow a new professorship in the Department of Health Administration in the School of Allied Health Professions. Stephen Mick, Ph.D., chair of the department, said the Bon Secours Professorship will help recruit or retain a nationally ranked faculty member.

"In the short term, students can be assured of having continued contact with an outstanding and respected faculty member," Mick said. "In the long term, the professorship will assure that we can continue to have the resources needed for a person of the highest caliber on our faculty."



(From left) Papatya Tankut, vice president of CVS Pharmacy Services, and School of Pharmacy Dean Victor Yanchick, Ph.D., talk with pharmacy students.

The Bon Secours professor, he said, will have expertise in hospitals and not-for-profit hospital systems, including those sponsored by religious groups.

Bon Secours is committed to developing future leaders, said Sister Patricia Eck, Bon Secours Health System chair, and that's why the hospital system made this donation.

With several Bon Secours hospitals in the area, Eck said, VCU students often can complete projects in Bon Secours facilities. Doctors benefit from working near and alongside students, too, she said.

"I think when you have students around it keeps you focused and current, so I think it's invaluable for both," said Eck, who earned a master's degree in health administration at VCU.

The School of Pharmacy also recently received a \$250,000 donation to help address the issues facing the health care community. The gift from CVS Pharmacy has created an endowment to help support a satellite campus program at INOVA Hospital in Fairfax, Va.

In 2007, the program will bring 20 VCU pharmacy students together with 24 VCU medical students to complete their final two years of study. A CVS Pharmacy Student Learning Resource Center at the INOVA campus also will support distance-learning technologies that will keep students in Fairfax connected with faculty and resources in Richmond.

With the endowment from CVS, VCU can provide technological resources, such as PDA-initiating support software and videoconferencing and webcasting equipment, which will assist in information retrieval and distance learning for students, said School of Pharmacy Dean Victor Yanchick, Ph.D.

"We will be able to admit more students to the university. It will increase our enrollment, and we'll become more responsive to the pharmacist shortage, particularly in Northern Virginia," he said.

To make a donation to the School of Allied Health Professions, contact Karen McQueen, director of development, at (804) 828-3269 or kumcqueen@vcu.edu. To make a donation to the School of Pharmacy, contact Ellen Firkins, director of development, at (804) 828-3016 or elfirkin@vcu.edu.

Establishing Christianity chair fulfills dream

When William E. Blake Jr. started a fund upon retiring from Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of History in 1992, he had relatively humble aspirations for its growth. The William E. and Miriam S. Blake Fund's primary goal was supporting an annual lectureship in Blake's area of interest, the history of Christianity. In 14 years, the fund has ballooned from the Blakes' initial \$25,000 donation to more than \$120,000.

By 2004, the fund could easily provide funding for the annual William E. and Miriam S. Blake Lecture in the History of Christianity. About this time, Blake acknowledged that the fund's intent might shift to creating a chair in his beloved field.

Little did he know that his dream would become a reality through the generosity of an anonymous benefactor who donated funds to reach the \$1 million needed to endow a chair in the history of Christianity this spring. "My wife's and my mouth fell open. We couldn't believe our ears," Blake said.

The creation of the William E. and Miriam S. Blake Chair in the History of Christianity is, for Blake, the realization of a career-long dream. Before establishing a chair was even an option, Blake's grass-roots fundraising — basically handing out fliers — to support the annual lectures saw only modest returns.

"Several people gave a hundred. One person gave \$1,000 as a result of that, but I never dreamed that this was going to happen in my lifetime," he said.

Blake has been giving back to the university since he started teaching full time in 1965, so it's only fitting that his legacy to VCU will be cemented through the generosity of students and other donors.

"The university and its students have just meant the world to me, and I still teach a course here. I've taught at least one course just about every year since I retired in '92," he said.

Blake, who had an interest in theology and history back to his earliest memories, started his VCU teaching career with courses in four eras: Renaissance, Reformation, Early Middle Ages and High Middle Ages. Given that these courses already covered roughly 1,000 years of Christianity's history, a colleague suggested Blake condense the information into a single course. Nearly 30 years later, Blake has taught the course he created, "History of Christianity," 35 times.

Considering his deep passion for the subject, Blake said he is overjoyed that the history department can create a chair in his name.

"What we need at the university is a good, strong historical basis in the history of Christianity. And that is unique for a state public university to have an endowed chair in the history of Christianity," he said.

