2. **A Message from the Dean**
   Preparing to cut the ribbon to the Future of Nursing

3. **To be or not to be? We are to be nurses.**
   December commencement exercises

5. **Sadie Heath Cabaniss Society Dinner**
   Celebrating in style at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

7. **The New School of Nursing: It’s All in the Details**
   Modern amenities with a nod to our past

9. **Honoring the St. Philip School of Nursing**
   The legacy of this fine school lives on today

12. **The Little Things Most Often Mean the Most**
    The Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation makes its final gift

13. **Art in Nursing**
    Dr. W. Baxter Perkinson, Jr. shares his talent

15. **Remember When**
    Helen Shaw Birch of the Class of 1947 shares her memories

18. **From the Alumni Division Chair**
    Beth McNeil encourages you to attend Reunion Weekend

18. **Development Update**
    Good news to share!

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    Mentor and leader, retires after serendipitous career

21. **Notes and News**
    Faculty, administrative and student news

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22. **Schedule of Events**
A Message from the Dean

Vision and Values

Long before I arrived as dean of the VCU School of Nursing, faculty, staff, students and alumni had dreamed of having a nursing facility that matches the excellence of our School.

Over the last few years, the students, faculty, staff, and administrative professionals have been dreaming, planning and preparing for life in a $17 million, 70,000 square-foot, state-of-the-science facility that will connect us with our past, meet our current needs and position us well for the future. We envisioned a place built on the School’s values, rich tradition of excellence, and vision for the future of nursing in Virginia. Our dream is now our reality.

As I write, the VCU School of Nursing is preparing to move into our new facility during spring break, March 9-18. We will begin teaching classes in our new building on Monday, March 19. By the time you read this we will be “settled in” and adjusting to life in our new facility. We will also be taking care of last minute details for our ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening during MCV Campus Reunion Weekend, April 27-29, 2007.

Our new building will make you proud. But don’t take my word for it – we invite you to come back and see for yourself. Join us for the official ribbon cutting ceremony from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27, explore the new facility at your own pace during our open house from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 and enjoy our annual alumni reception from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. All weekend you will have an opportunity to meet with our current students, talk with faculty, reminisce with classmates and colleagues, make new friends and celebrate this milestone in your school’s history.

We have a superb facility that illustrates perfectly that nursing is both an art and a science. And, for the first time, we have a building that lives up the quality and caliber of the people who represent the VCU School of Nursing’s proud heritage and its bright future.

Nancy F. Langston, RN, PhD, FAAN
Dean and Professor

And the new slogan is ...

VCU School of Nursing: Aspire, Explore, Innovate

Thanks to all who submitted nominations for a new slogan for the VCU School of Nursing!
Congratulations
Congratulations to our new graduates!

Student Awards Presented at the Recognition Ceremony

Kacie Hengel - Yingling Senior Achievement Award
Lisa Hardin - Mabel Montgomery Award
Robin Jones - Mayme B. Wilson Award
Kelly Steiner - Marguerite Nicholson Award
Diana Samac - Temple Memorial Award
Saichol Janwijit - Martha M. Borlick Research Award

To be or not to be?
We are to be nurses.

The VCU School of Nursing held the Recognition Ceremony for December Graduates on Saturday December 9th following University Commencement Exercises. About 300 friends and family packed the Siegel Center to honor 189 BS, MS, PhD and post-graduate certificate graduates.

The procession of faculty and graduates marched down the aisle to the music of the Ars Nova Brass Quintet, a tradition in the School of Nursing. Dr. Nancy Langston welcomed the students and their families, remarking what a privilege it is to serve as Dean of the School. She reminded students that they were there to celebrate the fact of their college education and how proudly they carried on the tradition of being the rowdiest school at University Commencement exercises earlier in the morning. This enthusiasm and passion will serve them well (and their patients, too) as nurses.

