HOUSE CALLS
Delivering quality care and managing costs
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Scarab was first published in July 1944. Now, at 66 years old, it’s time for a facelift. Recent construction of the Critical Care Hospital, the Molecular Research Building, the Larrick Student Center, the School of Nursing facility and the W. Baxter Perkinson, Jr. Building has given the MCV Campus a fresh new look, and we would like to see that state-of-the-art appearance reflected in our alumni magazine. VCU Creative Services is helping us with a redesign, which will be unveiled with the summer 2011 issue.

We are proud of the long history of the MCV Campus, and Scarab has been part of that tradition, playing a vital role in connecting us, as alumni, to one another and to our school. In order to stay vibrant and alive, however, everything must grow and change. Our goal is to continue the Scarab tradition in a way that both honors the past and exemplifies our ongoing status as a cutting-edge medical institution.

Don’t get left behind! Join the MCV Alumni Association and keep Scarab coming to your mailbox. Membership costs as little as $40, and you can join online at www.vcu-mcvalumni.org or call us at (804) 828-3900 or (800) MCV-7799.

These are both exciting and challenging times for the healthcare field. The MCV Campus and Scarab may be getting older, but as always, they just keep getting better.

Sincerely,

James H. Revere ’65DDS
President, MCV Alumni Association of VCU
Dear Professor Coppedge:

We appreciated hearing from you regarding Wendy Parker’s article on “Treating the Whole Patient.” Thank you for pointing out the selfless participation by Robbie Norris in the medical module on yoga. He teaches a very systematic practice for the students that can easily become part of their daily routine for their own stress reduction and musculoskeletal health. Two inspiring medical students, Allie Lynch and Dan Fitzgerald, recognized the impact of yoga on health and developed the elective to educate medical students about the anatomy and physiology of yoga, its impact on health and well-being as well as some of the clinical applications of yoga. Allie attended one of Robbie’s classes and really enjoyed his attention to alignment, verbal adjustments and overall dedication to the practice. After that class, she and Dan met with Robbie one Sunday night to brainstorm ideas, and he became an integral part of the module.

As you correctly point out, Robbie has contributed significantly to the success of the course by recruiting some of his clients with clinical disabilities to speak with the students. These discussions are priceless, particularly as the medical students are at the beginning of medical school and are eager to learn from patients. I believe the students appreciate what Robbie has done for them, and I hope they have learned the value of integrating complementary medical practices into the rehabilitation of patients. If the yoga teacher were paid by the medical school for the hours in the yoga lab with the medical students, it would be a sign of both support of the medical students and a recognition that yoga might be helpful to the health of patients and their physicians. This year, the Grayson Fund is going to pay transportation and an honorarium for Dr. Ray Long, orthopedic surgeon and author of the book, “The Key Muscles of Hatha Yoga.” He paid his own way from New York two years ago to speak to the students on the anatomy. So there is hope for the future of integrative health at VCU.

Keep up the good work with your yoga practice and thanks for your input.

Sincerely,

Mary S. Shall ’91PhD/M-BH
Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy
VCU School of Allied Health Professions
SHELDON RETCHIN, MD ’79HS, VCU vice president for Health Sciences and CEO of the VCU Health System, was featured on the cover of the May issue of Swimmer magazine, the publication of U.S. Masters Swimming, for his invention that brought music to the swimming masses: the SwiMP3. Retchin, an avid swimmer, and VCU biomedical engineering professor Martin Lenhardt co-invented the bone-conduction technology used in the SwiMP3 waterproof MP3 player. Their invention safely conducts sound through vibrations from the cheekbone to the inner ear.

The VCU School of Nursing appointed four faculty members to alumni endowed professorships: MARY JO GRAP, PHD ’97(CERT)NP/N; CINDY MUNRO ’92PHD/N’97(CERT)NP/N; Nancy McCain, DSN; and RITA PICKLER, PHD ’98(CERT)NP/N.

“Each of these professors has made significant contributions to our school, our students and our university,” says Nancy F. Langston, PhD, RN, dean of the VCU School of Nursing. “In addition to being excellent educators, these scientists have made significant contributions to nursing research.”

The professorships were made possible through the support of alumni and friends. The fundraising effort began in 1987 with the creation of the Nursing Alumni Centennial Committee. The group was charged with generating interest in the school’s centennial and in raising funds to establish an endowed chair in nursing.

Third-year VCU medical student MaryEllen Cleary is one of only two students named to this year’s Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the national accrediting organization for U.S. and Canadian medical education programs. Cleary is the first VCU student to hold the position, which she received through an appointment by the American Medical Association’s board of trustees.

“This is a phenomenal honor,” says ISAAC K. WOOD ’82MD, senior associate dean for medical education and student affairs. “Each year, every U.S. and Canadian medical school may nominate two individuals to be student members. Out of all of these medical schools, only two are selected.”
Debra Lyon ’84BS/N’93MS/N’96FNP/N’97PhD/N has been appointed chair of the VCU School of Nursing Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She has been on the faculty at the School of Nursing since 2004, and her previous academic appointments include serving as a Centennial Fellow and assistant professor at the University of Virginia’s School of Nursing. Lyon is dually certified as a family nurse practitioner and a clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric nursing. Her teaching focuses on professional issues for advanced practice and quantitative research design, and her research focuses on symptom management in women with breast cancer, specifically complementary and alternative therapies for symptom management.

“Dr. Lyon is a true star in nursing education and research. After conducting a national search to fill the department chair position, we found that there was no one better qualified to serve in this critical leadership role. I know she will excel in this new position and use her abilities and knowledge to advance the mission of the VCU School of Nursing,” says Nancy Langston, PhD, RN, dean of the VCU School of Nursing.

Bill Korzun ’88PhD(PA)/M received the 2010 Carl R. Jolliff Award for Lifetime Achievement in Clinical or Diagnostic Immunology from the Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology Division of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry.

Korzun is an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at VCU. His current research includes a funded project for the evaluation of homogeneous methods for measuring HDL and LDL cholesterol and measurement of cortisol and amylase in saliva samples. His publications include numerous papers and abstracts published in peer-reviewed journals and several chapters for the upcoming fourth edition of Kaplan and Pesce’s textbook, “Clinical Chemistry.”

In 2003, Korzun was awarded a VCU Center for Teaching Excellence Grant to incorporate digital video and audio clips in his lectures, and to facilitate his research endeavors, he was the recipient of the VCU School of Allied Health Professions’ A.D. Williams Scholar Award in 2005.

Karen A. Ransone ’89MS(P)/M’92MD’95HS-PED has been elected president of the Virginia Board of Medicine. The Delawite physician is also an associate professor in the VCU Department of Pediatrics. Ransone was appointed to the Board of Medicine in 2004 by Virginia Gov. Mark Warner and re-appointed in 2008 by Gov. Timothy Kaine. In 2009, she served as vice president and chair of the Legislative Committee. The Virginia Board of Medicine is comprised of 18 individuals, including 11 physicians. Its mission is to ensure the safety of the public, to enforce the laws of the commonwealth as they relate to physicians and allied health personnel and to set health policy.

David Nichols MD ’79HS was featured in an article about Tangier Island that appeared in the May 16 edition of Parade magazine, carried by papers around the country. Once a week for more than 30 years, Nichols has flown a plane or a helicopter the 25 miles from mainland Virginia to this remote community to deliver healthcare to its more than 500 residents. Staff Care Inc. recognized him as Country Doctor of the Year in 2006 and, in 2010, as its first Country Doctor of the Decade. The Tangier community named its new state-of-the-art health center, which opened in August, the David B. Nichols Health Center in his honor. Nichols, who was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer, helped raise funds for the new center.

Virginia’s State Rural Health Plan recognized Michelle Whitehurst-Cook ’79MD, VCU School of Medicine associate dean for admissions, for her dedication and service to inner-city and rural populations, presenting her with its 2010 Rural Healthcare Workforce Individual Award for Distinguished Service. At VCU, Whitehurst-Cook has served as director for the Inner City/Rural Preceptorship program and has led teams of student volunteers to the Remote Area Medical Expedition in Wise, Va. The VA-SRHP is a collaboration of more than 50 partners united to improve the healthcare infrastructure of the state’s rural areas, in part by providing analyses and strategies that will lead to improvements in rural health.
On May 5, the VCU School of Medicine’s Inova Campus held its fifth annual Faculty Development Summit and Teaching Awards Luncheon. Ellen Brock, MD ‘85HS’97MPH, medical director of the school’s Center for Human Simulation and Safety, gave the opening presentation on “The Evidence for Simulation in Medical Education.” Attendees also learned about Inova’s use of simulation from Kathleen Donnelly ‘84MD and other faculty and got the chance to test their skills on 10 simulators in areas ranging from childbirth management to laparoscopy.

At the awards luncheon, students recognized outstanding faculty, including Anita Bakshi ‘07MD, who attended her third and fourth years of medical school on the Inova Campus. Bakshi was honored with the Top Resident Teacher Award for Internal Medicine.

The American Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics presented David Lee ‘09PharmD/PhD with its 2010 Young Investigator Award for his proposal “Development of Risk Prediction Models in Older Adults on Antihypertensive Medications for Cardiovascular and Falls Outcomes.” Lee is a postdoctoral fellow in geriatric clinical epidemiology and aging-related research at Yale University School of Medicine. ASCPT reviewers cited the strength of his proposal and Lee’s extensive training and contributions to the field of clinical pharmacology in reference to the aging population.

Second-year medical student Richard Hubbard co-founded the Basic Needs Program, a nonprofit organization that provides housing, clothing, food, education and medical care to families in Bangladesh who have lost a breadwinning father. Currently, 20 children from four families benefit from the program, which has an operating budget of more than $20,000. The VCU School of Medicine says many in the school have been inspired by Hubbard’s work, including an anonymous faculty member who provided the funds to bring five new children into the program. Richard Hubbard is the son of Thomas Hubbard ‘88MD.

As part of its 2009 Citizen Award program, Huntington, W.Va.’s Herald-Dispatch presented Charles McKown ‘60MD with the Special Community Impact Award. McKown has been dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University since 1989. The Special Community Impact Award recognizes his contributions as leader of a medical program that has had a $150 million economic impact on the region.

The Virginia Pharmacists Association honored a number of VCU School of Pharmacy alumni during its 129th annual convention in August in Virginia Beach. Recognized as outstanding in the field were: Delaina Richardson Davis ‘04PharmD, Brenda Smith ‘87BS/P and Bronwyn Burnham ‘89BS/P, attend the Virginia Pharmacists Association convention.

The Virginia Pharmacists Association honored a number of VCU School of Pharmacy alumni during its 129th annual convention in August in Virginia Beach. Recognized as outstanding in the field were: Delaina Richardson Davis ‘04PharmD of Chesapeake, recipient of the Upsher-Smith Excellence in Innovation Award; Sharon Gatewood ‘97BS(Chem)‘02PharmD of Mechanicsville, recipient of the Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award; Holly King Morris ‘95BS/P of Jetersville, recipient of the Virginia Pharmacists Service Award; Patricia Resto ‘84BS/P of Yorktown, recipient of the Ilene B. Stiff Local Association President’s Award; Brenda T. Smith ‘87BS/P of Wytheville, recipient of the Pfizer Bowl of Hygeia Award; and H. Otto Wachsmann Jr. ’86BS/P of Stony Creek, recipient of the Virginia Pharmacists Outstanding Pharmacist Award. In addition, Elizabeth “Scotti” Russell ‘77BS/P of Richmond received a special recognition award for service to the profession as (recently retired) executive director of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy.

VPhA 2010-11 officers also were installed at the convention and included Cynthia Warriner ‘86BS/P of Chester as president; David Creecy V ‘77BS/P of Poquoson as president-elect; and Cynthia Shilan ‘81BS/P of Reva as secretary-treasurer.
VCU’s School of Pharmacy won top billing during “Celebrate! VCU With the Community” when the university’s Council for Community Engagement presented the school’s community engagement team with the 2010 Currents of Change Award for overall excellence. The Currents of Change Award, which has been presented only three times since it was established in 2005, recognizes the 3,082 hours that 14 School of Pharmacy faculty devoted to serving more than 1,100 patients in the Richmond area as well as education, outreach and/or research initiatives by 264 pharmacy students and six pharmacy residents. Working with community partners, faculty and students promoted safe, effective medication use with the goals of reducing medication-related health disparities and improving medication-related chronic disease outcomes in elderly, uninsured and underserved patients.

