Transitions
2. **A Message from the Dean**  
   It’s a time of transition in the School of Nursing

3. **Nursing Camp Proves to be a Cool Addition to the Summer**  
   Local middle school students get a glimpse of what it takes to be a nurse

4. **Star Profiles Incoming Freshman**  
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5. **A Life with Purpose**  
   An interview with Dr. Sharron Humenick, 1937-2006

7. **Congratulations! Class of 2006**  
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9. **When it Rains it Pours**  
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   Nursing students make their way through school, despite the difficulties of a world at war
Nurses Know Transition

As I review the fall 2006 issue of Connections, I am reminded of how often we experience change and transition in our personal lives, our professional careers as nurses, and at the VCU School of Nursing. Since its founding as the Virginia Hospital Training School in 1893, our School has been in an almost constant state of transformation. Through segregation and integration, name changes and institutional mergers, thousands of nurses have helped shape what is now the VCU School of Nursing.

Of course, transition is a part of the fabric of our existence at an academic health center like VCU – new nursing students and faculty are always arriving, students graduate, faculty members retire or leave for other institutions, research grants are awarded, new nursing knowledge is created, and semesters begin and end.

In this spirit, we celebrate the lives and careers of Dr. JoAnne Henry (“A Life in Bloom,” p. 15) and Dr. Sharron Humenick (“A Life with Purpose,” p. 5), two faculty members who have given much to nursing and our School. Dr. Henry, Theresa Thomas Professor and Director of the Community Nursing Organization, retired this summer after 28 years, serving the VCU School of Nursing in many different capacities – including a stint as interim dean prior to my arrival. Her daily presence will be missed. Fortunately for us, she has agreed to come back on a part-time basis to help with a number of special projects. Dr. Humenick was recruited to VCU as chair of our Department of Maternal Child Health in 1999 and she took a leave of absence last semester to deal with a recurrence of cancer. It is with great sadness that we learned of her passing on September 9, 2006, but I take comfort reading her interview, hearing her reflect on the power of living a life with a purpose.

We also said farewell to our May graduates (“Congratulations! Class of 2006,” p. 7), and welcomed back alumni for Reunion Weekend (“When It Rains It Pours,” p. 9 and “Remember When,” p. 25). As you read about the summer nursing camp for 6th, 7th and 8th graders (“Nursing Camp,” p. 3) and the profiles of three of our incoming freshmen nursing students (“Star Profiles,” p. 4), I hope you will join me in celebrating these young nurses-to-be.

We ended the 2005-06 academic year by saying farewell to the Nursing Education Building/old Cabaniss Hall (“Goodnight Sweet Princess,” p. 11) and moving the entire School to temporary quarters at the Theater Row Office Building at 730 East Broad Street, just five blocks west of our former home. During the current academic year, the construction on our new state-of-the-science nursing facility will be completed and we will move into our new home. A new building is something that students, faculty, alumni and the Commonwealth of Virginia have wanted (and needed) for a long time. This is the first building specifically built to accommodate all the functions of our School of Nursing, and this facility will greatly enhance our ability to fulfill our three-pronged mission of teaching, research and community service.

These are but a few of the major transitions we are experiencing while we continue our daily work to educate nurses, conduct nursing research and provide community outreach to improve the health of our city, state and nation. With your continued support the VCU School of Nursing indeed has a bright future!

Nancy F. Langston, RN, PhD, FAAN
Dean and Professor
This summer the VCU School of Nursing in partnership with the VCU Medical Center hosted “A Week in Scrubs” through the VCU Summer Discovery series. Twelve local students (rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders) spent their mornings in a variety of settings in the VCU Medical Center learning about many aspects of nursing care – from Pediatrics to Forensic Nursing. Nursing students/camp counselors Mary Hill, Krystal Brunson and Jenni Jones worked with the campers as they learned how to gown up for a shift in the ER; made art under the direction of an art therapist; heard about Safe Kids Virginia – a program dedicated to the prevention of childhood injury; saw a demonstration of the Autopulse Life Band & Board Resuscitation System; and met the crew of LifeEvac, the VCU Medical Center’s transport helicopter.

The Summer Nursing Camp is part of a long-term recruitment strategy to encourage young people to choose a career in nursing and was made possible in part by a grant from the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association. It is just one of the many programs available through the Summer Discovery Program sponsored by VCU’s Division of University Outreach. For more information, visit www.vcu.edu/outreach/sd/.
**Student: Julie Williams**  
**Hometown:** Anchorage, AK  
**Status:** Freshman, Class of 2010  
**Student Fact:** Julie’s career aspiration is to be a traveling nurse anesthetist specializing in pediatrics.