Kacie Hengel delivered an entertaining address as Senior Class Leader, asking her class to take the enthusiasm they had as a child and apply it to their nursing career; that no one deserves to suffer and that nurses do what they can to improve the lives of their patients.
The 12th annual Sadie Heath Cabaniss Society Dinner was held at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on the evening of Thursday October 26th, 2006. Over 100 guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner and the Butch Taylor Jazz Trio in the Museum’s elegant Marble Hall. Guest speakers included Sheldon Retchin, MD, MSPH, Chief Executive Officer of the VCU Health System and Vice President for Health Sciences and Marilyn Tavenner, Secretary of Health and Human Resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Sadie Heath Cabaniss Society recognizes donors to the School of Nursing that contribute $250 or more annually. Eleven guests were recognized as new Distinguished members of the Society and awarded a miniature pewter loving cup modeled after one given to Sadie Heath Cabaniss by the Class of 1901. Distinguished members are those who give $1,000 or more to the School of Nursing during the term of one fiscal year.
The New

The New School of Nursing:
It's All in the Details
The new VCU School of Nursing building is completely modern and fresh, with details that give a nod to the past and the great history of the St. Philip, MCV and VCU Schools of Nursing. The first building at VCU to be constructed solely for the purpose of educating future nurses, it is a technological feat. Great care was taken, however, to make it a warm and inviting space that will inspire learning for generations to come.

When constructed, old Cabannis Hall (the NEB) was a dormitory, a home for Nursing students while they studied at the Medical College of Virginia. In order to reinstate the sense of “a home” for today’s nursing students, faculty, alumni and friends, warm colors and materials were used in combination with many windows and people-friendly spaces to create a feeling of welcome in the building. Wood paneling in the student lounge makes a warm and inviting place to visit with classmates and study. Dark green slate and cherry wood colors in the main lobby are welcoming and calming. Students can look outside into the garden from the corridor next to the lecture hall for some visual relief after the focus of a class. Upon entry, it is clear that this building was designed as an environment with physical merits that will make the visitor want to stay a while, not just rush in and out for classes.

The Heritage room is a more formal incarnation of the parlor that was next to the Dean’s suite in old Cabaniss Hall. This room contained furniture, portraits and objects from earlier generations that gave students a look into the past and a sense of the values of the School of Nursing. Having a dedicated room for this purpose is indicative of the respect and affection the School of Nursing has for traditions and the people who have contributed to and shaped the School.

The tile pattern above the exterior main entry will recall the color scheme from the old Cabaniss Hall (as we go to press the tile colors are to be changed to a more traditional green, slate grey and white). The medallions capping each side of the tile and the textured brick pattern beneath the windows are reminiscent of the old building as well. The cornerstone from the original building was kept and will be integrated into the garden behind the new building. The garden (slated for completion in the spring of 2008) will be a place for respite, relaxation and reflection and recall the small garden areas that were behind old Cabaniss Hall.

Thanks to Mary P. Cox, AIA, University Architect, Virginia Commonwealth University, for her assistance with this article.
Honorin
Before the dawn of the Civil Rights era, the St. Philip School of Nursing was born to educate African-American women to become nurses. In 1920, 32 African-American patients were moved from the basement of Memorial Hospital into the new 176-bed St. Philip Hospital. The School was administered by MCV but operated as a separate entity.

When St. Philip opened there were only five students (they lived on the first floor of the new hospital) but as enrollment grew students were housed in four houses across from the hospital. In 1931 St. Philip Hall opened as a dorm and housed 84 nursing students. In the course of the next decade enrollment expanded so much that additional seventy-four bedrooms were built, extending the capacity of the School to 160 students. Admission requirements grew more stringent as well, increasing from only two years of high school to high school graduation with preference given to those students who had some college. In 1941 the School hired its first African-American clinical instructors. As the curriculum evolved, hours on the wards were reduced from an initial 58 to a more reasonable 40 (including classes and clinical). The entire program took three years to complete and had a curriculum that was identical to the MCV School of Nursing.

St. Philip had a director of social and recreational activities and a student center located in a building that had once been the Crippled Children’s Unit. The center was later relocated in an old synagogue building on North 11th Street. Activities
included clubs such as sewing, literary, choral, ping pong and the Ritz Social. Hiking and basketball were popular, as was the Junior Business and Professional Woman’s Club (sponsored by the YMCA). There were dances, parties and teas to help students adjust to and enjoy life away from home. Events were often organized in conjunction with Virginia Union University.