School of Pharmacy faculty cited in the Currents of Change nomination were Akash Alexander (Community Pharmacy Practice Residency ’08), Kai “Annie” Cheang, Sharon Gatewood ’97BS(chem) ’02PharmD, Jean-Venable “Kelly” Goode ’89BS/P ’94PharmD, Gary Matzke, Sallie Mayer, Leticia Moczygemba, Laura Morgan, Amy Whitaker Rudenko ’98PharmD, Evan Sisson ’92BS/P ’94PharmD ’96MSHA, Patricia Slattum ’85BS/P ’92PharmD ’92PhD, Tyler Stevens ’06PharmD, Benjamin Van Tassell and Ann Wiesner.

David Bernd ’73MHA, CEO of Sentara Healthcare, is one of two recipients of this year’s CEO IT Achievement Award given by Modern Healthcare magazine and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. The award recognizes healthcare CEOs who demonstrate leadership and a commitment to using information technology to advance their organizations’ strategic goals. Sentara’s eCare system uses technology to improve the hands-on care that is delivered at the bedside to improve the patient experience.

Al Perry ’80MHA, director of the Veterans Administration Central California Healthcare System, has received the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award, the nation’s highest federal service award. Perry received this award for providing exceptional services and achieving extraordinary results over an extended period of time. This is his third Presidential Rank Award but his first at the Distinguished level. Since he became director in 1998, VA Central California has increased outpatient workload by 60 percent, added community clinics in Tulare and Merced, broken ground for a clinic in Oakhurst, begun construction of a Mental Health Center, implemented a fully electronic medical record, added state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, upgraded treatment areas and, in 2009, achieved the fourth-highest ranking among 139 VAs nationwide on measurements of quality and satisfaction.

In 2005 and in 2008, Perry was chosen to direct 120 staff Federal Medical Stations in Texas and Louisiana following Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav and Ike. He was also dispatched to the Philippines as interim VA operations director and lead negotiator for veterans health services.

The VCU School of Allied Health Professions has received its largest gift ever from an individual, a $1 million endowment from the Rev. Robert Lantz ’64PC/AH. The donation will fund a chair in the Program in Patient Counseling. Katherine Lantz says that her husband, who died in 2008, hoped that the gift would provide continuity to the program that greatly influenced his professional life.

During his early career, Lantz served as chair of the Chaplain’s Department for the Baltimore City Hospitals; directed programs at the Memphis Institute of Medicine and Religion; and taught pastoral counseling at St. Paul’s College in Washington, D.C., at the Memphis Theological Seminary, at the University of the South at Sewanee and at the University of Tennessee Medical Units School. In 1973, he founded the Maryland Institute of Pastoral Counseling Inc.

Cecil B. Drain, PhD, dean of the VCU School of Allied Health Professions, says the reverend, a former chair of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee, was extremely devoted to the department. “He attended every advisory committee meeting and led each one strongly. It really made a difference,” Drain says. “He was a very good man, a great friend, a great alumnus and a joy to be around.”
The World...
brought to you by the MCV Alumni Association.

2011 Travel Destinations

2011 Trips

Jan. 5–15  Cruise Costa Rica on the Wind Star
Feb. 7–15  Insider's Perspective Rome
Feb. 15–25  Mayan Mystique Cruise
March 6–17  Cruise the Panama Canal
            Asian Explorations Cruise
March 30–April 12  Mysteries of the Mekong River
        Historic Reflections Cruise
        Passage to Panama Cruise
April 2–13  Celtic Lands Cruise
April 26–May 12  ACA Normandy with Paris
        Cradle of History Cruise
May 6–15  Alaskan Adventures Cruise
May 7–16  Changing Tides of History/Baltic Sea
May 9–22  & Norwegian Fjords Cruise
June 7–17  China and Tibet Land and Yangtze
June 9–20  River Cruise Journey
Aug. 26–Sept. 10  Greek Isles Odyssey Cruise
        Crossroads of the Classical Mediterranean
        (C'est Bon culinary cruise)
Sept. 18-Oct. 1  ACA Israel
Oct. 10-19  
Oct. 22-31  

(look for travel discount information on the website.)

For more information, call
(804) 828-3900 or (800) MCV-7799
or visit www.vcu-mcvalumni.org
VCU health sciences students, faculty members and alumni volunteer their time abroad. (1) Pharmacy student Geetika Gandhi in the Paraiso school-based clinic with 7-year-old Gabriel (2) Robert Sabatini DDS, from the VCU School of Dentistry, with a patient in Callanca, Peru (3) Kate Kapus (top row, left), Susan Phipps, Lea Peck, Stacey Reynolds, '87PhD/HRSA/AH, OTR/L, Meredith Cofield and Jessica Secor from the VCU Department of Occupational Therapy in Ghana with local painters and their driver, George (bottom row, right) (4) Occupational therapy student Meredith Cofield with children from Accra, Ghana (5) Medical student Jess Landin surrounded by Honduran children
Second-year pharmacy student Geetika Gandhi could see the relief in the eyes of the 70-year-old Dominican woman sitting across from her. Gandhi met the woman when she participated in the June 2010 HOMBRE (Honduras Outreach Medical Brigada Relief Effort) trip to its Paraiso site in the Dominican Republic.

“You two are like my grandkids,” the woman told Gandhi and another worker. Gandhi recalls that the woman entered the room with a flowing summer dress and a smile on her face.

“As she sat down in front of me, she displayed her blood-pressure medications. Surprisingly, medications were a bigger priority for her than food,” she says.

Gandhi was shocked when the woman looked down at the floor and mentioned that she had lost about 20 pounds because she couldn’t afford the food she needed.

“I felt my heart drop when she said this, and I thought about all the times when I discard unwanted food,” Gandhi says. “We were able to supply her with as much medication as possible in hopes that this will ease her struggle. She left our clinic with the same smile on her face but with less despair in her eyes.”

Gandhi is one of many students, doctors and teachers on the MCV Campus who participate in international outreach each year. Each school on campus has some type of delegation either led privately or through the school. This was Gandhi’s first year participating in an international mission. During her 12 days in the Dominican Republic, Gandhi worked at two clinic sites.

The first site was a school-based clinic located in Paraiso. The hot, humid conditions made it extremely uncomfortable, especially as the clinic was not equipped with an air conditioner or fan.

“Luckily, it had plenty of windows, which allowed for some warm air to sweep through,” Gandhi says. “On the first clinic day I remember seeing a sweaty boy, and I told myself that I am going to sweat here, and this is just how it is going to be. It was easier to handle the weather after that.”

When she walked around the neighboring area in the small village, Gandhi noticed there were no medical clinics, pharmacies or hospitals.

“It made me realize that the residents here depend on HOMBRE to help with their healthcare needs,” she says.

One day, Gandhi hiked to the neighboring town of Esfuerzo to serve the elderly and disabled.

“I saw how it is impossible for them to hike down to the school-based clinics,” she says. “The pathways were unpaved and uneven and, even if the main pathway was paved, it was a bigger challenge to go from patients’ huts to the main road. We would have to walk through plants and barbed wires and mud. I remember looking down on my brown shoes that were once white and wondering how the locals here walk barefoot.”

Living conditions were very poor, she adds. “There was one dark hut that had six kids sitting on the floor, eating rice and beans. One room served as the family’s kitchen, living room and bedroom.”

The second clinic site, Fundacion Sol Naciente, is located inside the city and is a fully equipped medical clinic serving patients who live in the poorer areas.

“It was a challenge to set up a pharmacy inside the foundation,” Gandhi says. “We used our boxes, grocery bags and anything else we could use to set it up.”

In total, Gandhi and the other students on the trip, both from the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy, helped about 1,000 patients, many of whom suffered from uncontrolled hypertension. Students also saw cases of parasite infections, allergies and asthma. The trip was beneficial for Gandhi.

“It taught me how to fund raise and prepare for international missions,” she says. “It has given me the confidence to continue to serve others.”
HOMBRE is a student club made up of first-year medical students at the School of Medicine. It also is an independent nonprofit organization that works in tandem with various local, regional and international groups for different projects at different sites. HOMBRE participants travel to the rural mountains of Intibuca, Honduras; the community of Paraiso, Dominican Republic; and Olanchito, Honduras. The organization was started about 10 years ago by a group of first-year medical students.

“The group did not become an official student club until about four years ago,” says Steven Crossman ’95MD, director of medical student education in family medicine and associate professor of family medicine. Crossman is the physician site leader and COO for the VCU-Thundermist Pinares project in Intibuca as well as a member of the HOMBRE board of directors. The VCU-Thundermist Pinares Project is a coordinated partnership between the VCU Department of Family Medicine and the Thundermist Community Health Center in affiliation with the nonprofit Shoulder to Shoulder Inc. Over the years, VCU and Thundermist have partnered with the Comite de Salud in Pinares, Honduras.

“This is a very rural area in the mountains of southern Honduras,” Crossman says. “We have eight villages and approximately 3,500 people in our service area.”

VCU has been participating in the Pinares project for about five years. The group takes three trips each year to work on a variety of public health and clinical projects. The annual June trip involves the medical and pharmacy students of HOMBRE. In the fall, the group is comprised of fourth-year medical students. The yearly winter trip focuses on family medicine residents and other faculty affiliated with the Department of Family Medicine.

“The mission of VCUTPP is to serve the poor,” Crossman says. “We also strive to educate the students and residents (and all team members) regarding basics of global health and the social determinants of health.”

Crossman recalls one older woman who had suffered from multiple conditions over the last three to four years, most of which were minor. On the June trip two years ago, she had what the group diagnosed, without X-rays, as likely pneumonia.

“We walked to her house and gave her an injection of antibiotics, and then someone from the team checked on her every day after that making sure she took her antibiotic pills each day,” he says.

“I was seriously worried that she might pass, especially as she was elderly. By the end of the trip though, she was doing much better.”

When Crossman went back to visit her this summer, he was saddened to learn that she had died.

Returning to the same site each year allows for the continuity of care that is often missing in many short-term global health experiences. Team members find this sustained relationship with one community a very rewarding part of participating in trips to Pinares.

Typically, the number of participants in the brigades to Pinares range from the mid-teens to the upper 20s. The group usually sees about 250 adults in the clinic along with about 400 children as part of the child health project.

“Between brigades, the VCUTPP supports the operation of the clinic and various other projects year-round,” Crossman says.

The area served is rural and poor, with an average income of $2 a day. In the eight villages only a handful of homes have electricity, and only half of the villages have year-round road access.

VCU School of Nursing recently went on their own service trip to neighboring Belize. Jennifer Peyton, who will complete her bachelor’s degree in nursing and psychology in 2011, is president of Nursing Students without Borders of VCU. In January 2010, an eight-member group visited San Ignacio, Belize,
where they volunteered in a local clinic for a day and performed health screenings on about 400 children from two schools over a three-day period.

Peyton joined the organization because she believes in its mission: To empower people to make a positive impact in their local and global community.

“Everyone in the group that went to Belize this past January really wanted to experience something new, and I can guarantee that happened,” she says. “We all loved it. All of us valued learning new skills, adapting to a new environment, stumbling through Spanglish, bonding with adults and children through smiles and spreading good will. It was such an invaluable experience.”

Peyton believes the trip was important for several reasons. First, she enjoyed learning about different cultures and seeing what exists outside of her own world. She was also glad to have the opportunity to provide aid to those who are unable to help themselves and to provide healthcare in a different environment.

“It was great to connect with others through Band-Aids, cookies and smiles,” she says.

The lessons she learned from the trip were not only valuable but also surprising. “I learned Leopold’s Maneuver, how to assess FHTs with a handheld Doppler as well as the severity of and physical characteristics of preeclampsia, all skills that I was not expected to learn until the following semester when I entered the women’s health clinical,” she says.

In working with children, Peyton learned about eye and dental exams as well as umbilical hernia assessment.

“Above all, I learned that I want to become involved in public health nursing. I believe preventive care is very important and that quality healthcare should be available for everyone, everywhere.”