For more information about contributing to the William E. and Miriam S. Blake Fund or other areas in the College of Humanities and Sciences, contact Lois Badey, director of development, at (804) 827-0856 or labadey@vcu.edu.



William E. Blake Jr. calls his wife, Miriam, "a firm supporter emotionally, morally and academically." The couple has established a scholarship fund, an endowed chair and a lectureship.

Scholarship rewards last medical student

Dr. Larry Schlesinger remembers the late summer of 1967 all too well. A long 13 days after the 1967-68 academic year had begun, Schlesinger had assumed his school of choice, the Medical College of Virginia, had passed on him. But after one student dropped out, he received a call that would change his life forever — the School of Medicine offered to make him the last student admitted into the Class of 1971.

Acceptance was a fresh feeling for Schlesinger, who had flunked out of medical school at the University of Michigan during his first year. He then served in the U.S. Army for much of the next three years and returned to civilian life determined to pursue medicine.

Schlesinger credits Miles Hench, Ph.D., then dean of admissions, with accepting him based on his potential rather than his track record. Schlesinger certainly did his part to validate Hench's decision; he not only graduated, but he also finished tied for first in his class and served as president of a medical honor society.

"I look back at what I went through and where I am today, and my life is truly a miracle," Schlesinger said. "I've got a great practice, and I would have none of this if Dr. Hench hadn't decided to take a chance on me."

Both in honor of the dean who admitted him and as a gesture of faith toward those who follow his path, in 2001 Schlesinger created the Miles E. Hench, Ph.D. Scholarship Fund in the School of Medicine. The award, of course, is given to the last student admitted to the school each year. In addition, Schlesinger has included a \$100,000 bequest in his will for the Hench scholarship endowment, and he has earmarked another \$1 million bequest for the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

"The last seat is the greatest seat of all," he said. "The last person accepted is ahead of thousands and thousands of people who never get the privilege of helping his or her fellow man as a physician."

Schlesinger, who has owned a plastic surgery practice in Kahului, Hawaii, for almost 25 years, was named Hawaii's Physician of the Year by the state's medical society in 2000.

The most recent scholarship recipient, Rebecca Krochmal, recalled her excitement when she learned that she had not only been accepted to medical school but also had earned a scholarship of more than \$1,900.

"I was overjoyed to be accepted into school so the scholarship was a bonus," Krochmal said.

Although Krochmal isn't yet sure of the medical specialty she will pursue after graduation, she said she knows that she will use her education and training to give back to others.

"It's a good feeling, having positive interactions or feeling like you're really helping people," Krochmal said.

Schlesinger's main advice to scholarship recipients: express gratefulness by giving to future generations in any way you can.

"The way to thank Dr. Hench and the school is to give back to your community," he said. "If you're fortunate enough to do well economically in the future, give back to the school economically so that the next generation and the one after that can get the great education that you got."

To make a donation to the School of Medicine, contact Thomas Holland, associate dean for development, at (804) 828-3800 or tehollan@vcu.edu.



During Reunion Weekend, scholarship recipient Rebecca Krochmal (from left) met with Arlene Uchigakiuchi and her fiancé, donor Dr. Larry Schlesinger, as well as other recipients Kendra Sweet and Joshua Karp.

Reunions bring alumni back to Richmond

RPI alumni reconnect with old friends

During Reunion and Alumni Weekend, about 230 guests and alumni of Richmond Professional Institute, which merged with the Medical College of Virginia to form VCU in 1968, returned to campus.

The weekend began April 28 as nearly 200 people gathered for a kickoff reception in the Fine Arts Building. Although many were thrilled to share memories and relive their college years, finding lost classmates proved to be difficult for some, said Diane Stout-Brown, executive director of the VCU Alumni Association. Many attendees had names of old friends called over the microphone to see if they were in the crowd. Luckily, she said, most of the requests were answered with joyful encounters.

Another reunion highlight came the next day as 32 alumni were inducted into the Golden Circle Alumni Club, which celebrates 50-year graduation anniversaries. Graduates of the Classes of 1954, 1955 and 1956 and alumni from classes before 1954 who missed their inductions were invited to pick up pins.

Martha Riis Moore was the oldest of the alumni on hand, having graduated in 1937.

After the reunion, Thomas H. Monahan, mass communications graduate of 1956 and co-chair of the RPI Reunion Planning Committee, said he was impressed by how VCU's vision and strategies have helped it become a "strong, major university."