In the late 1950’s it became apparent that the number of qualified applicants to St. Philip School of Nursing was declining. This combined with the integration of the MCV School of Nursing resulted in the closing of the St. Philip School in 1962. The Hospital was closed in 1965 and re-opened as East Hospital (demolished in 1993 to make way for the Hermes A. Kontos Medical Sciences Building). The entryway to St. Philip Hospital has been preserved in the Medical Sciences Building.

Tribute to all nurses, but especially those of St. Philip Hospital – Julius Griffin, M.D. (M ’53)

“One specific monumental event in St. Philip’s Hospital will illustrate the germination of my career-long “love affair with nurses.” Early in my medical school years, we students in-training had to draw blood on hospitalized patients ... doing so before classes started at 8 a.m., with a lecture in the Egyptian Building Auditorium.

The Nursing Departments were separated then. Here’s my memory of an early (cold) morning “Blood Draw” assignment on a four or five-week-old infant (I do not remember if the patient was a “He” or a “She”). But to this day, I can still vividly recall my anxiousness on not feeling competent on how to proceed in getting the blood sample.

My 53 years of recall does highlight that wonderfully helpful R.N. in St. Philip’s who guided my fingers, mind, psyche, soul (and rapidly beating heart ... ) to successfully get the blood required.

I cannot now recall the name of that wonderful lady who “rescued” me, but the engrains of my mind still help me re-experience the gratefulness I then felt toward that competent and compassionate Nurse/Volunteer/Teacher on the particular cold/dark/pre-dawn day long ago; and, now, far away.”

Reunion – Something to Celebrate!

MCV, St. Philip, and VCU Nursing alumni with graduation years ending in 2 and 7 are celebrating reunion this year. This is one weekend not to miss! Please come back to the MCV Campus for Reunion Weekend April 27th through 29th, 2007. Reunite with classmates and celebrate a milestone – the opening of our new $17 million, state-of-the-science facility that honors the School’s rich past, serves our present day demands and establishes a solid foundation for a bright and exciting future.

Nursing Alumni, along with those from the Schools of Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, and Pharmacy will celebrate reunion this year. If you are interested in a schedule of events for another school, please contact the MCVAA at (804) 828-3900 or (800) MCV-7799. For information about the ribbon cutting and other new building activities, please contact The School of Nursing Development Office at (804)828-2993 or at vcunursing@vcu.edu.

Highlights of the Weekend Include:

Friday: New School of Nursing Ribbon Cutting and Building Dedication 3 to 5 p.m.

Saturday: Tour Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens; Individual events (teas, luncheons, etc. for many classes); Open House at the new School of Nursing Building; Cocktail Reception for all classes from 5 to 8 p.m.

Sunday: 50 year memorial service honoring deceased alumni from the Class of 1957; 50 year champagne brunch honoring the Class of 1957; Jazz Brunch
In early January, James Parrish, director of development for the VCU School of Nursing, received an interesting letter from Mr. James C. Roberts, co-chair of the Campaign for VCU, a founding member of our school’s Advancement Council, and a true friend and tireless champion for VCU and the School of Nursing. He began, “Dear James: When you look at the dollar amount of the enclosed check [$372.09], I am sure you will wonder what is going on now. The answer is pretty simple, but it will take me a few words to explain it.”

Mr. Roberts went on to explain that this check represented the final grant of the Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation, established in 1975 by Mr. George D. Thomas to honor his wife, a nurse who died in 1972 from complications related to the flu. Mr. Thomas felt that if Mrs. Thomas had received earlier medical attention at home, she would not have died. Therefore, Mr. Thomas established the foundation in the hopes that the money would make a difference in many aspects of health care, especially in the training and education of health care professionals.

Between 1987 and 2004, the Thomas Foundation gave almost $9 million to the MCV Foundation to support a variety of MCV Campus schools and programs, including more than $2 million to the VCU School of Nursing for student scholarships, a professorship and to support the construction of our new building.