Cassidy Turner ’07DDS likewise was touched by the people she met on her three trips to the small village of Callanca in Peru. Turner coordinated the 2006, 2007 and 2008 trips on her own. She found that some of her patients would come to the clinic in small carts or on donkeys. Along with the walk-ins, the group also saw about 200 children at the school.

Turner spent about five months coordinating the logistics for the trip. “It’s a series of flights, and it takes 24 hours to get there,” she says. The long hours of travel were worth the memories. “People there loved [the clinic]. They were very excited. For many it was the first time seeing a doctor or dentist.”

One family she will always remember included two albino daughters. “They were drawn to us because they had never seen someone blond-haired and light-skinned,” Turner says. “Initially, they were timid but now they run right up to you.”

Turner was amazed by the lack of access to care that existed.

“A little ailment that is no problem here is a big deal there,” she says. “It can be life-threatening.”

After two trips to Ghana, Stacey Reynolds ’07PhD(HRS)/AH, OTR/L, assistant director, fieldwork programs in the School of Allied Health Professions’ Department of Occupational Therapy, designed a study-abroad course called “Disability Culture in West Africa” that culminated in a trip to Ghana in May 2009. Reynolds had five entry-level occupational therapy students travel with her to Ghana. The trip was a valuable learning experience.

“I think any time students are able to reflect on a culture other than their own, there is a tremendous amount of growth that occurs, and I thought it would make them better therapists,” Reynolds says.

The course focused on understanding Ghanaian disability laws, experiences of those living with disabilities and the influence of Ghanaian culture and the environment on the development of children with and without disabilities. Students provided occupational therapy consultation and evaluation to village and street children with disabilities and their families as well as training of staff at a school for children with developmental disabilities. Students also visited an orphanage for children with special needs and a government-sponsored rehabilitation center in the city of Accra.

“This trip, for me, was really about my students, keeping them safe, making sure we had things to do and a way to get there and gauging their level of fatigue and comfort at all times,” Reynolds says. “This trip also really reinforced the concept that study abroad should be about learning from each other. My students learned a lot from the Ghanaians about their culture and traditions, but they also realized that they had a lot to share as well. They gained confidence in talking about occupational therapy as a profession.”

Joan Tupponce is an award-winning freelance writer in Richmond.
Internal medicine professor Peter Boling, MD ’84HS began his career by dividing time between clinic work and developing a house call program for elderly patients in the Richmond area who suffer from multiple health issues.

Last year, building on the success of the program and others like it, Boling and several colleagues helped draft bipartisan legislation for the Independence at Home Act, which was eventually incorporated into the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act signed into law by President Obama in March 2010. The act authorizes voluntary Independence at Home chronic care coordination pilot programs for high-cost Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions. As part of the nation’s new healthcare reform package, Independence at Home provides strong incentives for quality in-home medical care for shut-in Medicare patients suffering from multiple chronic conditions such as Alzheimer’s, diabetes, emphysema and heart disease, Boling says.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reports that 46 million Americans were enrolled in Medicare in 2009. Based on an analysis of 2001 data, the department’s Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality determined that 25 percent of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries account for 85 percent of total spending, and three-quarters of that 25 percent have one or more of seven major chronic conditions.

The goal is to bring house calls to the most high-risk and high-cost Medicare patients in the nation, Boling says. “The highest-cost patients typically have five or more active diagnoses.”

Above: In today’s healthcare reform debates, house calls, like those made by Peter Boling, MD ’84HS, are being discussed as an option to save costs as well as improve care.
Humble Beginnings

Today, we are accustomed to traveling to a physician’s office, hospital or clinic to receive care, but house calls were once a common practice. According to the American Academy of Home Care Physicians, in 1960 most primary-care physicians made regular house calls. The practice is now making a comeback. Although the volume of home visits has increased since 1998 when Boling and his AAHCP colleagues succeeded in improving Medicare payments for house calls, Boling says these visits are still too rare relative to the needs of our aging society.

When he started the House Call Program in 1984, Boling visited geriatric patients within 15 miles of MCV Hospital and discovered that many patients were not getting the quality of care they needed because they could not travel to medical facilities. These patients often ended up in the emergency room because they lacked access to medical care, became critically ill and called 911. As a result, they often required more complicated treatment, meaning extended hospital stays and higher costs, all of which, Boling says, could have been avoided by providing them with in-home care.

Today, Boling’s mobile medical team involves four doctors, five nurse practitioners and one geriatric care manager. VCU medical students also participate in the visits. The team makes thousands of home visits each year, and the patient waiting list is growing.

“It is definitely a great service to patients who are homebound,” says Daphne Bryan ’90MD’93HS, VCU assistant professor of family medicine. “It made a significant difference in the lives of the patients I referred who were not getting the care they needed because they were not physically able to get in to the office.”

Quality Care at Reduced Costs

Laptop computers and portable diagnostic equipment have enhanced house call visits. Tony Kuzel, MD, chair of the VCU Department of Family Medicine, says the ease of home blood-pressure and glucose monitoring is a plus and notes the potential for interactive technology, such as Skype, to be used for conducting face-to-face visits between in-person house calls.

The VCU House Call Program’s sister program is the Transitional Care Program, where case managers follow frail, elderly adults from hospital discharge to their first post-hospital clinic visit to ensure continuity of care. When combined, the two programs account for a 60 percent cost savings, Boling says. These savings help maintain both programs.

“We depend on institutional support for clinical service to supplement our fee-for-service revenue as well as for education,” Boling says. “We look forward to expanding as we improve the financing.”

In 2009, the VCU program drew the attention of the Los Angeles Times, The Associated Press and the “NBC Nightly News.” Other programs are springing up around the country. According to the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM), other house call programs exist in Boston, Chicago, Indiana, New York City, San Diego and Washington, D.C. Across the U.S., the Veterans Administration has treated many thousands of patients through its Home-Based Primary Care Program in the past decade, reducing hospital admissions by 25 percent, hospitalizations by 62 percent, nursing home stays by 88 percent and total VA costs by 24 percent, according to NYAM.

Program Hurdles

Passage of the healthcare reform legislation is a milestone for house calls, yet the question of how to implement the Independence at Home Act is still a challenge. One hurdle will be recruiting qualified personnel for house call programs.

“That is part of the problem – misaligned incentives,” Boling says. “In one day, more patients can be seen in an office practice than at home. Office overhead is also higher, but margins from house calls are thin, and the case-management needs of complex patients push house call program costs beyond the bounds of solvency if operating independently.

“The VCU program is ahead of its time, using hospital funds saved by this model to support complex mobile medical care. Independence at Home is a further evolution. And, once we build it, they will come.”

Boling insists patients, hospitals and Medicare will all save money. “Independence at Home uses gain-sharing from costs avoided (mostly hospital) to reward providers and realign incentives,” he says.

What resources will be key for hospitals that want to implement a pilot Independence at Home program?

“An effective local champion who knows the business of medicine and is committed to the mission and the clinical model, a receptive senior administration and a core group of skilled providers,” Boling says.

Clinton Rock is a freelance writer in Richmond, Va.
Students and faculty members on both the Monroe Park and MCV campuses of VCU are encouraged to volunteer in the community, and the university’s medical professionals are among the most active volunteers. In ways big and small, the MCV Campus “family” is reaching out to its neighbors in central Virginia, benefiting professors, students and the community. Below are examples of just some of the work performed by MCV Campus students.

School of Pharmacy program unites students and communities

Service learning integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience and strengthen neighborhoods. The School of Pharmacy’s Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) gives its students a variety of settings in which to develop practical skills. The program is not only vital for the School of Pharmacy’s accreditation process, which requires each student to complete 300 hours of introductory experiential learning, but it also provides students the opportunity to give back to the community while learning important aspects of pharmacy.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, Jessica Mills, then a second-year student, joined several other pharmacy students in fulfilling the service-learning obligation at Faces of Hope. The community-based, in-home program is designed to give overweight young people and their families the counseling and support they need to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Richmond residents Jeannette and Jeramin Cordor were motivated to found Faces of Hope in reaction to the soaring rate of obesity among young people and by the fact that, without intervention, obese children and teens will be tomorrow’s consumers of insulin and other medications. The Cordors rely on volunteers to help achieve positive results with their client families.

As a volunteer, Mills designed fliers; solicited donations of funds, service and equipment; wrote newsletter articles; edited the organization’s website; made referrals; and helped clients negotiate insurance issues. Jeannette Cordor praises Mills’ work with Faces of Hope, describing her as “a very motivated young lady” and “a leader.”

On the academic side, service learning plays a key role in students’ development.

“Service learning is an integral part of introductory pharmacy practice experiences and must fulfill many goals: meet a community need; help foster civic and professional responsibility and the development of a sense of caring for others; enhance what is taught in the didactic curriculum by extending student learning beyond the classroom; and attempt to balance the service that is provided and the learning that takes place,” says Phylliss Moret, assistant dean for experiential education in the School of Pharmacy.

The school recently made some revisions to the IPPE program. Director Renee L. Murray, PharmD, expects that the department’s revised service-learning opportunities will be well received by stu-
students and preceptors alike. Previously, students had a limited number of local opportunities, and with almost 400 students enrolled in any given year, fulfilling the requirements of the curriculum in Richmond was tough. Now, students have a much wider field from which to choose and a more flexible time span in which to complete their work while gaining valuable perspectives on their chosen field.

Student participation requirements vary depending on whether the student is in their first, second or third year of pharmacy school. At the end of their first year of pharmacy school, beginning this year, each student is required to perform 160 hours of community IPPE learning with one of the school’s preceptors. Whether they decide to return to their home communities or strike out for new venues, P1s engage in direct patient care by assisting with dispensing of prescriptions at community pharmacies, learning how to interact with customers and patients and experiencing firsthand how pharmacies actually work.

P2s perform 120 hours of hospital IPPE at the end of their academic year, working in different hospital settings where they learn about hospital distribution systems and the clinical aspects of hospital pharmacy administration.

Beginning with this year’s Class of 2014, P3 students will perform 20 hours of service learning, providing more varied experiences. Some students might perform medication reviews at senior-living facilities, helping residents avoid negative drug interactions. Others might work at community-based healthcare centers or at health fairs.

“Whether they’re at CrossOver Clinic, Richmond Center for High Blood Pressure, Fairfield Resource Center, the Daily Planet, Imperial Plaza or VCU’s own Health Education Center, they’re engaging in direct patient service on a quality level,” Murray says.

P4s perform 20 hours of service learning, providing more varied experiences. Some students might work at community-based healthcare centers or at health fairs.

School of Medicine reaches out to local high school students

Top-performing, highly motivated Richmond-area high school students with a passion for research can apply to the School of Medicine’s Medical Science Internship Program (MSIP), and this year, more than 140 of them did. Only 10 were accepted.

Developed with the support of Michelle Y. Whitehurst-Cook ’79MD, associate dean of admissions in the school, the program allows teens to explore university-level research as well as the healthcare components of medicine. Over the course of five weeks, interns are given clinical shadowing opportunities, attend lectures by medical professionals and perform research with laboratory mentors in the fields of biochemistry, immunology and microbiology, pharmacology and toxicology, genetics and neurobiology.

Chris Pang, an Honors student at VCU, came up with the idea for the program during his freshman year and has served as the program director since its kickoff three years ago. Pang is guaranteed admission to the School of Medicine when he graduates with his Bachelor of Science degree in 2011.

“Physician-scientists – we don’t have enough of them,” Whitehurst-Cook says. She expects MSIP to stimulate the pipeline for new professionals.

And she hopes that MSIP develops local talent. It’s natural for graduating seniors to consider out-of-town colleges, Whitehurst-Cook says. “MSIP lets local high school students know how strong research activities are at VCU. There’s no need for them to leave their hometown.”

. . . and School of Medicine students reach out to central Virginia

When he was a first-year medical student and president of the Class of 2012, Andrew Junkin, worked with several classmates to develop a plan to involve every M1 student in a community-service project. DOCs (Doctors on Call) was the result. During a single week in April 2008, every M1 spent at least five hours volunteering in the greater Richmond community, working with organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Tricycle Gardens and Read Aloud Virginia. Junkin volunteered with ElderHomes Corp., a group that helps seniors and people with disabilities fix their aging homes by coordinating volunteer workers and donations of supplies.