In March, Julie Williams visited the East Coast for the first time. It may become the first of many ten hour flights Julie will take from her hometown of Anchorage, AK to her new home away from home at the VCU School of Nursing. Although, from talking with the freshman, Julie will have no trouble adjusting to her new environment. Julie’s enthusiasm about moving to Richmond, beginning her nursing education and becoming more independent bubbled over as she spoke of what she expects to encounter over the next year.

When asked why she wanted to attend school at VCU, Julie gave several reasons, the least not of which was it was warm in Virginia! Julie explained that she had been interested in attending a school in the Virginia or Maryland area of the East Coast because of the region’s rich history, culture and diversity.

She soon discovered VCU’s nursing program was among the best in the area.

When her mother, Kathy Tocke, was asked how she felt about Julie moving so far away she said without hesitation, “It’s great, because now I’ll have a reason to come visit the East Coast!”

We welcome Julie to the VCU School of Nursing!

**Student: Julane Miller**  
**Hometown:** Washington, D.C.  
**Status:** Freshman, Class of 2010  
**Student Fact:** Julane knew she wanted to be a nurse since she was a little girl volunteering in nursing homes.

Julane Miller’s soft but insistent voice gives the impression that the new freshman will surely be one of tomorrow’s most compassionate nurses.

If you ask Julane why she wants to be a nurse, you’ll hear her say pointedly, “I love helping people.”

She goes on to tell you that her older sister is a nurse at Washington Hospital in D.C.

“I tell her she’s my inspiration everyday,” says Julane.

As her sister went through nursing school, Julane says she became increasingly interested in what her older sibling was learning in her classes.

As Julane began looking at colleges, VCU’s School of Nursing became her first choice. She fell in love with the campus when she came for a tour, it was still pretty close to home, and the School of Nursing had been highly recommended by a friend.

Julane admits that she didn’t think she would get in, but she applied anyway. Now, she is happy to be a member of the Freshman Class of 2010.

**Student: Alicia Cobb**  
**Hometown:** Fort Lee in Prince George, VA  
**Status:** Freshman, Class of 2010  
**Student Fact:** Alicia received a full scholarship from ROTC to attend VCU School of Nursing and when she graduates will be an officer in the Army Nurse Corps.

‘Driven’ would be an appropriate word to describe Alicia Cobb. She has certainly been motivated by a couple of outstanding female role models: Hazel Johnson-Brown and her mother, Olivia Cobb.

Olivia Cobb, SFC, a nineteen year veteran of the Army and a career counselor, says she is ‘overwhelmed’ by Alicia’s decision to continue with ROTC, and believes she has picked an excellent career choice in nursing.

It was in Junior ROTC in high school that Alicia decided that she wanted to become a nurse.

“We had to do a project on a military leader,” she says, “I did my project on Hazel Johnson-Brown.”

Alicia goes on to tell you that Johnson-Brown was the first black female general in the Army, a former Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, and a Virginia native.

The new freshman says she chose to attend VCU School of Nursing because she hopes to specialize in pediatrics, and she found that VCU was the best for that area of study.

Alicia, who is looking forward to meeting other ROTC nursing students, also plans on minoring in child development psychology.
In February of this year, director of development James Parrish met with Dr. Humenick to talk about her life and career. What follows are excerpts from that conversation.

Why did you decide to become a nurse?
Hmm...I’m not really sure. I was not somebody who dreamed of being a nurse all of my childhood, like many people who are nurses say they always wanted to be a nurse. I liked chemistry; I liked biology. And then it turned out I like psychology. I like sociology as well. So, I was looking for a career that put all of those together. And nursing seemed like a likely place. And, indeed, it really is a good place to put all that together. There probably aren’t too many professions that do that. It turned out to be a good choice.

Tell me a little about your career once you had decided on nursing.
Well, I lived in Richmond, California for a decade. I did a little bit of obstetrical nursing and pediatric nursing. In those days you couldn’t become a public health nurse until you had some
clinical experience. But, I then went into community health, or public health, as quickly as I could. I did public health for two different counties; then I went into school nursing later. That whole decade I was doing public health work, and I also went back to school at Berkeley and got my Masters of Public Health.

After the birth of my second child I studied to become a Lamaze instructor…I became a state coordinator and started helping with the training of other childbirth educators and got very involved with what is now Lamaze International. I’ve been doing that since about 1970. At some point I read Gail Sheehy’s book, *Passages*, where she said that people who had purpose in their life did better, lived well, lived longer, etcetera. I thought maybe I need a purpose in my life. So, I thought about it for a long time. What could be my purpose in life? I decided that my purpose was to make the beginnings better for mothers and new babies. So, I have used that to guide the decisions I make about what I do and don’t do professionally ever since then. And it’s worked very well for me.

What’s been the biggest surprise for you in your career, something that you didn’t anticipate?