Mr. Roberts was one of three trustees, along with Mr. Thomas Carr and Mr. Charles Reed, named in the Thomas Foundation’s charter, which also included a provision requiring the liquidation and dissolution of the Foundation no later than five years after the death of Mr. Reed. When Mr. Reed passed away in September of 2000, Mr. Roberts began the work of closing down the Foundation and by early 2005 he had completed it. Or so he thought.

In December of 2006, Mr. Roberts received a payment of interest owed to the Thomas Foundation, and he had to make a decision as to which charity should receive it. Mr. Roberts wrote, “Since the VCU School of Nursing is at the top of the list of charitable organizations, I had no trouble making the decision. While the amount of the enclosed check is small, being able to send it to you as the Thomas Foundation’s final grant is quite meaningful.”

We share Jim’s sentiments, and we are proud to be the official final grant recipient of the Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation. The Foundation’s legacy will live on through the VCU School of Nursing’s commitment to excellence in nursing research, education and community outreach.
A simple question started it all. Early on in the planning stages for the VCU School of Nursing’s new state-of-the-science facility, Dr. W. Baxter Perkinson casually asked Dr. Nancy Langston, our dean, what the art budget was for the new building. She laughed. Her answer: no budget for art in the new building. That conversation set Dr. Perkinson in motion.

In 2006, Dr. Perkinson created 106 original watercolors that will hang as a permanent collection in the new VCU School of Nursing building. To quote from Dr. Perkinson’s artist statement: “The 106 original watercolors … underscore the importance and pervasive presence of art in the practice of science. From the first floor to the fourth, the artwork
Many of our readers are familiar with Dr. Perkinson. He is a 1970 graduate of the VCU School of Dentistry, a member of the MCV Hospitals Authority Board and a former rector of the VCU Board of Visitors. He runs Virginia’s largest dental practice, with eight locations and more than 200 employees, and teaches part-time in the VCU School of Dentistry. On top of all that, Dr. Perkinson is one of Central Virginia’s most popular watercolorists. His wife, Elaine, a noted sculptor, encouraged him to take a watercolor class back in 1979, and he’s been painting every day ever since. Dr. Perkinson is also deeply committed to giving back to his community – from supporting dental research at VCU to giving his paintings to patients, employees and charities.

But why select the VCU School of Nursing for this enormous creative undertaking? Dr. Perkinson has a strong personal ties to our school. Dr. Perkinson’s mother, Stella, was a student at the MCV School of Nursing, and his daughter Elizabeth, a nurse practitioner, received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from VCU. In addition, Dr. Perkinson drew inspiration from this quote by Florence Nightingale comparing nursing to the fine arts: “Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation as any painter’s or sculptor’s work; for what is the having to do with dead canvas or dead marble, compared with having to do with the living body, the temple of God’s spirit? It is one of the Fine Arts: I had almost said, the finest of Fine Arts.”

A full-color catalogue documenting all 106 paintings will be available for purchase during the ribbon cutting weekend and after. For more information, contact Kelly Gotschalk at (804) 828-2993 or kjgotschalk@vcu.edu
Remember

Memories of MCV

by Helen Shaw Birch, Class of 1947
Our family doctor John (Jack) Andrew Mease, Jr., M.D., was a graduate of the MCV School of Medicine and it was he who encouraged me to apply to the MCV School of Nursing. In the spring of 1944, it was time for the entrance exams and orientation to MCV but I was finishing high school in Florida and couldn’t attend. So they sent the exam to St. Petersburg Junior College and I spent one whole Saturday answering questions. I was accepted but expected to have a conference with the dean, E. Louise Grant, upon arrival to receive the final approval. She said I looked like a child and would have to do something with my long hair! I did what she asked, and I was accepted into the program. When I arrived I was three weeks out of high school and 17 years old, the youngest in the class, and I was far from home. The first three months we attended classes six days a week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the beginning we had a class of 32 students and after the first three months, only 16 of us remained. To say the least, it was hard!