“It was a good experience,” he says. ElderHomes identified an older woman whose house was in need of repair. Junkin worked with other volunteers on ElderHomes’ Renew Crew, weeding the lawn, cutting the grass, scraping and painting trim, and doing related fix-it tasks.

“You can get stuck in a rut, what with exams, studying and ramping up for the next test. Volunteering breaks you out of the med school shell. Being outside and doing nonmedical stuff – that was worthwhile,” he says.

He’s pleased that DOCs continues to engage students in volunteer opportunities throughout central Virginia.

“This year, we’ll seek volunteers primarily from the M1 class because M1s generally have the most time available for extracurricular activities,” Junkin says. “M2s have a slightly busier schedule and thus don’t tend to have as much time for volunteering. Free time comes at an even greater premium to M3s, who are working in the hospital full time throughout the year. The schedule for M4s is much more variable, as they are occasionally on away rotations, but it is certainly a possibility to enlist the participation of M4s who will be in town on the selected day.”

Marcy Horwitz is a freelance writer and a contract grant writer in Richmond.
Events

Current and emeriti board member reception

About 110 current and emeriti members of the VCU and MCV Alumni Associations boards gathered Oct. 22 for their annual update from VCU President Michael Rao, PhD. Also that night, Veda Bellamy, program associate for the VCU Alumni Association, and Ann Nelms, office manager for the MCV Alumni House, were honored for giving 30 years of service. They received honorary life memberships in the alumni associations. Peter L. Wyeth, vice president for development and alumni relations, also was recognized with a resolution of appreciation marking his upcoming retirement.

30 Years of Giving Back —
A Retrospective by Dr. W. Baxter Perkinson Jr.

About 90 alumni and friends gathered Oct. 27 to enjoy a members-only gallery reception hosted by the VCU and MCV Alumni Associations. The event honored W. Baxter Perkinson Jr. ’70DDS and his wife, Elaine, who over the years have given freely of their time and treasure to Virginia Commonwealth University. The Perkinsons’ artwork — watercolors by Baxter and sculptures by Elaine — was on display at the gallery at the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

Elaine Perkinson and W. Baxter Perkinson Jr. ’70DDS attend a gallery reception in their honor at UNOS.
Fast Track to Nursing

Attracts Diverse Student Body

by Dana Barss Weiss

While many might define diversity as the inclusion of people from various races or cultures, Susan Lipp, MS/N, assistant dean for enrollment and student services in the Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Nursing, would tell you that diversity among their student population encompasses much more.

“Students are helping us improve healthcare by blending their previous careers and life experience into the nursing profession,” she says.

In 1993, the VCU School of Nursing was one of the first in the country to offer an accelerated master’s program, then called the Accelerated Second Degree Program. Janet Younger, PhD ’67BS/N’72MS/N, the school’s associate dean at the time, spearheaded the initiative under the leadership of Dean Nancy Langston, PhD, RN. Recognizing that many of the students enrolling in the school already had bachelor’s degrees in different disciplines, the Accelerated MS Program offered these students a faster track into nursing.

In 2003, the accelerated bachelor’s program was born. This program targets students who already have a four-year degree and want to pursue a nursing career but are not ready to declare a specialty, which is a requirement of the Accelerated MS Program.

Reid Byrne, 35, came to nursing via a winding career path. Commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1997, Byrne became involved with pastoral counseling when working within the Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Organization. For three years, Byrne conducted personal and spiritual growth retreats—work that influenced her to find a career that would embody the leadership training, discipline and counseling aspects of her military experience as well as a mind-body-spirit connection.

Byrne studied massage therapy and healing touch and eventually earned a Master of Arts degree with a specialization in practical theology. She also developed a keen interest in women’s health, working as a midwife’s apprentice before entering the Accelerated BS Program in 2009.

“I felt I might affect more positive change for women’s health by working on the inside,” Byrne says. But exposure to the hospital delivery setting gave her pause. Changing directions, Byrne ultimately chose a path that hearkened back to her counseling work in the Marine Corps, focusing her studies on palliative and end-of-life care. She will receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in December 2010.

Another student, Joshua Carpenter, was a freelance photographer who changed careers in 2008 after the economy forced one of his major clients to cancel his contract. While this event was the business catalyst for his decision to pursue nursing, he also was drawn to the field because of his experiences with his mother’s diagnosis and eventual death from cancer.

Carpenter originally entered photography because he wanted to make a difference in the world—a career choice that led him to become an adjunct faculty member in the Art Foundation Department at VCU. Carpenter especially liked the relationships he made with subjects as a photographer. He noticed “points of contact” with nursing through his photography, such as a photo shoot that featured a married couple who were career Navy officers and nurses. He had other connections with nursing, too. Carpenter’s mother-in-law and his sister are nurses. He also vividly remembers the skill and compassion of the nurses who cared for his wife when their children were born and of those who cared for his mother when she was ill.

“Even when there was no more hope, bringing in the hospice nurse was like throwing the windows open in a room that we thought would be dark forever,” he says.

After the death of his mother, Carpenter recalls, “I knew I needed to do something different.” Now 36, Carpenter will graduate in December 2010 from the Accelerated BS Program. The support he has received from his wife, family and several instructors has enabled him to focus on what he believes is truly important, he says.

“If I can make an impact on a patient and their family, that fills my heart,” Carpenter says. By attracting individuals with non-nursing degrees, the accelerated programs’ student population is diverse by design.

“These students bring so much to the program. They are a pleasure to teach, and they look at healthcare through an entirely different lens,” Lipp says.

Because they are pursuing nursing as a second career, the students in the accelerated programs tend to be older than those entering the traditional nursing school program, generally ranging in age from their late 20s to early 40s. Graduating older students can be bittersweet.

“If they enroll later in life,” Lipp says, “we might not get to keep them as long as we’d like to have them in the nursing profession.”

Dana Barss Weiss is a freelance writer in Richmond.
It’s 8:30 on a Wednesday night, and Beal Lowen ’70MD has just returned from his daily workout. He delays enjoying a pasta dinner with his wife to talk about two things that are very important to him: the future of healthcare and his alma mater.

“Being a physician is a responsibility that requires you to know that the patient assumes – without exception – that you will do what’s good for the patient, not yourself or the hospital,” Lowen says. This philosophy was instilled by Lowen’s professors at the Medical College of Virginia.

“I hope future generations maintain that sense of one-on-one responsibility to patients,” he says.

That’s why Lowen thought it was his duty as an alumnus to make a gift to support the Campaign for the School of Medicine, which includes the construction of a new medical education building.

“The Quaker high school I attended was very much about service and taught that a successful life is one that gives – the more you give the better off you are.

“The leaders at MCV were like that,” Lowen says. “Today, the dean is setting an example in the same way. There is no doubt that he continues the tradition of a physician’s responsibility to the patient.”

The new building, which will be constructed on the site of the former A.D. Williams Clinic and is scheduled to open in spring 2013, is the conduit for that compassionate training, says School of Medicine Dean Jerome F. Strauss III, MD, PhD.

The 200,000-square-foot, 12-story building will not only allow for expanded enrollment but also will set the standard for medical education, with a transformed curriculum focused on active learning, case-based lectures and small group study.

“Medicine is a science. Doctoring is a profession. Healthcare is a business. By the time our students finish their four years here on the MCV Campus, I know that they will be equipped with the wisdom to reconcile these perspectives as their careers progress,” Strauss says. “With the support of our alumni, this state-of-the-science facility will continue the long traditions of life-changing learning experiences for students, exceptional care for our patients and an emphasis on medical research and discovery.”

Lowen says that, much like today, his medical school experience provided a collaborative atmosphere for learning and built a sense of camaraderie among classmates. If one student was struggling, others would pitch in for study sessions, he remembers.

Amazingly, his tuition was about $1,000 a year. Lowen knows that today’s students aren’t as lucky. In December, he attended a dinner with Strauss and learned of the dramatic decrease in state funding. In 2012, Virginia Commonwealth University will have lost about one-third of the state support it had in 2008, a decrease of more than $65 million.

As far as Lowen is concerned, supporting the School of Medicine, especially during this push to raise $37 million for the new building, is a must for alumni.

“If we don’t do it, who’s going to do it? The state needs a consistent flow of ethical, well-trained physicians. You have no choice but to give back.

The new building also will feature a donor wall.

“We will prominently feature a roster of alumni donors,” Strauss says. “Their financial support will be an essential ingredient to this project’s success.”

Lowen, who has built a successful geriatric and internal medicine practice in Alexandria, plans to retire in November.

“I’m going to make the woman in my life happy, maintain my physical health, see my grandchildren, spend summers in Maine and I guess I’ll be giving MCV some money,” he says.

To make a gift to the School of Medicine, contact Tom Holland, associate dean for development, at (804) 828-4800 or teholland@vcu.edu.

Melanie Irvin ’96BS/MC is director of Development and Alumni Communications at VCU.
The Joys of Giving!

Experience the Joys of Giving!

Join the many alumni and friends who have made a commitment to the future of medical education, research and patient care on the MCV Campus of VCU by including the MCV Foundation in their estate plans. Your gifts help make the joy of an education possible for the next generation of medical professionals.

In addition to making a bequest through your will, there are many other gift options, some of which provide the joy of additional income to you or your loved ones while helping to ensure that our healthcare providers of tomorrow continue to receive an excellent MCV education.

For additional information about planned gifts that fit your financial needs and benefit MCV students, please contact Brian Thomas at (804) 828-0067 or bsthomas@vcu.edu or visit www.mcvfoundation.org.

Serving the MCV Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University for over 60 years
Lou Brooks ’77BFA/A’82BS(PT)/AH will always have a special place in her heart for the play “The Fantasticks” thanks to the visits she made to see her grandfather, George J. Oliver Sr.

As president of Richmond Professional Institute from 1959 to 1968, Brooks’ grandfather lived on campus in the President’s House. (RPI merged with the Medical College of Virginia to become Virginia Commonwealth University in 1968.) The four-story home also housed some of the RPI theater department in the basement, a sculpture court out back and a costume area on the top floor. “I loved the setting,” Brooks says. “Those days were wonderful.
I remember watching rehearsals and productions of ‘The Fantasticks’ when I was 6 or 7 years old. It has a special place in my heart."

The Oliver family legacy as alumni of MCV and VCU began with Brooks’ father, George J. Oliver Jr. ’47MD. A past president of the MCV Alumni Association, Oliver can’t pinpoint his first thoughts of becoming a doctor.

“As far back as I can remember, that is what I wanted to be,” he says. “I never considered anything else.”

He chose MCV because of its “great reputation and convenience.” During his time on campus, Oliver forged many friendships. He fondly remembers his professors, especially William Branch Porter 1911MD, professor of medicine; Harry Walker ’26MD, professor and former chair of the Department of Medicine; and Harvey B. Haag ’23PhG’28MD’31BS/P, professor and former chair of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and dean of the School of Medicine.

“He was the best,” Brooks says, adding that she also remembers skits about Dr. Haag.” Everybody dressed up and put on skits about Dr. Haag.”

Oliver focused on surgery after his post-graduate rotations. “I found it interesting,” he says.

After he began practicing medicine, Oliver remembers talking with his father, who was then president of RPI, and their friend, MCV President William T. Sanger, MD, about the merger that would create VCU.

“My father said the thing that bothered him the most was the loss of identity, not RPI but MCV,” Oliver says.

Thinking of everyone in his family who has carried on the MCV legacy pleases Oliver. “It means a great deal,” he says. “I never considered anything else.”

He signed an offer from a physical therapy clinical instructor in the School of Allied Health Professions, was a mentor to both sisters when they were on campus.

“He was the best,” Brooks says, adding that she also remembers classes in the surgical amphitheater in South Hospital. “It was a great time because there was such camaraderie and history.” Other members of the family who have graduated from schools on the MCV Campus include Merritt W. Foster ’45MD, a cousin to Brooks who worked as a psychiatrist in Richmond; Thomas L. Brooks Jr. ’20DDS and his wife, Mary Marshall Brooks ’25BS/N, grandparents to Brooks’ husband, Tom; Katherine D. Brooks ’10BS/N, who is Brooks’ daughter; and Elizabeth R. Winthrop ’12MS/N, daughter of Ellen Douglas Winthrop.

