VCU School of Nursing recognized 136 graduates at the Spring 2018 Recognition Ceremony. Among the highlights was a candle lighting ceremony in honor of the school’s 125th anniversary. The ceremony also marked the graduation of the first cohort of the school’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

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On the cover: Sadie Heath Cabaniss with the class of 1900, St. Philip School of Nursing students in 1961, VCU nursing students in the 1980s and VCU nursing students in fall 2017.

Connections is the official magazine of the VCU School of Nursing and is published annually. Comments and letters may be directed to the editor.

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Hello Alumni and Friends.

I have always enjoyed history, so celebrating the school’s 125th anniversary this year is very special to me. 125 years! Isn’t that astonishing? When I contemplate the milestones, events, and accomplishments that have occurred since this school first opened its doors in 1893 (originally as the Virginia Hospital Training School of Nurses) it is truly humbling.

In 1993, a team of faculty, staff, and alumni – led by Dr. Betsy Bampton – wrote *MCV / VCU School of Nursing: A Proud Heritage* in recognition of the school’s centennial celebration. I remember “finding” this book (which was strategically placed in my office) when I arrived here five years ago. This book represented an important window into the past, allowing me to gain a deep appreciation for this school’s heritage.

The VCU School of Nursing has undergone significant change over 125 years, but what has remained steady and consistent is the proud legacy of nursing excellence that continues to this day. Our impact on the nursing profession continues to build on the great work of many trailblazers in the past.

In the cover story of this edition of Connections, you’ll hear from several of these trailblazers as we take a look back and then forward in celebrating our 125th anniversary. It’s been truly inspiring to reflect on our most important achievements as we plant the seeds for continued success.

It is only fitting that we mark the 125th anniversary with a new strategic plan. Our new mission, vision and values, developed collectively by our faculty and staff, align us with who we are today and where we want to go. Intended for completion by this fall, our new strategic plan will drive our school’s direction for the next five years.

We are living in a world experiencing exponential change. Although none of us can predict what the future holds, our school will be well-positioned to remain leaders in nursing and to achieve our vision to be the destination for those committed to transforming health care. I am constantly amazed at the talent and dedication of everyone involved with our school, from the students, faculty and staff to the alumni, partners and friends. Our longevity as a frontrunner will continue thanks to you.

I invite you to join us at our events this fall celebrating the school’s 125th anniversary. Thank you for all you do for our school; I am truly grateful for this support.

Jean Giddens
Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Professor and Dean
Doris B. Yingling Endowed Chair
Taking a look back – and forward – at 125 years of impacting lives

Trying to identify the most significant milestone in the School of Nursing’s 125-year existence is not easy. Take a look at its timeline and see if you can pick just one.

Dean Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, explains why it’s nearly impossible to determine the school’s single foremost achievement: “Every milestone is nested in historical context. In 2018, you can’t possibly understand the significance of events that happened 100 years ago – or even 25 years ago. We are looking at it through the eyes of our current reality.”

Each milestone is necessary for the next one to happen, she adds, likening the school’s history to a jigsaw puzzle. “If you take one piece out, the rest of the picture doesn’t form the same way.”

That said, Giddens believes one of the School of Nursing’s most important accomplishments, collectively speaking, is its long tradition of visionary leaders who have represented nursing professionally. “They were graduates and/or faculty who really raised the bar in nursing. Our founder [Sadie Heath Cabaniss], as one example, was an icon in Virginia nursing leadership.

“The collective synergy that has come out of this school? Wow. In every generation, there have been several things and several people who have stood out.”

As part of the School of Nursing’s quasquicentennial celebration, we asked a few of those bar-raisers to identify achievements that have stood out for them and to share how they feel the school has contributed to nursing as well as to their own careers.
“A lot has happened since 1893!” exclaims former faculty member Anne Boyle, Ph.D., RN, CNE. “But I think the baccalaureate program, which was developed in 1953, is probably one of the most significant landmarks.”

As she points out, the bachelor’s degree set the stage for a number of subsequent degree programs, from the RN to B.S., master’s and nurse practitioner certifications to Ph.D., Doctor of Nursing Practice and more.

Boyle, whose career with the school spanned about 25 years before she retired in 2012, said, “Looking at people who have graduated from all the different programs, who have gone on to work locally, regionally and nationally, I think it’s inspirational. We have produced some wonderful nurses, just fantastic.”

Professor Emeritus Judy Collins, RNC, M.S., WHNP, FAAN (Cert. ‘75/N), sees the second-degree program as a real plus for the school. “These folks, who have had life experiences and already have a bachelor’s degree in another field, are amazing students.” And if the DNP degree had been available before she retired, she said, she might have enrolled in the program herself.

As the school’s degree offerings have proliferated, Stephanie Ferguson, Ph.D., RN, FAAN (M.S. ‘87/N), is one of many alumni who have reaped the benefits. She is founder, CEO and president of Stephanie L. Ferguson & Associates LLC, a global health consulting firm.

Ferguson’s master’s degree as a maternal/child (perinatal/neonatal) clinical nurse specialist is as relevant in her career today, she said, as it was when she graduated. “My passion is still women and children, and I have been able to use my knowledge and skills gained in my master’s education to care for women and children worldwide.”
That passion has earned her induction into the National Academy of Medicine, and she has served as director and facilitator of the International Council of Nurses Leadership for Change Program and the ICN-Burdett Global Nursing Leadership Institute.

Dean Emeritus Nancy Langston, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, also cites as significant how the school used emerging technology to increase access for nurses statewide. New technology in the early 1990s allowed student contact with faculty and with each other to expand without having to rely on campus visits and individual telephone conferences.

That initiative, she said, led the Commonwealth and the nation in the development of educational mobility to advance nurses’ educational preparation. Langston, dean of the School of Nursing for 22 years and a former president of the National League for Nursing, retired in 2013.

Beyond the classroom

“The school’s focus on strong clinical education along with a core of liberal arts facilitated our development as critical thinkers as well as good clinicians,” said Wilsie Bishop, D.P.A. (B.S. ’70/N, M.S. ’78/N). “We were prepared for leadership positions.”