Bob Meacham, graduate of the School of the Arts' Class of 1952, wrote to thank organizers: "Those of us who once felt forgotten no longer do, and the memories of this last reunion will burn brightly for many years to come."

Alumni also gave back during the weekend, with many attendees making donations toward the RPI Commemorative Sculpture.

For more information about joining the VCU Alumni Association, contact Diane Stout-Brown, executive director, at (804) 828-7020 or visit www.vcu-mcvalumni.org.



Martha Riis Moore graduated from Richmond Professional Institute in 1937. She was the oldest alumna at RPI Reunion and Alumni Weekend in April.

MCV Alumni Association of VCU honors friends and graduates

For its Reunion Weekend, which was held April 21-23, the MCV Campus brought home one of its biggest groups of alumni ever as they returned to honor distinguished members of the Virginia Commonwealth University family and to see forgotten friends.

One of the weekend's events focused on the hard work, admirable service and strong leadership that have been at the foundation of VCU's School of Dentistry for more than 100 years. Friends and alumni gathered April 22 to honor 12 men and women who have helped build the school's reputation. The group was inducted into the newly established Medallion Society.

The list of honorees included former deans and former members of VCU's Board of Visitors. Other recipients had funded scholarships, lectureships or professorships.

One inductee and current part-time faculty member, Dr. Jim Revere, cited wonderful relationships with students as his reason for continually serving the university.

"I have been here long enough to see the sons and daughters of the students I taught in the '70s come to dental school," Revere said. "I also have a great deal of pride in seeing students I taught years ago become caring and competent dentists."

Dr. Betsy Hagan, who also was inducted into the society and serves as the school's associate dean for clinics, said she felt honored to be part of such an exclusive group.

"Being a graduate of this school drives me a great deal," Hagan said. "The school itself means a lot to me, and I want to represent it well."

At the induction, Dean Ron Hunt thanked the new society members for their contributions. "Because of your kindness, dedication and generosity, you've made a difference in the lives of students and patients. Your advancement of the mission and vision of the school provides inspiration to our students, alumni, patients and friends," Hunt said.

Meanwhile, all of the MCV Campus schools welcomed alumni to class- or school-specific receptions and dinners throughout the weekend, providing time for reconnections with former classmates. A special champagne brunch was held Sunday to induct alumni celebrating 50-year graduation anniversaries into the Grand Alumni Society. The MCV Alumni Association of VCU also held its annual meeting and presented the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award to Dr. Charles Barr ('54) and the Hodges-Kay Service Award to Henry Addington (B.S. '51).

Some alumni used Reunion Weekend as a way to give back:

- > The School of Pharmacy's Class of 1956 donated \$15,000. The gift is the first step toward endowing a lectureship named for Emeritus Dean Warren Weaver, which will provide continuing education to alumni each Reunion Weekend.
- > With a \$7,000 gift, the Division of Dental Hygiene established a scholarship fund in honor of the program's 35th anniversary this year.

Huge participation helped make the weekend a smash — nearly 1,300 friends of the university enjoyed the festivities. MCV Alumni Association President Dr. George W. Burke III, ('70) said he enjoyed meeting so many alumni from across the country, reflecting on "how many lives have been touched by MCV alumni."

For more information about joining the MCV Alumni Association, contact Barbara Payton, executive director, at (804) 828-3900 or visit www.vcu-mcvalumni.org.

Sporting events, networking highlight AAAC reunion



Alumni get the AAAC Reunion Weekend started by hitting the links at the Birkdale Golf Club in Chesterfield County.

More than 270 former students returned to Virginia Commonwealth University during the last weekend in April for the 16th annual African-American Alumni Council Reunion.

First, alumni hit the links at Chesterfield's Birkdale Golf Club for the African-American Alumni Council and VCU Young Alumni Golf Classic. Friday night's reception provided a networking opportunity for alumni entrepreneurs,

and guest speaker Viola Baskerville, Virginia secretary of administration, spoke about connecting with younger alumni with entrepreneurial aspirations.

Saturday started with basketball and racquetball sessions at the Cary Street Gym. Not all alumni chose to sweat; some discussed university changes while enjoying a walking tour of the Monroe Park Campus.

AAAC President Franklin Wallace (B.F.A. '87) called the entire weekend a huge success. "The feedback was all positive. The event has grown tremendously year after year, and part of that is due to the fact that folks are willing to come out and participate," Wallace said.