Katherine “Katie” Brooks decided on a nursing career after graduating from Mary Baldwin College with a degree in psychology.

“I had been trying to figure out my next step, and I was mulling over the possibilities,” she says.

When she was in college, she had taken a Myers-Briggs test that showed she would be a good fit for nursing. Her mother wasn’t surprised. “She is so compassionate,” Brooks says. “She developed a passion. She worked at MCV after college in Intervention Radiology and really sopped it up. She got to see many procedures and interact with professors. People mentored and fostered her. They were great.”

When Katie Brooks finally decided on a career in nursing she says there was “no other choice than the MCV Campus. That was mostly because of my family’s history.”

That legacy really hit home when she was taking her pre-requisite classes on the Monroe Park Campus.

“When I would see Oliver Hall, which was named after my family, it gave me a sense of ownership,” she says, adding that she feels as if she is following the path her grandfather started years ago. “He was a surgeon and now I am interested in OR nursing.”

The Oliver family is committed to giving back to MCV in gratitude for the opportunities it has given them. Brooks, for example, has spent many years on the MCVAA board and as executive editor of Scarab, the MCV alumni magazine. She now also serves on the board of the MCV Foundation.

But even considering the time and energy she has devoted to MCV as an alumna, Brooks says, “All of it still doesn’t measure up to what MCV has given me.”

Joan Tupponce is an award-winning freelance writer in Richmond.
The VCU chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) was honored during the 40th annual session of ASDA in Baltimore, receiving the Best Newsletter in Competition for the Chapter Newsletter Award and the Most Improved Chapter for the 2010 Ideal ASDA Award. Both the chapter and its newsletter have been recognized by the ASDA for several consecutive years.

The School of Pharmacy made the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for Exemplary Community Service Projects, one of only six projects at VCU that achieved the recognition. “Pharmacy Community Outreach” included a variety of volunteer health services, such as free clinics, neighborhood mission trips, dozens of community events offering free health screenings and patient education, as well as participation in the Remote Area Medical event in Wise, Va. The president’s community service honor roll is the highest federal recognition institutions of higher learning can earn for service learning and civic engagement.

The VCU School of Medicine has received the Program of Excellence Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians. The award is given annually to 10 medical colleges throughout the U.S. and recognizes family medicine interest groups that have excelled with programs in community service, exposure to family medicine and physicians, professional development and promoting the value of primary care.

VCU’s Virginia Center on Aging in the School of Allied Health Professions has received a $2.2 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration for the development of the Virginia Geriatric Education Center Consortium. A five-year, collaborative response to the concurrent aging of Richmond Real Estate Group. Recognized as exemplary in-fill projects in downtown Richmond, both structures were completed last year on the MCV Campus. The Richmond Real Estate Group is a professional organization comprised of allied businesses that deal in real estate, including brokers, financial institutions, contractors, facilities managers, zoning attorneys, architects and engineers.
Virginia’s population and the shortage of health-care professionals trained in geriatrics, the new VGEC aims to improve the training of health professionals in geriatrics.

“This award comes after an intense national competition, so it is confirmation of the strength of our consortium, with VCU as the leading institution,” says Edward Ansello, PhD, director of the Virginia Center on Aging and professor in the Department of Gerontology.

The VCU School of Nursing has partnered with the VCU Department of Fashion Design and Merchandising to create reproductions of several original nursing student uniforms. Fashion students are researching, creating patterns and sewing muslin uniforms. Once the patterns are completed, the school will reach out to nursing alumni to help sew uniforms using fabric comparable to what was used historically. The students are collaborating with Jodi Koste, head of special collections with the VCU Tompkins-McCaw Library, to ensure the patterns are historically accurate. This project is part of the school’s effort to preserve nursing history through the Heritage Room. When the new building opened three years ago, the school dedicated space on the first floor to celebrate the history and heritage of nursing.

The grand reopening for the renovated School of Pharmacy’s Smith Building was held Oct. 12. The $5 million renovation covered 14,000 square feet and included the first, second and fifth floors. Designed to enhance and expand upon the student experience, the new open, airy layout incorporates pharmaceutical elements throughout, from the “pill” lighting on the fifth floor to a glass wall on the first floor inscribed with the Pharmacist Code of Ethics.

The fifth floor now houses most of the dean’s offices, including the Office of Admissions and Student Services, and continues to house one of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry’s laboratories. Second-floor renovations created three teaching laboratories, including an expanded compounding lab, offering state-of-the-art technology and expanded work spaces to accommodate small-group and team-based learning. There are also new conference rooms and patient-interaction areas. The first floor was completely revamped (with the exception of Room 103, the building’s largest classroom) to allow for a student commons area, including a larger student lounge, café, conference rooms, classrooms, and faculty and seminar rooms. A new entrance at the corner of 12th and Clay streets features an enhanced security/reception area.

The Clinical and Translational Science Award makes VCU the only academic health center in Virginia to join a national consortium of research centers sponsored by NIH’s National Center for Research Resources. This network of academic research institutions accelerates the transformation of laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients, engages communities in clinical research and trains a new generation of clinical and translational researchers. Alumnus John M. Clore MD ’77BS/H&S’78MS(Bio)/H&S’85HS-IM, associate vice president for clinical research, is principal investigator for the VCU grant.

The VCU Health System received the 2010 Workforce Development Award for a large employer and the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility from the Richmond Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. Sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Award was given to the VCU Health System for its creativity in addressing employee needs for work-week flexibility. The Workforce Development Award recognizes employers whose work force practices generate significant results, benefits and solutions to the professional and/or technical development of its employees or individuals pursuing job training/retraining for either future employment or transition.

Linda Costanzo, PhD, taught her last class at the medical school this past spring.

Linda Costanzo, PhD, taught her last class.

On April 14, the former assistant dean for medical education in the VCU School of Medicine and one of the most decorated teachers in the school’s history lectured before an admiring throng of students, faculty and administrators attending her last class in physiology. During her 30 years on the faculty, Costanzo amassed 61 teaching awards. She received the VCU Distinguished Teaching Award in 1992, and she was the inaugural recipient of the medical school’s Teaching Excellence Award in 1999 and the American Physiological Society’s Teacher of the Year honor in 1993. In 2004, she won the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teaching Award, which recognizes the most gifted medical educators in the country.

John Clore, MD ’77BS/H&S’78MS(Bio)/H&S’85HS-IM, talks about the importance of the grant at a news conference.

VCU has received a $20 million grant – the largest federal award in its history – from the National Institutes of Health to become part of a nationwide consortium of research institutions working to turn laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients. The clinical and Translational Science award makes VCU the only academic health center in Virginia to join a national consortium of research centers sponsored by NIH’s National Center for Research Resources. This network of academic research institutions accelerates the transformation of laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients, engages communities in clinical research and trains a new generation of clinical and translational researchers. Alumnus John M. Clore MD ’77BS/H&S’78MS(Bio)/H&S’85HS-IM, associate vice president for clinical research, is principal investigator for the VCU grant.
VCU Medical Center was ranked in the 2010-2011 Best Hospitals in the country by U.S. News and World Report, making it one of 152 medical centers nationwide selected out of nearly 2,000 eligible institutions. Noted for excellence in cancer treatment, heart and heart surgery programs, its kidney disease program and physical rehabilitation, the VCU Medical Center is the only hospital in central Virginia to be ranked in the top 50. This is the fourth consecutive year that the medical center has been ranked in the report.

The VCU Medical Center’s Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit has received the Beacon Award for critical care excellence from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. The award recognizes adult critical care, adult progressive care and pediatric critical care units that demonstrate strong patient outcomes and exemplify excellence and innovation.

“This is a great recognition and affirmation of the fantastic nursing team we have in the NSICU and throughout the health system,” says John Duval, CEO of MCV Hospitals.

VCU’s Neuroscience ICU includes 18 beds and specializes in the care and treatment of patients who have suffered from stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury and other neurological and neurosurgical conditions.

Researchers from VCU’s Model System for Traumatic Brain Injury received the Mitchell Rosenthal Award for the 2008-2009 period from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. This is the second time the Rosenthal Award has been presented and the second time that a VCU team has been the recipient. The Rosenthal Award is made every other year to recognize the publication that is judged to make the most important scientific contribution among all those that drew on NIDRR’s national database of patients with moderate and severe traumatic brain injuries. The lead author on the publication, “Caregivers’ Well-Being after Traumatic Brain Injury: A Multicenter Prospective Investigation,” is physical medicine and rehabilitation professor Jeffrey Kreutzer, PhD, who holds the Rosa Schwarz Cifu Professorship. (Rosa Schwarz Cifu was the mother of David X. Cifu, MD.) The paper was published in the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in June 2009.

New VCU technology will give the media interview access to some of the world’s leading physicians, specialists and researchers for breaking news, features or trend expertise.

VCU has completed installation of the broadcast-quality, VideoLink ReadyCam system, a remotely or locally controlled camera technology that uses fiber optics to connect to VideoLink’s headquarters in Boston. From there, experts in VCU’s studio, located on the university’s MCV Campus, can be routed to virtually any location. In addition to connecting to broadcast media, the system also can be used to produce webcasts and will enable university faculty to remotely attend conferences.

A pediatric surgery congenital heart collaborative between the University of Virginia Health System and VCU Medical Center will provide coordinated pediatric cardiac surgical care and adult congenital cardiac surgical care for patients in Charlottesville and Richmond. The joint program also will include treatment and educational and research services that enhance patient access to specialized surgical treatments with coordinated patient care.

The VCU Medical Center has been recognized by the American Heart Association for achievement in using evidence-based guidelines to provide the best possible care to patients through the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association’s Get With the Guidelines program. Hospitals recognized achieved at least 85 percent compliance to Get With the Guidelines measures.

VCU Pharmacology & Toxicology faculty member Charles O’Keeffe was selected as one of The Irish Life Science Top 50, a prestigious listing of top Irish Americans in the life science industry developed by The Irish Voice newspaper and the Irish government. The president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, presented the Irish Life Science 50 at a May 20 award ceremony in New York City. As a part-time faculty member in PharmTox, O’Keeffe has been integral to the development of a master’s-level program that draws students from England and Australia. He is also affiliated with the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health (formerly known as Preventive Medicine and Community Health).
An antidepressant can alleviate symptoms of major depression in women experiencing or about to experience menopause, according to a study led by Susan G. Kornstein, MD’87HS-Psych, a professor of psychiatry and obstetrics/gynecology in the VCU School of Medicine, and published in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry. The research compared the effectiveness and safety of the antidepressant desvenlafaxine, known as Pristiq, to a placebo in a double-blind trial.

More than 20 percent of women will experience depression in the course of their lifetime, and depression seems to be influenced by reproductive events, such as the menstrual cycle, the postpartum period and menopause. Research, including earlier work by Kornstein, has shown that women may respond to antidepressants differently from men and may respond to medication differently at different times in their lives.

A new tumor-promoting gene that could play a key role in the development of liver cancer has been identified by VCU researchers. Levels of the gene’s expression are significantly higher in more than 90 percent of patients with the disease compared with their healthy counterparts. Researchers at the VCU Massey Cancer Center and the VCU Institute of Molecular Medicine hope the findings could lead to an effective therapy to target and inhibit the expression of this gene and result in inhibition of cancer growth. Liver cancer is the fifth most common cancer and the third leading cause of cancer deaths in the world. Principal investigator is Devanand Sarkar, PhD, MBBS, assistant professor in the Department of Human and Molecular Genetics in the VCU School of Medicine and Harrison Endowed Scholar in Cancer Research at the VCU Massey Cancer Center.

Don Abraham, PhD, was inducted into the American Chemical Society Division of the Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame. An emeritus professor in the School of Pharmacy’s Department of Medicinal Chemistry and emeritus director and founder of the VCU Institute for Structural Biology and Drug Discovery, Abraham just finished co-editing Burger’s “Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery,” the major reference work in medicinal chemistry. The sickle cell drug, 5-HMF, which he helped discover at VCU, is set to enter clinical trials by AesRX and NIH.