Bishop, named a VCU Alumni Star in 2015, is vice president for health affairs and chief operating officer at East Tennessee State University. “I have had an extraordinary career for which I credit the strong foundation I gained during my nursing education in clinical nursing, critical thinking, problem solving, interpersonal communication skills and crisis management.”

Collins, a 2017 VCU Alumni Star, had the unusual experience of helping to build the kind of curriculum Bishop describes, then becoming one of its first students. With a joint appointment as School of Nursing faculty and divisional director of obstetrics/gynecology in the hospitals — just one of Collins’ several roles during her long association with the school — she was responsible for integrating teaching and clinical practice into three nurse practitioner certification programs before they evolved to the master’s and post-master’s levels.

“The school allowed me the opportunity to be flexible and innovative … to bridge the gap between educational and clinical,” Collins said. She experienced this same freedom to think outside the box as she became more involved in health policy and other areas. Her leadership and lifelong commitment to women’s health and her husband’s commitment to health care ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Judith B. Collins and Joseph M. Teefey Distinguished Professorship.

Every day, a new discovery

For Professor Emeritus Mary Jo Grap, Ph.D., RN, ANCP, FAAN, a major milestone during her 31-year tenure was seeing the school’s research efforts recognized via national rankings.

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“Dean Langston made it a focus and hired people to help move the mission forward,” said Grap. “Our goal was to be among the Top 25 NIH-funded nursing schools. We surpassed our goal, so that was pretty significant, especially for a school that didn’t have a long history of research. That ranking means you are doing really good work toward patient outcomes and the way you take care of people.”
When Grap retired in 2015, the School of Nursing established the McCain-Grap Research Endowment Fund in honor of Grap and retired faculty member Nancy McCain, Ph.D., RN, both of whom were Nursing Alumni Endowed Professors and were part of the dedicated team that accelerated the school’s research program.

Not only did the School of Nursing soar to a Top 20 ranking in NIH research in the early 2000s – surpassing its goal, as noted by Grap – it became renowned for biobehavioral clinical research. As a result, Langston said, the school was able to develop its “substantively focused Ph.D. program grounded in our strengths in biobehavioral and symptom management research.”

During Langston’s deanship, one of the more visible achievements was the completion of a 47,200-square-foot, state-of-the-science building that set a new national standard for nursing education. The school’s simulation and research capabilities were enhanced, as well, with the addition of an advanced clinical simulation center and cutting-edge benchmark laboratories in the facility that later was christened Sadie Heath Cabaniss Hall.

**Community and collaboration**

Another high point for Langston involved the school’s renewal of its historic commitment to community engagement by creating nationally recognized partnerships.

Two of those — among many others established by the school over the years — are with VCU Health Nursing Services and the Richmond Health Department. The thousands of hours of clinical service and community service performed by faculty and students each year are an integral part of the curriculum as well as of the school’s stated mission.

“Community health service is another huge area where we have gained a lot of respect,” agrees Grap.

That is due in part to the School of Nursing’s proximity – both geographically and philosophically – to the VCU Medical Center, a Level 1 trauma center. “The cross-training, the collaborations, the bonds are bigger and greater than anywhere I have seen,” Grap said.

The medical center became Magnet-designated for patient care in large part because of its relationship with the School of Nursing, she adds.

“VCU got it right. It’s had it right for a long time.”

**What does the future hold?**

As the VCU School of Nursing enters its 126th year, it does not rest on its laurels.

Giddens, who holds the Doris B. Yingling Endowed Chair, will mark her own five-year anniversary with the School of Nursing this summer. Noting the current and future changes occurring in academia and health care, she emphasizes that the school, which is currently developing a new long-range strategic plan, must continue to provide relevant programs and innovative practice models and remain a leader in research.

“The changes are quite dramatic and require us to think differently,” Giddens said of the challenges that lie ahead. “We need to be nimble and responsive to change. I have great confidence in our future because of our dedicated and highly motivated faculty and staff, as well as the steadfast support of our alumni and other stakeholders.”

None of the school’s countless historical milestones and contributions to nursing would have been possible without its nearly 11,000 living alumni and their predecessors as well as the hundreds of faculty and staff who have passed with pride through its doors.

Collins shares a fitting quote from Pericles, the Ancient Greek statesman: “What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

*Cynthia McMullen*
Beth Rodgers aims to help the school and its faculty thrive

Beth Rodgers, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, chair of the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems, encourages nurses not to back away from a challenge. She didn’t let criticism stop her from becoming a renowned nursing leader.

“Early in my career I heard so many times ‘you’ll never get anywhere if you keep doing that’ because I was doing some really unorthodox things. I see people change and give up their creative ideas when faced with that type of criticism,” she said. “I took the message to mean that I just needed to do a better job explaining things. If you really believe in what you are doing but others are not seeing it, change your presentation, not your path.”

Rodgers’ path led to more than three decades as a prominent scholar, consultant and nursing educator. Originally, she was interested in biology or something related to health.

“I had a fantastic biology teacher in high school and her class cemented my interest in doing something related to biology or health, but I did not have a good understanding of just what nursing was about,” said Rodgers, who grew up in Rome, Georgia.

With only a few career options available after high school, she completed a medical office assistant program, gaining exposure to nursing and a desire to enter the profession. She completed an associate degree at Floyd Junior College.
Rodgers then worked as a registered nurse in different hospitals while she earned a B.S. in nursing from Georgia State University, and both an M.S. and Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Virginia. Near the end of her coursework at UVA, she began a tenure track position at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) College of Nursing. While there, she completed her dissertation and kept working in various clinical settings along with having teaching and research responsibilities. She also served in various leadership roles at UWM before becoming a professor and research chair at the University of New Mexico School of Nursing. Rodgers joined VCU in May 2016.

“I love the environment here and believe strongly in the mission of urban universities,” she said. “Richmond has a great deal to offer, also, and the faculty here are just fantastic.”

Rodgers says the VCU School of Nursing is well-positioned to reach a new level of accomplishments and prominence. She is focused on helping faculty thrive in a way that also helps the school accomplish its goals.

“The school can’t thrive if the people aren’t thriving, so synergy in those two areas is essential,” she said.