For more information about joining the African-American Alumni Council, contact Assistant Director of Alumni Activities Larry Powell at (804) 828-2586 or wlpowell@vcu.edu.



Dr. Charles K. Johnson ('76) and his wife, Anna Maria Johnson (B.S. '75), try out their dancing shoes to the beach music sounds of the Rhondells.



Gail Bartee, business manager in the Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, warms up for the walk-a-thon. Walkers raised more than \$10,000 for new scholarships.

VCU walkers show they care about students

Sometimes making a difference really is all about walking the walk. More than 85 students, faculty and staff members did just that by making laps on the Cary Street Field April 6 for the Virginia Commonwealth University Walk-a-thon. Walkers hustled along for much of the three-hour event, but it was about more than physical fitness.

For each lap completed, participants helped juniors and seniors with financial need by securing pledges and donations to benefit the Virginia's Caring University Scholarship. In addition to individual pledges, Kathryn Murphy-Judy, Ph.D., president of the VCU Faculty Senate, donated an additional \$5 for each person who beat her lap total. The top walker completed 10 laps.

Supporting organizations

These organizations made contributions to the scholarship fund and/or donated gift certificates that walkers could win.

- > Absolute Massage
- > Capital Relocation Group
- > Caston Studio
- > Crown Plaza Hotels and Resorts
- > Ellwood Thompson's Natural Market
- > Great Foods to Go
- > The Jefferson Hotel
- > Olive Garden
- > The Radisson
- > Richmond Braves
- > Sam's Club
- > Target
- > Ukrop's Super Markets
- > VCU Athletics
- > VCU Business Services
- > VCU e² Bookstore
- > Virginia Book Co.
- > Washington Redskins

The event, organized by the VCU Staff Senate, raised more than \$10,000 for new scholarships with more than 150 people making gifts this year. Last year, about \$4,500 was raised.

This total came as a pleasant surprise to Marquita Aguilar, who helped organize the walk-a-thon as chairwoman of the Staff Senate Volunteer Committee.

"These scholarships were funded from the pockets of our staff, faculty, administration, students and several community sponsors," Aguilar said. "We want to help our students graduate so they can become the leaders of our community."

VCU English student Jahnissi Tirado, who walked for a second year, said she participated to meet faculty and staff members while working for a good cause.

"I do this to show students that there are faculty and staff who support us outside of the classroom," Tirado said.

☆ see [Walkers](#), continued on Page 13

Quiet please! VCU Libraries has a lot to say

Each year, the Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries welcomes distinguished authors to campus for free, public lectures.

"The lecture series brings together both the VCU and Richmond communities in a dynamic way to discuss not only literature but also many current events and philosophies," said Kimberly Separ, director of development for VCU Libraries. "It is a goal of VCU Libraries and Friends of the Library to sponsor lectures and speakers who make us think and engage us in meaningful dialogues."

This past spring, through the support of the VCU Friends of the Library, five authors gave talks.

- > In celebration of Black History Month, VCU Libraries sponsored two lectures in February. First, Richmond native Julian Houston, who is a novelist and a Massachusetts Superior Court associate justice, read to more than 150 guests from his recently published, semiautobiographical young-adult novel, "New Boy." Author, journalist, civil rights advocate and host of a popular PBS show, Tony Brown also gave a talk, titled "Empower the People," to about 250 students, faculty, alumni and donors.

Julian Houston

Tony Brown
- > In March, faculty member Jack D. Spiro, Ph.D., director of the VCU Center for Judaic Studies, presented the 21st annual Brown-Lyons Judaica Lecture to 350 people on "When Jews and Christians Meet: Barriers or Bridges?" This annual lecture, a partnership between the VCU Libraries and the VCU Center for Judaic Studies, is supported by the Richmond Jewish Foundation, the Jewish Community Foundation, Jacob and Selma Brown and the estate of Dr. Harry Lyons.

Jack D. Spiro, Ph.D.
- > Richmond author Dean King presented the 20th annual Cabell Lecture in April. In "Skeletons on the Zahara: A talk on the art of stalking history and grabbing the nonfiction tale," King took more than 100 people on a journey through the sometimes circuitous and unexpected nature of the writing process.