Vitamin E shows promise for treating nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH, also known as nonalcoholic fatty liver disease) according to a study led by Arun Sanyal, MD ‘90HS, who holds the VCU Charles M. Caravati Chair in Gastroenterology and co-chairs the NASH Clinical Research Network. Results showed a daily dose of vitamin E improved the condition of patients with NASH. The findings were reported in the April 2010 online edition of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Charles E. Chalfant, PhD, was named a recipient of the Avanti Young Investigator Award in Lipid Research by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The award honors outstanding research contributions by young investigators with no more than 15 years of experience. Chalfant, associate professor in the VCU School of Medicine’s Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is also a research career scientist at the McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center. He was honored for his work on lipid signaling pathways regulating alternative pre-mRNA processing and eicosanoid biosynthesis.

Lazar J. Greenfield, MD, FACS, received the 16th Jacobson Innovation Award from the American College of Surgeons for developing a device known as the Greenfield filter. Greenfield is a former Stuart McGuire Professor and was chair of the VCU surgery department for 13 years. The implantable device, introduced the year before Greenfield arrived on the MCV Campus, is designed to prevent blood clots from reaching the lungs, where they can be fatal.

“He did a great deal of work on the filter while here,” says the current Stuart McGuire Professor and Chair of Surgery James Neifeld ’72MD’78HS. During his tenure as surgery chair, “Dr. Greenfield helped to establish the criteria for placement of the vena cava filter, worked to make placement of the filter safer and trained many surgeons – and surgeons to be – on use of the filter.”

Primary care practices that employ a telephone quitline are better able to help patients quit smoking, according to a VCU study published in the April 2010 issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Stephen Rothemich ’89MD’92HS’02MS/BS/M, co-director of the Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network in the VCU Department of Family Medicine, was corresponding author of the study, which found that practices with a quitline provided help in quitting to 41 percent of smokers who came to the office, compared with only 28 percent of smokers in practices that did not have a referral system in place.

VCU researchers have identified simple measures to assess genetic risk for alcohol dependence. Kenneth S. Kendler, MD, director of the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics and a professor of human and molecular genetics in the VCU School of Medicine, and colleagues assessed the lifetime history of alcohol dependence in 5,073 same-sex adult twins from the Virginia Twin Registry against four measures of alcohol consumption at the time of heaviest drinking: drinking frequency, regular quantity, maximum quantity and drunk frequency. They found the four measures of alcohol consumption were able to accurately assess genetic risk for alcohol dependence in all women who participated in the study and a large proportion of men. The study was published in the June 2010 issue of Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research.
As a boy, J. Spencer Dryden ’33MD’40HS often stopped on his way home from school to spend time chatting with his “Grandpa” Hunt. During one visit, Dryden complained that a local politician was not following through on his campaign promises.

“A political platform is like a streetcar platform,” his grandfather responded. “You use it to get in, not to stand on.” Dryden, who has had a lifelong fascination with politics, says he always remembers his grandfather’s “pearls of wisdom” whenever he’s dealing with politicians. And at 100 years old, he has lived through the terms of 17 U.S. presidents.

Born in 1910 in Poquoson, Va., Dryden decided when he was about 10 or 12 years old that he wanted to become a physician. His choice was driven by a desire to do something to better mankind as well as his admiration for the family physician and for a cousin, Benjamin Hunt ’27MD.

One of a select group of students admitted to the accelerated pre-med program at The College of William & Mary, Dryden completed his undergraduate work in less than two years. Ironically, while he might now be the VCU School of Medicine’s oldest alumnus, he was the youngest in his class at MCV, graduating at age 23.

One of Dryden’s medical school professors, Emory Hill, MD, inspired him to specialize in ophthalmology.

“In those days there were very few teaching institutions that would make you board-eligible in ophthalmology, and those programs had waiting lists,” Dryden says. While he waited for a slot to open, he served as a medical officer in the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was admitted to the ophthalmology residency program at MCV in 1938.

Dryden graduated from the program five months before Pearl Harbor. He joined the Army and served in the ophthalmology department at Walter Reed Army Hospital during the war, treating difficult cases and training medical personnel for field hospitals. Knowing he did not want to spend his entire career in the military, Dryden made an effort to get to know the physicians in the Washington, D.C., area, sometimes making presentations on interesting cases he had handled at Walter Reed.

His networking paid off. When the war ended, he was offered the opportunity to take over an established ophthalmology practice and serve as chief of ophthalmology at Doctor’s Hospital. He remained in Washington, D.C., for the rest of his career and held a number of leadership positions over the years including chief of ophthalmology at Washington Hospital Center, president of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, president of the Washington Ophthalmological Society, president of the American Association of Ophthalmology and president of the MCV Alumni Association. He retired from private practice in 1985 at the age of 75.

Dryden’s office was just four blocks from the White House, and he saw a number of politicians as patients. For 10 years, he also served as chair of the D.C. medical society’s Committee on Legislation, representing the organization to Congress, which was the governing body for the District. “I learned the difference between a politician and a statesman, and we had quite a few of each,” he says.

He saw how much influence lobbyists had on congressmen and senators. “And I never passed up on an opportunity to expose it,” he says.

Dryden continues to follow politics today, writing letters to the editor of his local paper in Punta Gorda, Fla., all of which have been published. The letters often showcase his talent as a satirist, and he sends them to friends and family. A grandson living in England told him that many of the dinner invitations that the grandson and his wife receive include a request that they bring one of Dryden’s letters to share.

He also is a songwriter, and he hired a professional singer to record his lyrics for a CD called “The Clinton Legacy.”

“Clinton was a goldmine for satire,” he says.

Dryden married Tricola Inez Mitchell, a former operating room nurse, in 1934, and they had been married 66 years when she died in 2000. They raised four children, and today Dryden’s family includes eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He attributes his longevity to genetics and good living. He played golf into his 90s, and at age 90 he shot a 77, a total of 13 strokes below his age. “When you get past 50 years of age, start making friends who are younger than you are,” he advises. “And every 10 years, start picking up friends who are even younger.”

All of his contemporaries have passed on, but Dryden has many friends in their 70s, 80s and 90s whom he has known for years. As a result, he hears from someone every day, with calls coming in each week from friends and family all around the country.

A happy life, he says, is one where you accomplish your goals and make good choices—including choosing a great wife and great friends.

A Passion for Politics:
Centenarian J. Spencer Dryden ’33MD’40HS

by Kathy Davis
**VITAL SIGNS**

**1950s**

*Lillian Johnson '51St.P* was one of the YMCA Virginia Peninsula’s 2010 Women of Distinction for Medicine. Johnson was honored for her federal civil service career of more than 32 years. She held various positions during her tenure with Langley Air Force Base Hospital including staff nurse and liaison between Langley Hospital and Hampton University’s master’s program in nursing. Johnson also served as proctor for the State Board of Nurse Examiners and as Cancer Prevention and Control Program nurse.

*Lillian Riddick '57BS/N'54St.P* has received her fifth degree from Housatonic College in Bridgeport, Conn. Her latest degree was received in criminal justice with honors. She also holds degrees in nursing and philosophy of education as well as a PhD.

**1960s**

Cotesworth Fishburne Jr. '63DDS received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Medical University of South Carolina. Fishburne has been on their board of trustees for over 20 years and has served as its vice chairman. In retirement, he is conducting clinical research on the stimulation of diminished salivary flow.

Marvin Frank '65MD is presently serving as director of eye services at the Senior Friendship Center in Sarasota, Fla. The center has over 60 retired physicians and dentists who offer their services to indigent patients over age 55. The center issues special licenses to medical and dental professionals that allow them to practice without undergoing the usual testing by the medical/dental boards. Frank is board certified in ophthalmology and has been volunteering at the center for the past six years.

**Barry V. Kirkpatrick '66MD**, professor in the VCU Department of Pediatrics, received the School of Medicine’s 2010 Irby-James Clinical Teaching Award in recognition of superior teaching and professionalism in clinical medicine taught in the last two years of medical school and residency training.

*Jeffrey Levin '68DDS* has been appointed to the Virginia Board of Dentistry by Gov. Bob McDonnell. Levin is a dentist for Commonwealth Prosthodontics and serves as a professor in VCU’s School of Dentistry.

*Doris Hinshaw Osborne '60BS/P* of Asheboro, N.C., retired in 2003 as director of pharmacy for Randolph Hospital after 30 years of service.

**Alvin Schalow '61BS/P** was named Correspondent of the Day by the Richmond Times-Dispatch’s editorial pages on Sept. 2 for a letter he wrote concerning college students’ potential and the choices they make.

*Robert E. Willey Jr. '60BS/P* of Strasburg, Va., has been married to his wife, Sandy, for 28 years. They have three children and six grandchildren.

**1970s**

Joseph Boatwright III '76HS(Ped)/M '78HS(Ped)/M was appointed to the Virginia Board of Medical Assistance Services by Gov. Bob McDonnell. Boatwright is a practicing pediatrician in Richmond.

L. Preston Hale '72BS/P was guest speaker for VCU School of Pharmacy’s White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2014. More than 700 students, faculty, staff, family and friends attended the 10th annual event. Hale is national manager of strategic accounts for QS/1Data Systems.

*Charles Johnson '76DDS* was recently appointed by Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell to the State Board of Health. He is a dentist in Richmond.

Gary P. Miller '76MD/79HS-FM has been selected to participate in the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation’s 2010-2011 class of the Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute.

**1980s**

Jody Allen '81PharmD was recently appointed to the Virginia Board of Pharmacy by Gov. Bob McDonnell. Allen is currently vice president of public policy and external affairs with Medco Health Solutions in Midlothian, Va.

Cheryl Pring Boone '84BS/P of Roanoke, Va., completed her master’s of science degree in health administration at VCU, graduating May 10.

*W. Scott Burnette '83PhD(HA)/AH was recently appointed to the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Council by Gov. Bob McDonnell. Burnette is currently president and chief information officer for INOVA Health Systems.

Connie Wornom Bush '80BS/N, the community health educator for Sentara CarePlex Hospital’s Cancer Institute in Hampton, Va., recently
received a grant from the Walmart Foundation to help provide dental care for Sentara’s head and neck cancer patients. Many of the uninsured in the Hampton Roads area require dental procedures before they can begin radiation treatments for cancer and without this grant would not have been able to receive the treatment they needed.

**James R. Dudley, MD ’88HS** has been reappointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Service Delivery and Payment Reform Task Force working in coordination with the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council.

**Robin Foster ’89MD** was recently reappointed to the Virginia State Child Fatality Review Team by Gov. Bob McDonnell. Foster is the Division Chair of Pediatric Emergency Medicine with VCU Medical Center.

**Richard Hamrick III ’82MD’99MBA(B)/B** was recently appointed to the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Council by Gov. Bob McDonnell.

S. Chris Jones ’82BS/P was recently appointed to the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Council by Gov. Bob McDonnell.

**Mark Johnson ’87bS/P’93PharmD** is an associate professor at Shenandoah University’s Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy. He led a special session, “Beyond Pharmacotherapy: Spirituality in Healthcare,” at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy 2010 Annual Meeting in Seattle.

**Colleen A. Kraft ’86MD’99HS-Ped** has been appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Medicaid Reform Task Force working in coordination with the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council.

Eileen Shinaberry ’87BS/P was recently appointed to the Virginia Board of Pharmacy by Gov. Bob McDonnell. Shinaberry is Pharmacy IT Manager with Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, Va.

**Marie Smith ’00PharmD** is assistant dean for practice and public policy partnerships at University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. She was moderator and presenter for a special session on “Faculty Leadership in Translating Pharmacy Practice-Based Research Into Policy and Advocacy” at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy 2010 Annual Meeting in Seattle.

**Kurt Bell ’95BS/P’04MSha(AE)/AH** of Goode, Va., has been named by Gov. Bob McDonnell to one of six task forces that will work with the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council.

**Richard L. Bennett Jr. ’99MD** has been selected to participate in the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation’s 2010-2011 class of the Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute.

**Michael Z. Blumberg, MD ’98MSHa** of Richmond, Va., is managing partner at Virginia Adult and Pediatric Allergy & Asthma and was recently appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Advisory Board on Respiratory Care.

**Alison N. Christian-Taylor ’96MD** has been selected to participate in the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation’s 2010-2011 class of the Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute.