My second roommate, Charlotte Heeke, lived in Richmond and thankfully her family took me in as one of their own. Richmond was the biggest city I had ever been to and so different from little Dunedin, Florida, where everything was new and clean and bright compared to this. But I got used to it – even the snow in the winter! I had never seen snow before attending MCV. One night when I was on duty it started snowing (my first snow!) and the night nurse let me go down the stairs to see and touch it. I made a snowball and put it in my sweater pocket and of course it was gone and I was wet when I got back.

My dad came to visit while I was at MCV. Miss Grant, the dean, asked to see him and I thought, “What now?” It turned out that she and a friend wanted to come to Florida and she asked him to find them a place to stay. He did, and he and mother showed them around. The girls in the class thought I would certainly have special treatment because of this and they gave me a hard time! That summer five classmates came to our house for a week. Miss Grant sent a Virginia ham with them. Changing trains in Tampa, they left the ham in the Coach. Before it was too late, Toni Cline went running across the tracks to retrieve it! During their visit, Charlotte’s Dad sent us a telegram saying Miss Grant was leaving MCV and Sybil McLean would replace her.

When I arrived at MCV there were still one hundred polio patients, and they were housed at the John Marshall Hotel. They were cared for by the Kenny Nurses, who got their name after the therapy coined by Nurse Elizabeth Kenny. We as students were instructed how to give a bed bath in an iron lung, and I played the patient! When I left MCV in June of 1947, one patient still remained in the iron lung.

Because of WWII, help was scarce, especially for orderlies and housekeeping, and we students did many jobs. We kept things going. Surgery was my favorite.
I spent the last six months there and learned so much. I loved it. I did not like pediatrics; I was there for three months. That was when penicillin was introduced, and we had to give injections every three hours, around the clock. Because of the pain, we almost had to crawl in the kids’ beds to do this. I hated it! One of my classmates got the measles during that time and was admitted to the pediatric ward, to a small bed as I remember.

**Memories that may make you chuckle**

One of the upperclassmen was to meet one of her classmates for midnight supper and she decided to go down to the third floor by way of the “dumb-waiter,” which was rather large. She jumped on and curled up, ready for the ride. When the door opened she looked up to see the night supervisor, Mrs. Lang, with arms crossed! I do not remember what kind of punishment came from that!

Miss Dalrymple was our nursing arts instructor. One day our topic was how to give a bed patient mouth care and a bed bath. I was the patient! She put the emesis basin under my chin and I removed my denture and dropped it in, then looked up and smiled! I had lost my front upper teeth in an automobile accident when I was ten years old. Miss Dalrymple was speechless and the other girls giggled.

One cold winter night two of my classmates and I sneaked a ride with Mosconi, the ambulance driver. I remember a fast ride down Broad Street, which was dusted with snow. When we returned he let us off a block from Cabaniss Hall. I cannot imagine what would have happened to us if anyone ever found out about this!

After I graduated and returned home to Florida, I went to work in the office of Everett Harrison, M.D. He took my tonsils out when I was ten years old. One day a nice elderly lady came in for a small pox vaccination before a trip to Europe. It happened to be one of my supervisors from MCV, Jeannette Matthews! What a coincidence that she chose our office to have her vaccination. I got ready to vaccinate her and she said doubtfully, “this won’t take” and I said, “yes, it will!” I made sure, with many pricks of the needle, that it would.

In June of 1947 all nursing students from Virginia gathered at the John Marshall Hotel to take the boards. Before handing out the papers it was announced that no one from MCV had ever failed this test!!! I surely didn’t want to be the first one … I passed!

As you can see, I get carried away when I talk about MCV. My three years at MCV gave me lasting friendships. I received an excellent education and have always been a proud graduate of the MCV School of Nursing. The alumni decal on my car stands out like a shining star – I love it!