Dean King
- > More than 50 donors, alumni and faculty members gathered April 20 for afternoon tea and a reading at the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences on the MCV Campus. Dr. Richard P. Wenzel, professor and chairman of internal medicine, read from his book, "Stalking Microbes: A Relentless Pursuit of Infection Control."

Dr. Richard P. Wenzel

Upcoming VCU Libraries events include the Friends of the Library Book Sale, which is set for Oct. 25-28. For information about joining the group or making a donation to the library, contact Kimberly Separ, director of development, at (804) 827-1163 or krsepar@vcu.edu. For a calendar of events, visit www.library.vcu.edu/events.

Planning a bequest? Heritage Society welcomes you

The VCU Heritage Society plays an important role in strengthening the university. During the past five years, the Heritage Society has grown to more than 140 members.

Donors who make planned gifts to Virginia Commonwealth University's Monroe Park Campus are welcomed into the group. On the MCV Campus, these donors become members of the MCV Society. Many current and former employees of the university, including President and Mrs. Eugene P. Trani and former President and Mrs. Warren W. Brandt, are members.

"Planned gifts account for \$18.5 million of the overall Campaign for VCU goal of \$330 million," said Donald Dodson, president of the VCU Foundation and an alumnus of the School of Business. "This translates into significant support for scholarships, professorships and program and research needs."

In April, Heritage Society members were honored at a luncheon. Afterward, the group was treated to a performance of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" by Theatre VCU.

For more information about making a bequest, please visit the VCU Foundation Web site at www.vcu.org and click on "Ways to give" and then "Planned gifts." To become a Heritage Society member, please contact Thomas C. Burke, executive director of the VCU Foundation, at (804) 828-3958 or tcburke@vcu.edu. To become a member of the MCV Society, please contact Sharon Larkins-Pederson, senior development officer for the MCV Foundation, at (804) 828-9734 or slarkins@vcu.edu.



Joseph J. Holicky III and Irene Burlock have included VCU in their estate plans. They attended an April luncheon and Theatre VCU performance as members of the VCU Heritage Society.

In other giving news . . .

- > The **Mary Morton Parsons Foundation** awarded a challenge grant of \$1 million to the **VCU School of Business** in May. To receive the grant, the school was given six months to raise an additional \$1 million. The funds will go toward the Campaign for the School of Business.
- > The schools of **Business and Engineering** also received a boost from local governments. The **Henrico Board of Supervisors** approved a donation of \$200,000 a year for five years, while the **Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors** designated \$75,000 a year for five years. In addition, **Hanover County** will contribute \$25,000. These allocations are contingent on annual budget approvals and will be split evenly between the two schools.
- > In June, VCU received a \$1.5 million grant from the prestigious **Howard Hughes Medical Institute**. VCU, one of six universities to receive first-time grants, joined veteran research universities such as Harvard, Dartmouth, Stanford and Princeton in a quest to enrich the way undergraduate science is taught. VCU will use the grant to change the emphasis in undergraduate biology and life sciences education from a traditional, organismal approach to a more integrated "systems biology" approach in which all the molecular interactions in a system are examined to understand function. Thomas Huff, Ph.D., vice provost for VCU Life Sciences, said the grant complements an already rich and comprehensive effort at VCU in the area of systems biology. "Through VCU Life Sciences, VCU has one of the most comprehensive K-12 to faculty research programs in systems biology in the United States," he said.

Wishing many fond farewells

After 13 years, Michael B. “Mickey” Dowdy has resigned as chief development officer of the MCV Campus at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dowdy has been named vice chancellor for university advancement at East Carolina University.

Dowdy, who served as president of the MCV Foundation and as the chief development officer for the MCV Campus, left VCU at the end of June. He was selected by ECU after a national search and will oversee that university’s fundraising and alumni activities.

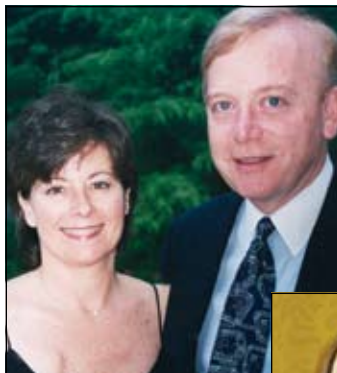
Joining Dowdy in his move to North Carolina is his wife, Lynn, who worked for VCU for 26 years and coordinated more than 200 class reunions. She resigned as assistant director of the MCV Alumni Association of VCU.