**Timmerie Cohen ’95AS(RT)/AH ’97BS(CRS)/AH** was recently inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. She is pursuing her doctoral degree in the VCU Center for Public Policy with a concentration in health policy.

**John Keyes Durfee ’90MD** has been appointed as a gynecologic oncologist in the Department of OB/GYN at Boston Medical Center and as a clinical associate professor of OB/GYN at Boston University School of Medicine.

**Bennett B. Lee ’94MD** has been selected to participate in the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation’s 2010-2011 class of the Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute.

**Amy Luckeydoo ’93BS(B)/H&S’97MD** is the new deputy coroner for Ross County, Ohio.

**Sarah Tollison Melton ’91BS/P’94PharmD** of Lebanon, Va., received the Innovative Practice Award at the 2009 College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Fla. She is an associate professor at Appalachian College of Pharmacy and was recently appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the board of trustees of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth.
Sterling N. Ransone Jr. ’92MD ’95HS has been appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Technology Task Force working in coordination with the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council.

Brooke Rossheim ’93MD ’96MPH(PH)/M has been named director of the Rappahannock Area Health District. The Rappahannock district includes health department offices in the city of Fredericksburg, Va., and each of the surrounding counties.

John Sadler III ’91MD said that after practicing full-time clinical medicine for over 15 years, he has decided to move towards more administrative and consultative practice. Right now he is investigating work with Disability Determination Services and is doing medicolegal consulting for several law firms in the Roanoke, Va., area.

Evans Sisson ’92BS/P ’94PharmD ’96MS(HAEI)/AH, assistant professor in the VCU School of Pharmacy, was appointed to the Professional Practice Committee Workgroup ‘Tracking Practice Trends for the American Association of Diabetes Educators.’

Diandrea Bailey ’02MS(RC)/AH ’03Cert(PC)/AH is a management and program analyst for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in Washington, D.C. Bailey is currently serving as the project officer for “Rehabilitation Counseling: Long Term Training through Distance Learning,” one of the VCU Rehabilitation Counseling Department’s federal grants from the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Muhammad Bhaty ’01Cert(A)/M has recently joined the staff of Hospitalist Group with Rochester General Hospital in Rochester, N.Y.

Angela Passero Boggs ’02PharmD is a clinical psychiatric pharmacist with the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore. She was featured in the Board of Pharmacy Specialties’ 2009 Annual Report.

Alisa Christman Escano ’01PharmD has been hired as a clinical assistant professor for VCU School of Pharmacy’s Inova Campus. She also is a clinical specialist and PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program director at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Va.

Allen A. Gandhi ’07PharmD has enrolled with the Class of 2014 at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Sharon Gatewood ’97(C)/H&S ’02PharmD, assistant professor in the VCU School of Pharmacy, was elected as an executive committee member-at-large with the American Pharmacists Association’s Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management.

Aaron E. Goldberg ’05MD ’09HS-OB/GYN has been selected to participate in the Medical Society of Virginia’s 2010-2011 class of the Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute.

Jessica Hammer ’08PharmD married Justin Walker ’08PharmD in September 2008. They met as first-year students at the VCU School of Pharmacy. She is now Jessica Ann Walker.

S. Katherine Laughon ’00MD, a postdoctoral Intramural Research Training Award fellow at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, is co-author on a study that links the high rate of C-sections to impatience. Published online in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, the study has been covered by media outlets including USA Today and the Los Angeles Times.

Ashkan Parniani ’08BS/CRS(A)/AH recently passed his medical dosimetry certification examination.

Vladislav Shick ’01MD has recently finished a fellowship in Acute Pain with Regional Anesthesiology in Pittsburgh. Shick has accepted a faculty position with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Department of Anesthesiology.

Dorothy Delmar ’38Diet of Richmond on May 27, 2010. Delmar worked in Baltimore, Md., as a dietician at Spring Grove State Hospital before coming to work for Richmond Public Schools as a cafeteria supervisor for 20 years. She also served as an assistant state supervisor of School Food Services in the Department of Education. Delmar was a charter and lifelong member of the Virginia School Food Service Association. Delmar was 97.

H. L. Riley ’30MD of Lynchburg, Va., on May 12, 2010. Simmons served in WWII. She worked in Richmond as a director of nursing at McGuire Clinic and as a director of nursing of Saint Luke’s Hospital. Simmons was 93.

Martha Ana Vermilya ’36BS/N of Richmond, about three years ago.

Leon Alexander ’44MD of Lake City, Fla., on Dec. 28, 2009.

Bradford Bennett ’41MD ’47HS-Ortho/M of Durham, N.C., on May 11, 2010. For years, Bennett was the only orthopedist in Winchester, Va. He was known to his patients for his healing touch, and he dedicated himself “lovingly” to caring for crippled children and the veterans in the VA Hospital in Martinsburg, W.Va. Bennett was especially proud of the opportunity he had in the 1960s to study with Sir John Charnley, a British orthopaedic surgeon who pioneered total hip and joint replacement. Bennett became renowned in Northern Virginia, and President Kennedy’s private doctor asked him to help with some of her patients. Bennett is survived by many friends and family including his son, John Bennett ’73MED(A&S)/E. Bennett was 94.

Alice Cole ’45St.P of Petersburg, Va., on July 31, 2010. She was 85. (See “In Memory” on Page 35.)

**William “Bill” Cox ’43MD of Richmond, on May 14, 2010. Cox was an OB/GYN for more than 30 years with countless deliveries, including
For someone who says she took a “slovenly approach to academia,” Janet Younger, PhD ’67BS/N’72MS/N, recently retired Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing professor and associate dean, amassed an impressive curriculum vitae during her career, becoming a respected professor, researcher and administrator.

In addition to bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from VCU, she holds a master’s degree in education and a PhD in psychology (educational and developmental) from the University of Virginia as well as post-master’s and post-doctoral certificates from three universities. With the exception of her bachelor’s degree, she says all of her academic achievements have been by chance and not by design, and almost all of her post-baccalaureate education was paid for at “someone else’s expense.”

“I truly had no plans and no goals,” Younger says. “In fact, I think goals are overrated.” She sees her career as a journey and believes remaining open to pursuing new challenges and opportunities as they arise is important.

Not long after earning her bachelor’s in nursing in 1967, Younger and her husband, Carter, moved to Charlottesville where he attended law school and she worked as a public health nurse. She would come home from work and ask him about what he learned that day. “Truth be known, I was jealous, so I decided to pick a class that interested me and that class was Tests & Measurements,” Younger says. She enrolled in graduate school at U.Va. in 1970.

When her husband’s career moved them back to Richmond, Younger began work on her master’s in nursing at VCU. She then found herself “unexpectedly” on the VCU faculty teaching undergraduate pediatrics. She loved teaching, but her experience as a public health nurse and the availability of a nurse practitioner program at U.Va. made her realize she “couldn’t stand another day” if she were not a nurse practitioner.

Younger earned her pediatric nurse practitioner certificate in 1972 and became the first nurse practitioner at VCU as well as the first co-director of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program. She also participated in writing many of the federal grants needed to sustain the program.

In 1981, Younger returned to U.Va., earning her PhD in three years. She had every intention of taking her daughter on a driving tour of Canada when she finished her dissertation, but VCU asked her to teach a course on management theory as an adjunct professor.

“She is a born teacher,” says Pat Stuckey, an associate professor who retired from VCU in 1993. “She helped a lot of new people become better teachers and understand academic life. She is great at mentoring; that’s one of her many strengths.”

Next, Younger was asked to become chair of the Department of Medical/Surgical Nursing. “When they asked me to do this, I said, ‘You do realize that I’m a peds person, right?’” she recalls.

Six years later she became associate dean for academic programs. The VCU School of Nursing then sent her to the University of Michigan to earn a post-doctoral certificate in multivariate statistics. She had already earned a certificate in epidemiology at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health in 1968.

Lauren Goodloe ’83BS/N’88MS/N’00PhD, VCU assistant dean for clinical operations, might know Younger as well as anyone at VCU. The two worked together for a dozen years to develop a stronger partnership between the VCU Health System and the School of Nursing using the theme “Best Partners for Best Practice.”

“Dr. Younger is the most intelligent person I’ve ever been in contact with,” Goodloe says. “She’s extremely pragmatic and knows how to put theory into practice. On top of that, she is a phenomenal mentor and has a phenomenal sense of humor. She’s taught me so much about academia.”

Younger was named one of the Virginia’s top professors in 1997 by the State Council of Higher Education and was recognized by the Virginia Nurses Association in 1999 as one of the 99 Best Nurses in Virginia. In 2001, she received the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners State Excellence Award.

Although she continues to teach, Younger retired in 2009 after more than 40 years of amassing degrees, obtaining grants, authoring countless research papers and holding multiple leadership positions, including four years as president of the Virginia Board of Nursing.

Sande Snead ’96MS/MC is a senior account executive with Pulsar Advertising and a freelance writer in Richmond.
some that spanned three generations of the same Richmond families. “Cox enjoyed private practice because it allowed him to focus on the needs of patients,” said his daughter. He also served as chief of staff and head of the Obstetrics Department at Richmond Memorial Hospital. Cox was 94.

**William Draffin ’41DDS** of Columbia, S.C.

*Belle DeCormich Fears ’45MD* of Onancock, Va., on Aug. 25, 2010. Fears served as medical director for the Eastern Shore Health District for many years. She was a member of the Accomack County Medical Society, the Medical Society of Virginia and the American Medical Association to name a few. Fears was 89.

**William Hancock ’49MD** of Richmond on May 22, 2010. Hancock was a prominent family physician beloved by his patients. After 40 years of private practice in South Richmond, he served as medical director for Home Beneficial Life Insurance Company until 1995. He also served as team doctor for the Richmond Braves baseball team and Channel 12 news. Hancock was 89.

**Douglas Hill ’47MD** of Henderson, N.C., on Aug. 23, 2010. Hill practiced medicine for more than 40 years in Winchester, Va. He served as president of the Northern Virginia Medical Society and was on the board of Northwestern Workshop, an agency serving disabled individuals. Hill was 88.

**Ralph Holmes ’47DDS** of Midlothian, Va., on April 29, 2010. Holmes and his wife of 62 years, Beverly, lived in Arlington, Va., where he had a dental practice for more than 40 years. He was an avid golfer and tennis player and loved traveling. Holmes was 85.

**B. Arthur Hubbard Jr. ’49MD** of Virginia Beach.

**Alfred Joseph ’45MD** of Peachtree City, Ga., on Aug. 18, 2010. He practiced pediatric medicine in East Point, Ga., for many years.


**Lucile Phillips ’42STL’P** of Saint Albans, N.Y., on June 24, 2010.

**Martin Rosenberg ’40DDS** of Walnut Creek, Calif., on July 23, 2010. With over 50 years of service, Rosenberg had the unofficial title as the longest-serving dentist in the San Fernando Valley. “Marty was a great humanitarian who served communities locally and abroad with dignity and grace.” Rosenberg was 87.

**Leroy Safian ’43MD** of Fair Lawn, NJ, on March 1, 2010. Safian was a “dedicated and highly respected” radiologist whose career spanned more than 40 years. He was known by his colleagues and patients for his “kindness and generosity.” Safian was 94.

**Louis Smith Jr. ’48BS/P** of Richmond, on June 10, 2010. Smith was a pharmacist who practiced in the Richmond area for more than 50 years. His son, Stephen Smith ’75BS/P, and his grandson, Eric Smith ’09PharmD, make up three generations of Smith pharmacists.

**Elise Spadola ’41BS/N** of West Hartford, Conn., on Sept. 7, 2009.

**James Tidler ’44MD** of Wilmington, N.C., on July 27, 2010, two days before his 90th birthday.

**Betty Ward ’41BS/N** of Warsaw, Va., on Aug. 8, 2009. Ward was the widow of Charles Ward ’43MD.

**Joseph Way ’45DDS** of Richmond on May 17, 2010. Way was a dentist in private practice on Grove Avenue for more than 50 years. Way was 88.

**Pearl Wolfe ’43BS/N** of Goldsboro, N.C.

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### 1950s

**Jane Amos ’52BS/N** of Fairfax, Va., on June 26, 2010. Amos was a nurse who worked with her husband, William Amos Jr. ’52MD in his cardiology practice for more than 40 years. Amos was 78.