Rodgers also tries to support the school’s growth through being one of its Distinguished Cabaniss donors – individuals who contribute between $1,000 and $4,999 during a fiscal year. In addition, she has established a planned gift, the VCU School of Nursing Beth Rodgers Legacy Endowment Fund, to support a faculty member who has advanced the nursing discipline. “I care deeply about the discipline of nursing and want to see it move forward. After considering a number of options, the people at VCU – their talent, commitment, and vision, and a supportive development team – made it the appropriate place for that investment,” she said.

Investment in the school’s future is also reflected in Rodgers’ appointment as a Nursing Alumni Endowed Professor during an investiture ceremony in fall 2016. The professorship aims to recruit or retain highly acclaimed nursing scholars.

“With her extensive nursing knowledge, theory and concept development, and qualitative research prominence, Beth is a great fit to hold such a prestigious appointment,” Giddens said. “As a member of our leadership team, she continues to offer valuable insight in addressing challenges and opportunities to move our school forward.”

Rodgers is widely known for her work in qualitative and mixed methods research with adults experiencing chronic illness, major life change and obstructive sleep apnea. She has won numerous awards, including the Virginia Nurses Foundation 2017 Excellence in Leadership, Nurse Educator Award; the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (multiple years) at UWM College of Nursing; the Teaching Excellence Award from Sigma Theta Tau (Eta Nu Chapter); and more. In her spare time, she does a lot of volunteer work, including working with a golden retriever rescue organization in Virginia and donating services as a photographer to area non-profit organizations. She also grows a lot of her own organic food and is always taking a class in something.

When asked what advice she would offer to other nurses considering a similar career path to hers, she encourages nurses to work from a position of strength.

“Nursing is much more than just a work role. We have the ability to be at the front of all sorts of things, but we have to be willing to step in for that to happen,” Rodgers said.

“That goes along with the other message about not backing away from a challenge,” she added.

Angela L. Flagg
New fellowship program prepares nursing students for leadership roles

Equipping up-and-coming student leaders with the necessary skills for success will strengthen their impact on the nursing profession and the health care community.

Even more important, it will help identify and fill a need for next-generation leaders, a result of the increasing complexity of health care delivery combined with the current and impending wave of retirements among baby-boomer leaders in nursing.

In direct response to this need, VCU School of Nursing has created and launched a new Leadership Fellows Program. The program actively encourages and supports the development of future leaders in nursing and provides selected outstanding undergraduate students with full in-state tuition for two years.

“"Our goal is to identify leadership ability early and create a pipeline of future nurse leaders prepared for the evolving health care system," said Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean and the Doris B. Yingling Endowed Chair. "We have purposely aligned this leadership program to address the Institute of Medicine’s Future of Nursing recommendation that we do more to prepare nurses to be full partners in redesigning health care."

Members of the inaugural class of fellows – who were chosen based on strong academic performance, financial need and a commitment to serving the community and those in need—couldn’t be happier to have been tapped for the opportunity.

“I am unbelievably grateful… and hope that I am able to pay it forward through the rest of my time in school as well as throughout my career as a nurse," said Stephanie Jane Wilson of Fredericksburg, a senior in the traditional B.S. program.

Goals for program participants range from understanding leadership roles in multiple contexts within nursing to developing skills in competencies such as communications, building and sustaining relationships, and self-awareness.

Paige Lawson of Richmond, a senior, has been heavily involved in community service since her teens, having volunteered with organizations ranging from a volunteer rescue squad and Nursing Students Without Borders to VCU Health’s Hume Lee Transplant Unit and the Nursing Christian Fellowship.

“I am very excited to have another avenue that allows me to explore my love for nursing and community involvement/engagement," Lawson says.

The fellows’ curriculum offers program learning sessions on topics such as listening for effective leadership, supporting underserved communities, promoting diversity and inclusion, and leading change. Each fellow is matched with a mentor, a nursing professional, for one-on-one conversations and guidance. Opportunities also will be provided to support the School of Nursing’s special initiatives and philanthropic activities.

In year one, fellows must attend one or more school-sponsored lectures. They will be asked to reflect upon and discuss what they learned, how it can be applied to their careers and how it supports their leadership development.

Collaborative service projects are a highlight of year two. Teams of two to four fellows will identify a project and mentor(s), then develop a plan for implementation. Each team will produce a reflective paper and make a presentation based on the experience.
Virginia Campbell describes her fellowship as a privilege and distinction that has “further fueled and inspired my desire to give back to the community.” Her path to nursing school, she says, was positively influenced by the number of supportive, inspiring nurses in her family.

“I knew I wanted a career that was rewarding and that gave me an opportunity to make a difference,” adds Campbell, a senior who calls Fredericksburg and Miami home. She serves as community chair of the Student Nurses Association at VCU and as a community ambassador for the school.

Lawson looks forward to further developing her leadership skills through the program. Having experienced the rare opportunity of working as an emergency medical technician at age 16, she was introduced to the concept of interprofessional teams and identified with the role of nurse.

Applying leadership skills in her chosen profession is important to Wilson, as well. She cites the opportunity to challenge her mind as she learns to provide excellent patient care and ultimately to make a difference in people’s lives.

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No stranger to special honors, Wilson has received a Virginia Merit Scholarship, is a 2017 University Student Scholar and has been on the dean’s list since her first semester at the school.

But, she notes, it is a particular honor to have been one of the first students chosen as leadership fellows. Hopefully, she says, many future students will have the opportunity.

In its initial year, the Leadership Fellows Program is funded from the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation Scholarship Fund, with the students designated as Whitehead Fellows.

The school plans to name another four to six leadership fellows next year and six more in 2020 with the goal of attracting new endowments that will allow the program to continue to expand. Thus, each cohort will be named for its scholarship source.

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Cynthia McMullen
From health care executive to nurse –
Kenneth White comes full circle

It’s never too late to decide you want to be a nurse, even if you’ve enjoyed years of success as a senior health care executive. Kenneth White, Ph.D., RN, FACHE, FAAN (B.S.’95/N, M.S.’95/N) is proof of that.

White had already earned two degrees and spent 13 years as a senior leader at Mercy Health Services in marketing, operations, and international health care consulting before deciding he wanted to pursue his dream of becoming a nurse.