Like so many other wonderful MCV alumni Mrs. Helen Birch has named the VCU School of Nursing in her estate plans. The proceeds from her estate will endow a scholarship fund to help future generations of young women and men realize their dreams to become nurses.
From the Alumni Chair, Nursing Division

We all share many wonderful memories of our time as nursing students at MCV. Close your eyes and think back on the many hours you spent within the walls of the Nursing Education Building – NEB. The excitement of orientation, the untold hours sitting through lectures, the opportunity to practice basic clinical skills on a classmate and the last minute attempts to prepare for upcoming exams by pouring over binders full of rumpled study guides and notes. One thing we can all agree on is that NEB was a large, low tech place! Our new building is just the opposite—where technology is paramount and where the surroundings make it easy to actually want to stick around awhile!

Reunion Weekend 2007 coincides with the unveiling of our brand new, state-of-the-science School of Nursing building to the public. Please take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the planned festivities celebrating this event. Attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, tour the new building and enjoy good food and drink as you catch up with old friends and mingle with other alumni and supporters.

Though you do not have to attend Reunion Weekend to participate, I encourage you to consider doing both. Don’t forget to check out the Heritage Room which honors our school’s history. It is being made possible due to the generous gifts from many devoted nursing alumni.

The events surrounding the School of Nursing building include:

- The School of Nursing Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 1100 East Leigh Street Friday, April 27 between 3 and 5 p.m.
- Open House – Tours of the new School of Nursing building Saturday, April 28 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Cocktail Reception/Award Ceremony at the School of Nursing building Saturday, April 28 between 5 and 8 p.m.

Beth S. McNeil, RN, MSN

Development Update

Good news! Recently, the VCU School of Nursing met our $3 million fundraising goal for the new building! As I write this we are packing up our offices and preparing to move into our new facility. By the time you receive this, we will have been in the building for almost a month and will be making final preparations for our official ribbon cutting and building dedication events, which will be held during the MCV Campus Reunion Weekend, April 27-29, 2007. Every one is invited! (Turn to our calendar of events for details.)

Now, we are closing in on our $10 million fundraising goal as part of the Campaign for VCU, which officially ends June 30, 2007. (The $3 million raised for the new building is part of this larger goal.) If all goes well, we will declare victory during our ribbon cutting ceremony! What a great weekend for the VCU School of Nursing and all of our alumni and friends.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has made gifts and commitments to support the School. We look forward to celebrating this milestone in our School’s history with you in April.

James Parrish
Director of Development
When Dr. Judith Lewis, PhD, RNC, FAAN, a native of Massachusetts, came to VCU as the Chair of Maternal Child Nursing, she expected to stay for perhaps five years, but remained for nearly 14 before retiring in December. Looking back on her time at VCU, she cites opportunity for growth and enjoyment of the university community for her staying. While at VCU, the School of Nursing changed from a teaching focused school to a nationally ranked research institution. As the School’s first head of information technology, Dr. Lewis was instrumental in integrating the internet into the curriculum as well as establishing the first web-based distance learning program. In the course of her career, Dr. Lewis traveled extensively, including visits to Iceland, China, Israel, Italy, Bermuda, Hawaii and England.
It is surprising that nursing was not the first choice of Dr. Judy Lewis. Earning a Bachelor’s Degree in English American Literature form Brandeis in the 1960’s, she hoped to pursue publishing, but was unprepared to start as a secretary. A chance meeting with the Dean of the School of Nursing of Boston University sold her on nursing school. She joined the U.S Navy’s Nurse Candidate program to supplement student loans. Her proudest moment in school was admission to the National Honor Society when her father noted that she was right to study nursing. After graduation, she was on active duty in the San Francisco Bay area when she met her husband, Art, and earned a Master’s on the GI Bill at UCSF. After the birth of her son, she returned to Boston, accepting a position in maternity nursing at Boston State College. Dr. Lewis found her love in teaching and was soon pushed into a PhD program at Brandeis. Upon graduation she was one of two Doctoral nurses at the University of Massachusetts/ Boston and was promoted to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Prior to accepting her post at VCU, Dr. Lewis was with the MGH Institute of Health Professionals, where she served as acting director for a year.