“This is a wonderful opportunity as Mickey will manage a universitywide advancement program that mirrors the complexity of VCU in many ways,” said Peter L. Wyeth, vice president for university advancement at VCU. “Mickey was a senior member of our team at VCU, and while we are always pleased to have our team members be selected for larger positions, we are nevertheless very sorry to be losing such an outstanding person.”

Another key development officer, J. Sheppard Haw III, also left VCU at the end of June to join Collegiate School as its director of development. Haw had been with VCU for 13 years, serving as associate director of development for the VCU Massey Cancer Center and director of development for MCV Hospitals.

“Shep also will be sorely missed because of his extensive knowledge of our local community and his teamlike approach to his work,” Wyeth said.

Active searches are under way to replace these three outstanding professionals.



Lynn and Mickey Dowdy are moving to North Carolina after spending a combined 39 years working at VCU.



After 13 years at VCU, Shep Haw is taking a position at Collegiate School.

Walkers, continued from Page 10

Juniors and seniors applying for the Virginia’s Caring University Scholarship must have at least a 2.7 grade-point average. In addition, applicants must provide evidence of past or current community service, submit an essay explaining why they deserve the scholarship and demonstrate financial need.

In a speech to walk-a-thon participants, VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., addressed the impact of financial aid on the university’s students: “Sixty-one percent of our students receive financial aid, and it is important to our students. Scholarships make a difference at Virginia’s university and Virginia’s opportunity university.”

Because VCU is one of the city’s largest employers, Staff Senate President LaForest Williams said the community was eager to give back to the university. The walk-a-thon earned contributions from several community sponsors, including a \$2,000 cash donation and a gift certificate from Sam’s Club.

If the Staff Senate has its way, the giving will last far beyond current scholarships. The group plans to award \$5,000 in scholarships this year and put the other \$5,000 toward an endowment for future scholarships, Aguilar said.

For more information about contributing to the Virginia’s Caring University Scholarship, contact Marquita Aguilar at (804) 827-0857 or mcaguila@vcu.edu.

What's happening . . .

Benefiting breast cancer research

The 11th annual Women & Wellness Breakfast and Luncheon fundraisers presented by the Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center drew more than 750 people to two talks by the nation's first female sportscaster, Phyllis George. George's message focused on some of life's advice from her book, "Never Say Never." The events, coordinated by more than 40 volunteers, raised more than \$190,000 for breast cancer research at Massey. In 11 years, Women & Wellness events have raised more than \$1.3 million.



Photo courtesy Glenn New

Sue Fitz-Hugh (left), chair of the event, and Dr. Gordon Ginder, director of the Massey Cancer Center, joined sportscaster Phyllis George after her talks Feb. 7 at The Jefferson Hotel.



Photo courtesy Fran Householder

Volunteers Penny Eissenberg (left), Sean Campbell, Massey Advisory Board member and 10k Committee Chair David Lyons and Massey Alliance Board member Travis Massey prepare for the race.



Photo courtesy Fran Householder

Steve Butler's mohawk was a real fundraiser.

Putting cancer on the run

In its multiyear relationship with Richmond Sports Backers, the Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center was beneficiary of the pledge program for the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k, which took place April 1. Massey mobilized more than 150 volunteers who did everything from stuffing information packets to handing out water along the race route. Some of the 20,000 runners, including Steve Butler with his mohawk haircut, raised more than \$100,000 to benefit Massey.



Photo courtesy Teal Featherston-Wilkinson

Rob Cardwell was one of the WTVR CBS-6 anchors who hosted the telethon.

Calling for kids

The second annual Virginia Commonwealth University Children's Medical Center telethon, held in conjunction with WTVR CBS-6 "For Kids Sake," highlighted stories of courageous children who are battling or have overcome a variety of illnesses. During the April 20 event, doctors and other medical professionals fielded more than 180 calls. Through the support of local governments, corporations and community members, more than \$325,000 was raised. All of the money will stay in our community to help advance the pediatric clinical care, to fund groundbreaking research and to help train the pediatricians of the future. VCU Children's is a full-service, pediatric health care facility dedicated to improving child health through research, education and state-of-the-art clinical care. The hospital cares for children of all ages, regardless of ability to pay, and treats more than 50,000 patients a year.



Photo courtesy Teal Featherston-Wilkinson

Pediatric oncology patient Hannah Clemmer (right with CBS anchor Julie Bragg) and her family participated in the telethon for the second year to share their story and support the hospital.



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