“In high school, I had a job as an orderly in the local hospital in rural Oklahoma. It (nursing) seemed like the most natural thing for me to do and I admired so many nurses that I worked with,” White said, noting that he enrolled in a diploma program at St. John’s Hospital in Tulsa, and after his first year the program closed.

Putting his desire to be a nurse on hold, White earned a B.S. in biology from Oral Roberts University and an M.P.H. in health administration from the University of Oklahoma. While completing a Ph.D. in health services research at VCU’s School of Allied Health Professions, he heard about a pilot program at VCU for second degree students.

Janet Younger, Ph.D., professor emeritus, facilitated his admission to the School of Nursing as a nontraditional student, White said, and he completed the accelerated B.S. to M.S. degree program.

Reflecting on what stood out from his education at the School of Nursing, White recalled “excellent faculty and clinical rotations.”

“Dr. Jeanette Kissinger, Dr. Anne Boyle, Dr. Jeanne Salyer, Dr. Cindy Munro, Dr. Mary Corley, and Dr. Barbara Mark were excellent teachers and role models for a career in academia,” he said.

Salyer, an associate professor, said as a student White immersed himself in developing the knowledge and skill to become a nurse.
“I enjoyed watching him challenge himself and was amazed by his energy and ability to engage with students at all levels as he ‘became’ a nurse,” she said. “I value him as a colleague and celebrate his successes.”

In his first nursing job, White worked as a part-time staff nurse in the emergency room at St. Mary’s Hospital in Richmond, while also working full days as an assistant professor in the Health Administration Department at VCU. His early nursing experience also includes serving as a volunteer nurse at CrossOver Clinic and founding a clinic for homeless individuals in conjunction with a soup kitchen at Centenary United Methodist Church.

In his academic roles, White spent 20 years at VCU, first as an associate professor with program manager responsibility and later as a tenured professor holding the Charles P. Cardwell Jr., Professorship in Health Administration and serving as director of the department’s health administration programs. He accepted a position in 2013 as associate dean for Strategic Partnerships and Innovation at the UVA School of Nursing upon being recruited by Dean Dorrie Fontaine, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, his mentor for the past five years. White was already familiar with UVA, having earned a post-master’s certificate as an adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner in 2013. He currently operates a part-time practice on the inpatient palliative care consult service at UVA Medical Center, in addition to his full-time academic responsibilities.

“My goal was to end my career with a practice as a Palliative Care NP,” he said. “Palliative care is not so much about the end of life as it is about living a full life. My hope is that we ease pain and suffering and give people agency to make decisions for how they would like to enjoy the quality of the days that are numbered.”

Although he enjoys his academic leadership role, White especially enjoys being a nurse. When asked what advice he would offer to future nurses, he said the profession is “a great way to make a living, although it is a calling and not a 9 to 5 job.”

“It requires us to bring our best selves to our patients, our students and colleagues, and it requires intellectual exploration and discipline,” he said.

Looking ahead, White said the future of nursing is extremely bright and he is optimistic that nurses have answers to many health care issues and challenges.

“We need to harness more innovation and find new and better ways to work across disciplines and across the patient care continuum,” he said. “Nurses are perfectly positioned to take a lead in reforming health care.”

Angela L. Flagg
Dawn Adams elected to Virginia’s 68th House District

Dawn M. Adams, DNP, ANP-BC, CHC (Cert.’99/N), was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates representing District 68 (City of Richmond, Henrico, and Chesterfield). Prior to serving as a delegate, she has lived and worked in Richmond as a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, access to care researcher, health advocate, and most recently, as the director for the Office of Integrated Health for Virginia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS).

Michelle Hereford appointed to Virginia Board of Nursing

Michelle D. Hereford, M.S.H.A. RN, FACHE (B.S.’98/N), chief of the Transitional Care Hospital at the University of Virginia Health System, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Virginia Board of Nursing for a four-year term.

Alumna Camille Brenke participates in the Clinton Global Initiative University

Camille Brenke (B.S.’17/N) was one of nine VCU students and alumni who participated in the Clinton Global Initiative University last fall. This prestigious event brought together more than 1,100 innovative students from around the world who are committed to tackling some of the most pressing challenges in the areas of education, environment and climate change, peace and human rights, poverty alleviation and public health.

Judith Collins named VCU Alumni Star

Judith Collins, RN, WHNP-BC, FAAN (Cert.’75/N) was named a 2017 VCU Alumni Star. The prestigious VCU Alumni Stars awards recognize graduates throughout the worlds of art, business, education, service and health care who have attained notable achievements in their field. Since her retirement, Collins has been an active volunteer and loyal donor to the university. She is a member of the MCV Foundation Board of Trustees.

Kimberly Jarrelle, RNC-OB (B.S.’11/N; M.S.’16/N), associate chief nursing officer at Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center, returned to her alma mater last fall to present on an invention designed to improve outcomes for mothers and babies following a cesarean section. The Bresonoff-Feierstein Presentation, hosted by the Langston Center for Quality, Safety and Innovation, featured Jarrelle discussing how she and two other labor-and-delivery nurses invented a skin-to-skin surgical cesarean section drape which allows mom and baby immediate skin-to-skin contact in the operating room. Their invention, known as the Skin-to-Skin C-Section Drape, greatly improves the experience of moms and babies, while maintaining a sterile field, according to Jarrelle.
Kenneth White elected to AAN Board of Directors

Kenneth R. White, Ph.D., AGACNP-BC, ACHPN, FACHE, FAAN, (B.S.’95/N, M.S.’95/N), associate dean for strategic partnerships and innovation at the University of Virginia School of Nursing, was elected to the American Academy of Nursing’s Board of Directors after serving for three successive years on the Academy’s Fellow Selection Committee.

Deborah Raines inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing

Deborah Raines, Ed.S., RN, ANEF, FAAN (Ph.D.’92/N), associate professor and clinical nurse specialist at the University at Buffalo, was among 173 nurses inducted as fellows of the American Academy of Nursing in fall 2017. Selection as a fellow is considered one of the most prestigious honors in nursing. At UAB, Raines’ areas of expertise include innovative educational strategies; technology and teaching/learning; program evaluation/workforce development; and perinatal/neonatal care, especially care transitions.