Much of the work Dr. Lewis was recognized for grew from personal interest. She came to IT at VCU through the purchase of a home PC, and a snowball effect ensued – eventually leading to her appointment as the first head of IT for the VCU School of Nursing and study in online teaching through UCLA. She helped develop the School’s website and a smart classroom for distance learning. Her interest in infertility came from personal experience and helping a colleague struggle with the issue. As the only surviving child born to parents who carried the gene for cystic fibrosis, she was naturally attracted to genetics.

While at VCU, Dr. Lewis served on the Faculty Senate, including two terms as president and as the faculty representative to the Board of Visitors. She pushed for a climate of welcome at VCU, citing the addition of gym benefits for domestic partners as a huge step for VCU. As the leader of the faculty and staff campaign for the new School of Nursing building she achieved 100% participation.

Dr. Lewis served on the Secretary’s Advisory Council for Genetic Testing (appointed by HHS Secretary Donna Shalala on what would have been her sister’s 50th birthday). Though her mother was deceased by this time, she believes she would have felt that something had been accomplished through her suffering and experience with cystic fibrosis. Dr. Lewis has recently been appointed the March of Dimes National Nurse Advisory Committee. She also is working on developing core competencies and curricula guidelines in genetics for all nurses. She will present this project at the AWHONN Annual Convention in June in a session sponsored by the March of Dimes.

Still new to retirement, Dr. Lewis is enjoying it. Given her record of exploring the new, it is unlikely that she will be found doing the same old thing. Proud of the growth of the VCU School of Nursing, she hopes to see the growth continue, with attention to the student first and foremost and an emphasis on the individual connections which so helped her.
Faculty News and Notes

The PONHEs are leaving VCU! Rita Jablonski, PhD, RN, ANP, will be leaving VCU SON at the end of June. She has accepted a faculty position at The Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. Penn State has a national reputation in the area of gerontology. Dr. Jablonski’s area of research, “Positive Outcomes for Nursing Home Elders” (PONHE, pronounced pony), will fit in well with the existing programs of geriatric nursing research and gerontology already established at Penn State. We appreciate Dr. Jablonski’s contributions to VCU SON during her 10-year tenure and wish her well in her new ventures at Penn State.

Judy Lentz, PhD, adjunct clinical psychiatric nursing faculty in the Department of Integrative Systems, has been selected as president-elect of the Yale University Nursing Alumni Association for 2007.

Suzanne McGinnis joins us as the new Director of Academic and Administrative Technology. Before coming to the VCU School of Nursing, Suzanne worked as an Academic Technology Liaison at the University of Richmond and a teacher in Chesterfield County Public Schools. It was as a teacher working with students with emotional and learning disabilities that she found she could combine her passion for teaching and interest in technology. Other than computers and education, she enjoys gardening, animals, reading, and playing the cello.

Fay Parpart, BS ’87, MS ’89 has joined the school in January 2007 as a collateral assistant professor teaching community health nursing. Ms. Parpart received her MS in Oncology Community Health in 1989 and completed a post-master’s certificate program in 1995. She has been employed in the HIV/AIDS Center here at VCU from 1990-92 and since 1999 as an AIDS Education Coordinator in the Infectious Disease Division and as an ANP. She brings a strong background in community advocacy and education, quality improvement and telemedicine.

Achievements

As part of Black History Month celebrations at VCU, the African American Studies Program honors the achievements of African American students with the “Black History in the Making” program. The program recognizes students who have made important contributions at the University and who the faculty believes have great potential. Sharon Craft, Jeniece Roane and Chantel Skipper, were this year’s School of Nursing winners.

Milagritos (”Millie”) Flinn, Hispanic Coordinator for the VCU School of Nursing, is a member of the 2006-2007 class of Leadership Metro Richmond, a 9-month training program for emerging leaders in Greater Richmond. Recently she was appointed to Governor Timothy Kaine’s Advisory Board on Respiratory Care, one of 13 volunteer boards responsible for regulating healthcare providers in Virginia.

Tanya Huff, CCNS, is an assistant professor for Adult Health Nursing. She has successfully completed and obtained certification as an Adult Critical Care Nurse Specialist through AACN.