**Alden Anderson Jr. ’54DDS** of Staunton, Va., on Nov. 20, 2009. He practiced dentistry in Staunton for 39 years and volunteered one day a week to serve the students at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind for 19 years.

**William Brown ’52BS/P’56MD** of Gloucester, Va., on June 27, 2010. Brown served as a Navy flight surgeon from 1958 to 1960. After his tour, he joined his brother, Raymond Brown ’42BS/P’45MD, in private practice in Gloucester. Brown also served as state medical examiner and was an aviation medical examiner with the FAA. Brown was the widower of Frances Brown ’53BS/N. He was 80.

**John Butterworth III ’52MD** of Richmond on April 8, 2010. Butterworth was one of the first 13 general orthopedic surgeons in Richmond in the 1950s. Butterworth was with West End Orthopedic Clinic Inc. for 35 years before he retired in 1992. “As all the new things came along, doctors became knee specialists, hip specialists – everyone had a subspecialty. Butterworth said as a joke that he was the last of the great big-toe specialists.” He was 83.

**Ellen Button ’50BS/N** of Harrisonburg, Va., on June 13, 2010.


**Ann Duffer ’52BS/N** of Midlothian, Va., on May 25, 2010. Duffer was the owner of Ann Duffer Personnel, a successful business in Richmond for 40 years, and was a co-founder and vice chairman of The Women’s Bank. She also served as director of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Association’s Region III Advisory Council. She was named Richmond Small Business Woman of the Year for the past 10 years. Duffer was 78.

**Harry Fore Jr. ’52DDS** of Richmond on March 25, 2010. Fore is a former professor of restorative dentistry with MCV’s School of Dentistry. “When MCV purchased 10 new air-driven high-speed dental hand drills during the 1950s, only college seniors were allowed to use them. Fore initially taught them how to use the drills,” Dr. Robert Eshleman said. “Fore had a gentle touch and a nice way of telling you what he wanted you to do and critiquing you.” Fore taught at MCV from 1957 to 1977. In 1964, as director of the MCV Dental Auxiliary Programs, Fore developed, introduced and supervised the school’s program to train dental students to use dental assistants. He was 85.

**Helen Fortenberry ’51BS/N** of Richmond on March 26, 2010.

**Maurice Fuquay ’59HS-M** of Richmond on June 1, 2010. Fuquay was a board-certified thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon for more than 25 years before retiring in 1988. He was 88.

**Halcott Haden ’56HS-M** of Richmond and Tappahannock, Va., on June 11, 2010. Haden was chief of medical service and chief of the nuclear
John “Jack” Armstrong, Jr. ’63DDS of Falls Church, Va., on April 7, 2010. *George Aylor ’65DDS of Culpeper, Va., on June 4, 2010. Aylor was a dentist in private practice for more than 45 years and was very proud to have his son join him in the practice 10 years ago. Aylor was 70. 

Robert Brand ’64DDS of Prince George, Va., on April 26, 2010. Brand practiced dentistry for more than 30 years in the communities of Buena Vista, Chincoteague Island and Petersburg. He was 72. 

Gerald Brooks ’61BS/P of Churchville, Va. 

Rachel Minter Drummond ’66BS(RP)/N of Greenville, N.C., on May 21, 2010. Drummond was 69. (See “In Memory” on Page 35.)

Cathy Blatz ’76BS/P of Orange, Va. 

*Mary Dowrick ’69BS(MET)/AH ’72MS (MET)/AH of Norfolk, Va., on June 14, 2010. She retired from Sentara Norfolk General Hospital where she was a clinical specialist in hematology for 35 years. Dowrick was 65. 

Charlotte Lawson ’70BS/N of Richmond on June 11, 2010. Lawson was the head nurse on the Medical Floor of MCV Hospital and helped to develop St. Mary’s Home Health Care Service. She served as director of nursing for the Department of Corrections of Virginia and recently was an evening nurse manager for 24/7 NurseLine at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Virginia. Lawson was 61. 

Michael McDougle ’76DDS of Sierra Vista, Ariz., on March 24, 2007. 


Adam Steinberg ’71MD of Abingdon, Va., on June 6, 2005. 


Karen Feher ’79BS/N of Midlothian, Va., on June 12, 2010. Feher was a clinical nurse in the Mother/Infant Care Unit at MCV. She was 33. 

Stephen Harkins ’89MPH(PH)/M of Richmond on May 20, 2010. Harkins was professor emeritus of gerontology at VCU. He devoted his career to investigating pain perception and emotional distress in the elderly as well as providing options for those with dementia. Harkins also performed some of the nation’s first neuropsychological functioning assessments with the elderly as he tried to sort out personality or cognitive differences from brain dysfunction, and he conducted some of the early trials for drugs intended to help dementia patients. He was instrumental in establishing the first support group for Alzheimer’s disease in Virginia. Harkins was 68. 

Eleanor McGhee BS(PC)/AH ’81MSW(SW)/SW of Richmond on April 14, 2010. McGhee is survived by her husband, Read McGhee Jr. ’61MD. She was 72.
Early in his career, Ron Tankersley ’68DDS ’71HS was interested in healthcare policy simply because he thought he needed to understand it for his own oral and maxillofacial surgery practice. He didn’t anticipate that one day he would become president of the American Dental Association. Now, he finds himself at the end of a one-year term that was nearly a full-time job.

“I was on the board of trustees for the ADA and had no intention of running for president, but it became pretty obvious that dentistry for the underserved was very much on the back burner in all of the healthcare reform discussions, so I felt compelled to step up to the plate,” he says.

While Tankersley served as president-elect and then president of the ADA over the past two years, his son and practice partner, Ken Tankersley ’97DDS, MD, and other partner, Les Davenport ’77DDS, kept their office in Newport News, Va., running.

“When elected, I didn’t realize how extremely important the position is perceived around the world,” Tankersley says. “I was an international diplomat for American dentistry. The ADA is a huge player and resource to the profession. There is no other dental organization on the globe like the ADA.”

Tankersley spent much of his presidency trying to educate ADA members, the foundations and other nondental oral-health advocates about healthcare reform and the need to include dentistry for the underserved.

“We are the only major health profession that is still market-based,” he says. “We take good care of 65 to 70 percent of the population. They have the highest health literacy and most sophisticated dental care in the history of the world, but about 30 percent of the population is left behind and has abysmal dental care.”

The ADA advocated for rebuilding the dental infrastructure in public health, but not one penny in the trillion-dollar healthcare reform bill was specifically targeted for the underserved dental care population, Tankersley says.

“We failed,” he says. “I can’t say the year was successful, but it was certainly eventful.”

Tankersley was not alone in his battle. The ADA is 151 years old and the most active dental association in the world. It has 157,000 members and 450 professional staff members, including full-time lobbyists.

Tankersley also had ADA President-elect Raymond Gist, DDS, working with him.

“The job is so big, it has to be divided,” Gist says. “Ron committed himself to many speaking engagements this year, but for those he couldn’t go to, I represented the ADA.”

Tankersley focused a great deal of effort this past year on collaboration and trying to get specialty associations and other agencies, such as the American Dental Education Association, working together.

“I’m going to continue that focus,” Gist says. “Ron has done a great job for the ADA. He’s a progressive person, very outgoing, very learned and very concerned. He accomplished quite a bit during his term.”

Tankersley had not always planned to be a dentist. He had had little experience as a dental patient. A pre-med and psychology major at The College of William & Mary, he couldn’t decide exactly what he wanted to do. He talked to several family friends and acquaintances who were physicians and dentists, and everyone suggested dentistry. “They said that dentistry was a growing, exciting profession where a doctor could still have a personal life,” he says.

Tankersley was fortunate to be able to shadow a dentist who had completed a residency while in the military. He was the first dentist Tankersley encountered who advocated saving teeth rather than extracting them.

Also influential in Tankersley’s career were the late Harry Lyons ’23DDS, former dean of the MCV School of Dentistry and a past president of the ADA, and the late Elmer Bear, DDS, former professor and chair of the MCV Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, under whom he did his oral surgery residency.

“Dr. Lyons emphasized professionalism,” Tankersley says. “He personally helped transform dentistry from a trade to a profession. Dr. Bear stressed the need to be involved in organized dentistry and the obligation to be active.”

Tankersley found he had a lot of misperceptions about dental care in other countries before his presidential tenure.

“I traveled all over the world and thought I would learn something new about European dentistry, but most European dentists are trained in the U.S.,” he says.

Now that he has finished his term as ADA president, Tankersley has returned to his practice in Newport News and is enjoying spending more time with his music, biking and five granddaughters.

Sande Snead ’96MS/MC is a senior account executive with Pulsar Advertising and a freelance writer in Richmond.
A page from a document listing life members of the MCV Alumni Association of VCU. The text mentions the names of various individuals who became life members between September 18, 2009, and September 22, 2010. The list includes names such as Dr. Elizabeth L. Abell, Dr. Shaman M. Al-anezi, Dr. William R. Armentrout, Dr. Jennifer H. Austin, Dr. Kenneth J. Benson, Dr. Michael A. Berry, and many others.
**IN MEMORY**

**THE MCV FAMILY NOTES WITH SORROW THE PASSING OF THESE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS**

**Alice Celestine Taylor Cole ’45St.P** died July 31 while on a Caribbean cruise with her daughters. She was 85.

According to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, in the 1960s, Cole became the first black public health nurse hired by the Petersburg Health Department. She served as one of the department’s head nurses before she retired in 1985. Cole was also the first black industrial nurse hired at American Tobacco Co., and early in her nursing career, she worked at Central State Hospital for 10 years.

According to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Cole not only broke barriers in employment but also worked to break barriers in education. She and her husband moved their family to an all-white street to position themselves to ask the Petersburg School Board to send their children to all-white schools. Lawyers with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) instituted an integration lawsuit, Francine Cole et al v. City of Petersburg School Board, and the Coles’ daughters were in the first group to integrate the Petersburg school system.

One of Cole’s classmates, **Rose Parham ’45St.P** remembers Cole for “her quiet and approachable manner.” Parham, Cole and another classmate, **Ruth Parker ’45St.P**, enjoyed catching up with one another at the MCV Alumni Association Reunion Weekend 2010 in April. “We just had a great time reminiscing,” Parham says.

**Maria Taylor Zincone ’63PT/AH**, 69, died May 21 in Greenville, N.C., after a courageous 12-year battle with cancer. She practiced physical therapy from 1963 to 1995 and during her career was the second physical therapist to practice in Pitt County, N.C., and the first home health physical therapist to practice in Pitt, Beaufort and Hyde counties. In addition, she served for several years as clinical assistant professor of physical therapy at the East Carolina University School of Allied Health Professions.

“She was a good student and provided physical therapy to rural North Carolina for 28 years where very little had been available. Her sister, **Laura Taylor**, graduated from the same program at MCV in 1973,” says **Mary Shall ’91PhD/M-BH**, associate professor of physical therapy. “Even though she had been battling cancer for years, she and her husband, Buddy, returned for a reunion and tour of the physical therapy school last October (2009). It was good that we could welcome her back and she enjoyed the company of her classmates. They also enjoyed their bluegrass music.”

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**WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?**

*Scarab* welcomes updates on marriages, family additions, job changes, relocations, promotions—whatever you think is newsworthy. Help us keep track of you by completing and returning this form, or make your submission online at [www.vcu-mcvalumni.org/update](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org/update).

Recent newspaper clippings and photographs are also appreciated. Please mail to  MCV Alumni Association of VCU, 1016 E. Clay St., P.O. Box 980156, Richmond, VA 23298-0156; fax to (804) 828-4594; e-mail to migreene@vcu.edu. E-mailed photographs must be .jpg image format, cannot exceed 5MB and the resolution needs to be 300dpi.

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MCVKid’s Wear. Now accepting “Future MCV” graduates! Your future grad can show off their school spirit right from the start with a white with green embroidery bib (not shown), onesies (a-1) or children’s T-shirt (a-2). Sizes from 2T to children’s large. Bibs $12. Onesies $17 and T-Shirts $16. Please add $2 for shipping.

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For more information visit vcu-mcvalumni.org, or call (804) 828-3900.
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