Hilaire Thompson receives prestigious neuroscience nursing education award

Hilaire Thompson, Ph.D., RN, AGACNP-BC, FAAN (M.S.’96/N), received the prestigious 2018 Excellence in Neuroscience Nursing Education Award from the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses for her many contributions to the field. She is the Joanne Montgomery Endowed Professor and graduate program director at the University of Washington School of Nursing. Inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 2008, Thompson co-chairs the Acute & Critical Care Expert Panel.

Cindy Munro appointed dean at the University of Miami

Cindy Munro, RN, ANP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FAAAS (Ph.D.’92/N; Cert. 97/N), was named dean at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies. A nationally known health care researcher and leader, Munro most recently served as associate dean of research and innovation at the University of South Florida (USF) College of Nursing. She was one of four inaugural Nursing Alumni Endowed Professors at the VCU School of Nursing and was selected as one of the school’s 120 Visionary Leaders in 2013.

Leslie Eckford co-authors book on in-home caregiving

Leslie Eckford (B.S.’85/N), who also received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work at VCU, has co-authored a book, “Aging with Care: Your Guide to Hiring and Managing Caregivers at Home,” aimed at helping people navigate the process of hiring in-home caregivers for aging adults.
1893
The University College of Medicine opens the Virginia Hospital Training School of Nurses.

1953
The MCV School of Nursing admits its first students to the four-year degree program.

1960
The baccalaureate program is accredited by the National League for Nursing.

1962
The school initiates an RN to B.S. program. The last class of students graduate from the St. Philip School of Nursing and the school is closed.

1967
The MCV School of Nursing receives approval for Virginia’s first nursing master’s program and students are admitted the following year.

1968
MCV and the Richmond Professional Institute (RPI) merge to form Virginia Commonwealth University.

1974
The school becomes the first in Virginia to prepare Family Nurse Practitioners at the master’s level.

2007
The new School of Nursing building opens, offering 47,000 square feet of modern classroom, clinical learning, office and research space.

2009
The school receives a five-year grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research for a P30 Center of Excellence in Biobehavioral Approaches to Symptom Management.

2012
The school transitions its Ph.D. program to an online format.

2015
VCU receives approval to offer an online Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

2018
VCU School of Nursing celebrates 125 years of excellence.
1895
The Old Dominion Hospital Training School for Nurses opens under the auspices of the Medical College of Virginia and the leadership of Sadie Heath Cabaniss, recognized as the school’s founding director.

1917
The Richmond School of Social Work and Public Health opens and offers instruction in public health for graduated nurses and social workers.

1920
During the segregation era, MCV establishes the St. Philip School of Nursing to educate African American women to provide nursing care for patients in the newly opened St. Philip Hospital.

1925
The MCV School of Nursing is formally organized with a dean holding the same status as those for the schools of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy.

1928
Cabaniss Hall, a dormitory and classroom building for nursing, opens on Broad Street.

1943
The National League for Nursing Education grants national accreditation to the MCV and St. Philip nursing programs. A U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps program is implemented at both schools.

1976
The Gamma Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the national nursing honor society, is created. A year later, 86 charter members are inducted.

1986
VCU School of Nursing receives approval to offer a doctoral program (Ph.D.) in nursing at VCU.

1993
VCU School of Nursing celebrates its centennial. The first cohort of students enroll in the Accelerated Second Degree Program.

1998
VCU School of Nursing is ranked in the top tier of the nation’s graduate nursing schools for the first time by U.S. News and World Report.

2002
The school is ranked for the first time in the top 20 schools of nursing nationwide in research funded by the National Institutes of Health.

2004
The school receives a grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) to establish a P20 Exploratory Center, which launches our Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research.

*This timeline includes selected milestones from the school’s 125-year history.
VCU School of Nursing classes ending in ‘3 and ‘8, St. Philip and grand alumni returned to campus April 20-22 to celebrate Reunion Weekend with a variety of events, from class-specific dinners to tours of the School of Nursing. The weekend’s activities also included a birthday celebration to mark the school’s 125th anniversary, a State of the School address by Dean Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, the presentation of alumni awards, and more. The class of 1968(below) was recognized for its 50th anniversary.

This year’s alumni award recipients are:

- **Lathika Mohanraj**, Ph.D., RN, BMTCN (B.S.’14/N), assistant professor at the VCU School of Nursing and clinical nurse III at VCU Health – Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award.

- **Sharon McCoy**, (B.S.’88/N; M.S.’91/N) director of perinatal quality outcomes and patient safety for LifePoint Health – Outstanding Nurse Practice Award.

- **Margaret Ann Connors**, M.S.N., RN, CWHNP (B.S.’78/N), a retired U.S. Navy captain and long-time women’s health nurse practitioner – Outstanding Nurse Alumnus Award.

- **Bonnie Price**, (B.S.’97/N), director of forensic nursing at Bon Secours Richmond Health System – Outstanding Nurse Service Award.

To the right are scenes from Reunion Weekend. View a photo album of the weekend’s activities on the VCU School of Nursing Facebook page.
Fran Kay receives the 2018 Trani Award

Fran Kay (B.S.’59/N) was recently recognized with the Eugene P. Trani MCV Campus Leadership Award. The Trani Award was established in 2009 in honor of Dr. Eugene P. Trani, who served as president of VCU from 1990 to 2009. This award is presented annually by the Board of Trustees of the MCV Foundation to recognize exceptional dedication and support of the MCV Campus.

Kay received the award based on her exceptional generosity as a volunteer and donor, touching the lives of countless students, alumni and patients. She served as the first female president of the MCV Alumni Association, becoming a strong voice for all health sciences alumni during a critical time in the organization’s history. Her volunteerism also extended to the MCV Foundation, where the emeritus member has served since 1978. Kay’s longtime volunteer service led MCV in 1991 to establish the MCVAA Hodges-Kay Service Award, named in appreciation of Fran’s and another volunteer’s dedicated service.