Cadet Joanna Klein, ’07, has been chosen to represent the School of Nursing at this year’s George C. Marshall Leadership conference. This conference brings together the top Cadet from each of the 274 ROTC programs across the United States. This conference recognizes outstanding leadership in ROTC as well as discussing current topics of military/national interest. Cadet Klein is the first Spider Battalion Nurse to receive this distinction as well as being the first VCU Cadet to receive this award in the last 8 years.

Karen Mellott, a doctoral student, was chosen as the winner of the Susan E. Kennedy Scholarship from the VCU Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Administrative Notes

Margaret Hamel joins the School of Nursing as the new development assistant. Margaret recently moved to Richmond from New York City where she worked in wholesale planning and retail analysis for Polo Ralph Lauren Home. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where she majored in Art History.

Recent Dissertation Defenses

Saichol Janwijit, “Health Promoting Lifestyle and Quality of Life in Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease”

Ronald R Alligood II, “The Unitary Life Pattern of Spinal Cord Injured Persons”

Pataporn Saengkhiew, “Southeast Asian Immigrant Women’s Perspective on Domestic Violence”
**Alumni Notes**

**Alexa Merchant, BS ’05,** is having fun being a traveling nurse for National Healthcare Staffing at Duke University.

**Dr. Linda Beeber, BS ’68,** UNC professor of nursing, was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing on Nov. 11, 2006. Beeber was selected by the nursing academy’s fifteen-member fellow selection committee for her outstanding achievements in nursing. She was formally inducted as a fellow along with 54 other nurse leaders during the academy’s annual induction banquet in Miami. Beeber has been a psychiatric nursing professional for more than 36 years. She is an active member of the North Carolina Nurses Association Council of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. In 2005, Beeber was named North Carolina Nurses Association Researcher of the Year.

**Jennifer H. Tice, BS ’05,** is an RN at Lynchburg General Hospital and is currently applying for Nurse Anesthesia School.

**Joseph B. Warren, BS ’80,** is currently on five year active duty tour in the Army, assigned to First Army and attached to Army Medical Center and School. He is responsible for directing medical training for mobilizing Army active duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve medical personnel and units.

**Christy Lyczkowski (Moore), BS ’98,** and her husband are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Grace Olivia, March 05, 2006.

**Please use the envelope enclosed in this magazine to send in your notes!**

**In Memory**

Mrs. Arizona (Roundtree) Acors, SP’45, September 2006  
Mrs. Joan (Vaughn) Chappell, N’65, December 3, 2006  
Mrs. Henrietta (Mullins) Dunnigan, N’44, August 19, 2006  
Mrs. Edna W. Few, SP’41, November 10, 2006  
Mrs. Dorothy S. Holmes, SP’43, October 2006  
Ms. Bernice E. Richardson, N’42, January 19, 2007  
Mrs. Virginia (Johnson) Roy, SP’36, September 13, 2007  
Mrs. Ilma D. Smiley, N’31, September 2006  
Mrs. Barbara (McKinney) Watts, N’54, August 4, 2006

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**School of Nursing Schedule of Events**

**April**

26 - 28 Reunion Weekend  
27 Ribbon Cutting of the New School of Nursing Building, 3-5 p.m.  
28 Open House & Tours of the New Building, 10-5 p.m.  
28 School of Nursing Alumni Reception and Awards Ceremony 5-8 p.m.

**May**

1 Spring Classes End  
3 -10 Final Exams  
6 -12 Week of the Nurse  
18 Recognition Ceremony  
19 Commencement  
20 Summer Session Begins

**August**

10 Summer Session Ends  
23 Fall Classes Begin
The future of nursing is just a snip away.

The time is nearly here to cut the ribbon and dedicate our new 70,000 square foot state-of-the-science School of Nursing Building. We invite you to come and celebrate with us! The festivities will begin at 3 p.m. on Friday April 27th – rain or shine. Join us again on Saturday April 28th for Open House (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and tour the building at your leisure.

To attend, please RSVP to the Development Office at vcunursing@vcu.edu or by calling (804) 828-3620. We will cut the ribbon only once and you don’t want to miss it!