In addition to investing her time, Fran also contributed financially to her alma mater. She co-created and supported the class of 1959 Endowment to support the School of Nursing’s Heritage Room, a mini-museum that celebrates our rich history. Her support is also active beyond the walls of our school, as she has invested financially in almost every health-related entity at VCU.

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In Memoriam

1930s
Vivian L. Keiser (Cert.’35/N)  
Julia E. Kelly (B.S.’39/N)  
Helen S. Rogers (B.S.’38/N)  

1940s
Mary P. Baker (B.S.’44/N)  
Louise P. Belfield (B.S.’48/N)  
Rosemarie B. Bittner (Cert.’49/N)  
Virginia B. Brown (Dipl.’48/N; B.S.’57/N)  
Martha C. Gilliam (B.S.’47/N)  
Elizabeth P. Hancock (Cert.’47/N; B.S.’52/N)  
Eloise S. Hurdle (Dipl.’44/N)  
Evelyn S. Jernigan (Dipl.’45/N; B.S.’48/N)  
Winifred R. Johnson (Dipl.’44/N)  
Lorene H. Newman (Cert.’49/N)  
Dorothy S. Setliff (B.S.’47/N)  
Elizabeth N. Vaiden (B.S.’46/N)  
Susie A. Zapfie (B.S.’42/N)  

1950s
Harriet L. Grant (B.S.’53/N)  
Lula G. Hinson (B.S.’52/N)  
Kenna B. Holt (Dipl.’54/N)  
Mary S. Hudson (B.S.’53/N)  
Annie H. Jordan (Dipl.’51/N)  
Mary H. Kelley (B.S.’55/N)  
Peggy L. Lebo (B.S.’55/N)  
Joanne F. Reynolds (B.S.’53/N)  
Joyce A. Sample (B.S.’55/N)  
Martha A. Sawtelle (B.S.’50/N)  
Mary W. Sorum (B.S.’54/N)  
Ruth L. Sweet (B.S.’54/N)  

1960s
Lynda A. Haywood (B.S.’62/N)  
Patricia E. Garey (Cert.’69/N)  
Rebecca P. Jones (B.S.’66/N)  
Barbara M. Lawrence (B.S.’61/N)  
Anne M. Layman (B.S.’66/N)  
Bonnie L. Livingstone (B.S.’60/N)  
Carole J. McGregor (B.S.’60/N)  
Patricia H. Palmer (B.S.’66/N)  
Frances K. Plitt (B.S.’62/N)  

1970s
Connie C. Akers (B.S.’73/N)  
Ann Kelly Leake (B.S.’70/N; Cert.’76/N)  
Alice W. Patterson (B.S.’76/N)  
Janet P. Sabo (B.S.’78/N)  
Elnora D. Walker (B.S.’73/N)  
Sue L. Winstead (B.S.’75/N)  
Ellis O. Youngkin (Cert.’78/N)  

1980s
Mary H. Edmonds (M.S.’88/N)  
Edna G. Loving (M.S.’88/N)  
Judith E. Roye (B.S.’85/N)  
Mary E. Small (B.S.’80/N; M.D.’95/M; H.S.’99/M)  

1990s
Andrea E. Brown (B.S.’93/N)  
Martha C. Gorman (B.S.’93/N; M.S.’95/N)  

2000s
Sarah Anders (B.S.’14/N; M.S.’16/N)  
Donna L. Arthurs (B.S.’04/N)  
Katrina M. Banks (B.S.’04/N)  
Kevin M. Shimp (B.S.’04/N)  

Beloved former faculty member passes away
Ellis Quinn Youngkin, Ph.D., (Cert.’78/N), formerly a longtime VCU School of Nursing faculty member, passed away on Jan. 31, 2018 near her home in The Villages, Florida. In addition to teaching at the VCU School of Nursing for about 25 years, Youngkin worked in administrative, clinical research and certified nursing positions during her 46-year career, retiring as associate dean over all graduate programs at the Christine H. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University. Among her many accomplishments - she was the sole nursing member on the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology’s national committee and was named National Nurse Practitioner of the Year. She also co-authored several primary care nurse practitioner textbooks, as well as clinical and scientific journal articles. She was married to her husband, “Yunk,” for 58 years and they had a son and daughter, grandchildren, many other family members and friends who cherished her. The School of Nursing is naming Dr. Ellis Quinn Youngkin as the 2018-19 Clinical Scholars Honoree in memoriam.
Letter from the Interim Director of Development

Dear Friends,

The School of Nursing’s Development Office has undergone several staff changes in the last few months. We were sad to bid farewell to Kate Haydon, senior director of development, and Brittany Taylor Outar, alumni relations and stewardship specialist, as they accepted promotions outside VCU. It is my pleasure to serve as interim director of development as searches are underway to fill both of these positions.

Despite staff changes, we are moving forward diligently with our work, as this is a particularly exciting year for our school as we celebrate the 125th anniversary. For more than a century, the VCU School of Nursing has been a leader in nursing education and research. As alumni and friends, each of you has played a role in our school’s history and have helped shape it into the exceptional institution that it is today. I am so proud of the contributions our school has made to the field of nursing, and I know you are too.

In honor of this remarkable anniversary milestone, the school has established a scholarship, the “VCU School of Nursing 125th Anniversary Scholarship.” Scholarships, one of our school’s funding priorities, play an integral role in helping us educate the next generation of nurses. For many students, scholarships make higher education a reality, rather than just a dream.

Our goal is to raise $125,000 this year for the VCU School of Nursing 125th Anniversary Scholarship. Donors who contribute $1,000 or more in 2018 will have their names listed on a commemorative plaque. I hope you will consider supporting this scholarship – and in turn, honoring the school’s legacy. Your support will help our school educate nurses for the next 125 years and beyond!

Kind regards,

Amanda Lynch

The VCU School of Nursing 125th Anniversary Scholarship will help students to pursue their dream of becoming a nurse or continue in their professional development. Pictured are student ambassadors who assisted with activities during Reunion Weekend (l to r) – Margaret “Maggie” Sabo and Chloe Cuff.
VCU School of Nursing held its 23rd Annual Sadie Heath Cabaniss Society Dinner at The Jefferson Hotel last fall to honor donors who have made significant contributions to the school. Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean and the Doris B. Yingling Endowed Chair, thanked donors for their generosity and commitment to the school’s success.

The Cabaniss Society was established to recognize significant annual giving to the school and to honor Sadie Heath Cabaniss, who is widely recognized as the school’s founder. Membership is comprised of individuals who have donated at least $500 or more in a fiscal year.

As part of the dinner, first-time distinguished donors—individuals who have contributed $1,000 or more in a fiscal year—received a commemorative Cabaniss plate. First-time distinguished donors who were present include: Beth Rodgers, Ph.D., Matthew and Lauren Stover, Sherri Gretes (B.S.’75/N), and Drs. Mary and Karl Corley.

The dinner also included recognition of the preceptor who has volunteered the most hours serving as a mentor and guide for students’ clinical practice experience. Giddens recognized Rumki Banerjee, M.D., a family medicine physician at Apex MD in Glen Allen, for 3,111 volunteer hours—more than double any other volunteer on record.

Theresa Swift-Scanlan, Ph.D., RN, associate professor and director of biobehavioral laboratory services, was recognized as the Ellen Fontaine Winston Distinguished Professor. Marsha Rappley, M.D., VCU Health System chief executive officer and vice president for VCU health sciences (left), joined Dean Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, (right) in presenting Swift-Scanlan with the VCU Medallion For Endowed Faculty Honors.

Theresa Swift-Scanlan recognized as a distinguished professor

The Ellen Fontaine Winston Distinguished Professorship was established as the result of an unrestricted bequest from the estate of Ellen Fontaine Winston in 2014. Ms. Winston is a 1947 graduate of the VCU School of Nursing. The professorship is designed to recruit highly talented faculty like Swift-Scanlan, a senior researcher whose background is in the epigenetics of chronic illness.
School of Nursing moves up in graduate program rankings

VCU School of Nursing is once again ranked in the top 50 of the nation’s graduate schools of nursing, moving up seven spots in the updated U.S. News and World Report rankings. The school is ranked at No. 41 overall. In addition, VCU’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program made the top 50 (ranking at No. 48) for the first time since being launched three years ago.

Jean Giddens receives one of NLN’s highest honors and joins Debra Barksdale in NLN fellows induction

Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, ANEF, professor and dean, received the Mary Adelaide Nutting Award for Outstanding Teaching or Leadership in Nursing Education from the National League for Nursing (NLN)’s annual summit. The award is one of NLN’s highest honors. Also during the summit, Giddens and Debra Barksdale, Ph.D., FNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, FAAN, ANEF, professor and associate dean of academic affairs, were inducted into the prestigious NLN Academy of Nursing Education.

Deborah McGuire receives ISOO Distinguished Service Award

Deborah McGuire, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, associate dean for Research, Scholarship, and Innovation, and the Florence E. Elliott Professor, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the International Society of Oral Oncology (ISOO). McGuire has more than 10 years of service to the organization, including her election as its first nurse president. The ISOO Distinguished Service Award recognizes meritorious achievement and contributions to the organization.

School of Nursing receives $2.6M HRSA award

The VCU School of Nursing has received a $2.6 million award to advance nursing’s influence in the primary care setting through educational and clinical practice improvements. The award, from the Health Resources and Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was granted to Tamara Zurakowski, Ph.D., clinical associate professor and director of undergraduate programs in the VCU School of Nursing. The funding supports education of undergraduate students, sponsors continuing education for nurses currently working in primary care settings, assists primary care practices with adapting their practice models to support effective nursing care and institutes quality improvement programs in primary care practices.

Faculty appointed to Virginia boards

Patricia Kinser, Ph.D., RN, WHNP-BC, FNAP, associate professor, has been appointed by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe to serve as a member of the State Board of Health. She will serve a three-year term. Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, DNP(c), M.S.N., RN-BC, clinical assistant professor, has been appointed by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe to serve as a member of the Virginia Board of Nursing. She will serve a four-year term.
Amber Paulus publishes article in renal care news magazine

Amber Paulus, B.S.N., RN, CPHQ, a Ph.D. student, published an article in the July 2017 issue of Nephrology News & Issues. The article, titled “Closing the Information Gap: Health Information Exchange in Dialysis,” focuses on patients with end-stage renal disease and their need for frequent, ongoing dialysis care. Paulus’ Ph.D. research focuses on “The Relationship of End-Stage Renal Disease Patients and Hospital Re-admissions.”

Jo Robins selected for nursing faculty fellowship

Jo Robins, Ph.D., RN, ANP-BC, AHN-C, FAANP, associate professor, has been selected to participate in a year-long Integrative Nursing Faculty Fellowship at the University of Arizona. The fellowship will build on her two decades of experience in integrative nursing.

DNP student wins first place at VCNP conference

Angie Smith, AGACNP-BC (B.S.’13/N; M.S.’15/N; DNP ‘18/N), who was a part of the first cohort of DNP graduates in May, won first place for her poster at the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners annual conference in Reston. Her topic was “Improving Hypertension Management in Adults: Evaluation of Community-Based Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring Intervention.”

Richmond Health and Wellness program receives VCU’s top community partnership award

The Richmond Health and Wellness Program, led by Pam Parsons, Ph.D., GNP-BC, FNAP, director of practice and community engagement and the Judith B. Collins and Joseph M. Teefey Distinguished Professor, received the top award recently at VCU’s annual celebration of community partnerships. The program received the Council for Community Engagement’s Currents of Change Award. RHWP also received the honor for Exemplary Partnership in Research.

Debra Barksdale receives UVA SON top alumni award

Debra Barksdale, Ph.D., FNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, FAAN, ANEF, associate dean of academic affairs and Nursing Alumni Endowed Professor, was presented with the University of Virginia School of Nursing’s Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is the school’s highest honor to recognize alumni for their contributions to the nursing profession.

Faculty win top research paper honors

Carla Nye, DNP, RN, CPNP-PC, CNE, clinical associate professor, Genevieve Beaird, M.S., RNC-OB, CHSE, clinical assistant professor, and Leroy Thacker, Ph.D., former associate professor in the School of Medicine and biostatistician, are the recipients of the 2017 Research Article of the Year Award from the Editorial Board of Clinical Simulation in Nursing. They received the award for their paper “The Use of Video Recording and Standardized Patient Feedback to Improve Communication Performance in Undergraduate Nursing Students.”
Enrollment 2017-2018

541 undergraduate students
299 graduate students

Student Diversity

- White 61%
- African American 13%
- Asian 8%
- Unknown 7%
- Hispanic/Latino 4%
- Two or more races 3%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native 0%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
- International 0%

Licensure and Certification Pass Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCLEX</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNP</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMHNP</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGACNP</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Faculty Facts 2017-2018

#### Full-time Faculty by Rank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Faculty Diversity

- White: 82%
- Asian: 6%
- African American: 12%

#### Faculty Gender

- Female: 92%
- Male: 8%
The following list includes selected faculty publications.


**Davis, K.D.** (2017). Utilizing older adult standardized patients to enhance the education of health professional students. *Age in Action*, 32(2), 1-7. [I]


Craig Anderson, M.S., CFE, is the associate dean of business and administration. He most recently served as deputy director of university audit at VCU. Anderson earned a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems and an M.S. in accounting from Harding University.

Kevin Bailey is an admissions specialist in the Office of Student Success. He most recently served as associate director of admissions at Randolph-Macon College. Bailey earned a bachelor’s degree in mass communications from VCU.

Michael R. Bleich, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, president and CEO of NursDynamics, LLC and a renowned scholar and thought leader, is a visiting senior professor for 18 months. He will be working on a number of initiatives, including the Richmond Health and Wellness Program and the Langston Center for Quality, Safety and Innovation, as well as helping the school with its three to five-year strategic planning. Bleich earned a B.S.N. from Milford College, an M.P.H. in patient care administration/nursing from the University of Minnesota, and a Ph.D. in human resource development from the University of Nebraska.

Darci Bowles, M.S.N., RN, CNML, is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently served as adjunct faculty with the school, and previously worked as a nurse manager for VCU Health. Bowles earned an M.S. in nursing administration and leadership from VCU, and she earned a Ph.D. in organizational/industrial psychology at Northcentral University.

Jane Chung, Ph.D., RN, is an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She most recently served as assistant professor at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing. Chung earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. She also earned a master’s in clinical informatics and patient-centered technologies and a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Washington School of Nursing.

Jane Marie Corker, M.S.N., RN, is a clinical instructor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently served as adjunct faculty with the school, and worked as a supplemental nurse in both the Adult Step-down Unit and the Neonatal and Mother/Infant Unit for VCU Health. Corker earned an M.S. in nursing with a focus in education from Walden University.

Kimberly Curry-Lourenco, Ph.D., M.S.N., M.Ed., RN, CHSE, is a clinical assistant professor and director of the Clinical Learning Center. She mostly recently served as
associate professor and coordinator of instruction and technology at the Beazley School of Nursing, Tidewater Community College. She earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing and a master’s degree in education from Old Dominion University, as well as a Ph.D. in nursing from Duquesne University.

**Chazley Logan**, Ph.D., is the master’s program coordinator. She most recently served as a student success counselor for the Central Virginia area at Averett University. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in political science from Ferrum College.

**Juliane Milburn**, Ph.D., RN, is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She most recently served as a professor of nursing at Piedmont Virginia Community College, and as an adjunct clinical assistant professor at the UVA School of Nursing. Milburn graduated from El Camino College with an associate’s degree in nursing, and earned an M.S. in nursing as a family nurse practitioner from Vanderbilt University. She earned a Ph.D. in nursing from the UVA School of Nursing with a research focus on maternity care of the Latino population.

**Lathika Mohanraj**, Ph.D., RN, is an assistant professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently served as adjunct faculty member with the school, and works as an RN in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit for VCU Health. Mohanraj graduated from the University of Mumbai, India with a B.S. in microbiology and biochemistry, and an M.S. in biochemistry. She earned a B.S. in nursing from the VCU School of Nursing and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the VCU School of Medicine.

**Vaishali Naphade**, M.B.A., is the post-award and business manager. She most recently served in the VCU Grants and Contracts Office. Naphade earned a B.S. in accounting and an M.B.A. from Bombay University, India.

**Ingrid Pretzer-Aboff**, Ph.D., RN, is an associate professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently served as an associate professor at the University of Delaware School of Nursing, and is co-founder and former director of the Parkinson’s Clinic at the University of Delaware Nurse Managed Primary Care Center. Pretzer-Aboff earned a B.S. in nursing from New York University and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

**Michael Smart** is an academic advisor/student program coordinator. He most recently served as a transfer advisor at the VCU Transfer Center. Smart earned a bachelor’s degree in business with a concentration in marketing and a minor in accounting from Norfolk State University.

**Tammy Williams**, Ph.D., M.S.N., RN, is an assistant professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently taught for Longwood University’s Nursing Program and served as the program director for the RN to B.S.N. Program. Williams graduated from VCU with a B.S. in psychology, an M.S. in exercise physiology and both a B.S. and M.S. in nursing. She earned a Ph.D. in education from Capella University specializing in nursing education.

**Christine Wynd**, Ph.D., RN, is professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. Wynd retired as a full colonel with the United States Army after 30 years of service. She most recently served as president and dean of the Mount Carmel College of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio. Wynd earned a B.S. in nursing from Saint John College (now Ursuline College) and an M.S. in nursing from The Ohio State University. She earned a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University with a research focus on health promotion/smoking cessation and nursing history.
Celebrate with us!

VCU School of Nursing
125th Anniversary Events

Wednesday, Oct. 24
125th Anniversary Lecture, Time Capsule Burial Celebration and Lunch / Noon – 2 p.m.

Guest speaker: Former VCU Nursing Alumni Endowed Professor Cindy Munro, RN, ANP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FAAAS (Ph.D.’92/N; Cert.’97/N), dean and professor, the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

Lecture in Younger Auditorium
Celebration and Lunch in the SON Garden

This event is free and open to the public.

Thursday, Oct. 25
125th Anniversary Gala / 5:30 p.m.

The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia Gala tickets will be on sale this summer.

More details for both events will be announced soon. Visit nursing.vcu.edu for the latest updates.