Well, the thing that I didn’t anticipate is the course up to national and international recognition. That is, of course, what faculty are supposed to do. When I was growing up, or early in my career, the whole idea that I would go in that direction was not in my mind at all. If one is willing to volunteer at national organizations and is willing to work, it turns out it is not all that hard to work your way up the ladder into national organizations (laughing). All you have to do is sign up to do some pre-work for people and there you go. So, now I’m on the US Breastfeeding Committee and I’m co-chairing the breastfeeding expert panel group in the American Academy of Nurses, and things of that nature. Those were never goals. Those just evolved.

If you are willing, I’d like for you to talk about your cancer diagnosis and where you are now in your life. What are you thinking about for your future?

For the most part, I’ve been informed that I probably don’t have a future – at least not on earth. So, that gives one quite a bit to think about. The initial diagnosis [carcinosarcoma of the uterus] was a real shock. I had no idea there was something the matter and this turned out to be a rare, but very aggressive type of cancer. Every article I read started out by saying, ‘This is a very aggressive kind of cancer.’ It sort of reminded me of Snoopy and Charlie Brown and the funny papers, whose stories always start out, ‘It was a dark and stormy night.’ So, that was very difficult. It was a whole direction in life that I did not want to go. But, I really didn’t have any choice. But, I did my homework. I found the research. I found what I wanted for my therapy and I found a place that would give me that…I’ve finally gotten to a place where I’m free of all those side effects and really feeling well. So, like I told my oncologist, it was not what I wanted to hear – about a reoccurrence…You know, you just have to go with what you’re given. It’s a shock, but it’s not near the shock that the first one was because I really have known in the back of my mind all along that very few people beat this kind of cancer. At some level, I have a certain level of acceptance. Well, they tell me that none of us are getting off of this planet alive. I wasn’t ready to go yet. Or I don’t feel ready to go yet, but that may be my lot and regardless of the fact that I had a purpose in life (laughing) maybe that didn’t protect me there. But, at the same time it’s given me a life from which I have no regrets. I’m happy with what I’ve done with my life. I think that probably that’s worth a whole lot.

How would you like to be remembered?

I’d just like to be remembered as somebody who worked hard and accomplished quite a bit. At the same time, probably – I get the feedback that people talk about my mentoring skills so, I’d like to be remembered as a good mentor – that, I not only did my thing, but I helped a lot of people do their thing.

What are you most proud of?

I’m proud of my family and I’m just thrilled with my grandchildren. I’m just, I guess I said it before, I’m happy about my contributions. The thing I learned when I had my first episode of cancer was I had no idea that there was that much support out there in the universe for me and the amount of cards and phone calls, I thought, well, this will happen for a week or two, or maybe a month. But it didn’t. For the whole year and a half I was in therapy no week went by when people didn’t call or write or do something to give me support. That really let me know that I have connected with a lot of people in a meaningful way. And I’m very pleased about that.

On September 9, 2006, Dr. Sharron Humenick died peacefully at her home in Boulder, Colorado, surrounded by her daughter, son, husband and a close friend.
On the evening of Friday, May 19th, the VCU School of Nursing held its bi-annual Recognition Ceremony for the 120 members of the spring graduating Class of 2006. The next morning, the degree-candidates participated in the University's graduation ceremony at the Richmond Coliseum.

The Nursing Class of 2006 graduated three new PhD’s, 41 Master’s degrees, two Post-Master’s certificates, and 74 Bachelor’s degrees.

At Friday’s Recognition Ceremony, Dr. Nancy Langston, Dean, welcomed the students, their families and faculty members and acknowledged the night as a celebration, not only of achieving educational goals, but of the common bonds shared by nurses.
Ms. Carol Crosby, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at VCU Health Systems, thanked the graduates for choosing a career in nursing. Crosby spoke of the impending nursing shortage saying that, “today, more than ever, we need nurses...we need nurses such as you.” “Nurses who are highly educated; nurses who are critical thinkers; nurses who have inquiring minds and are committed to life-long learning,” Crosby said, “And, most importantly, we need nurses who recognize that caring is the essence of nursing.”

Ann Hardy, BS 1999, gave the MCV Alumni Association greetings. She welcomed the graduates as the newest members of the alumni “family”, and urged them to become members of the Alumni Association saying that, “You can rest assured that wherever your nursing education takes you on this planet, you can and will state your association with this school with great pride.”

Also taking place at Friday’s Recognition Ceremony was the hooding of the doctoral and master’s candidates, the traditional “pinning” of baccalaureate candidates, the presentation of the senior class gift, and the presentation of the student awards.

Saturday morning at the University’s graduation ceremony, Robert J. Grey, Jr., past-president of the American Bar Association, partner at Hunton and Williams law firm and VCU alumni, spoke of the rapid advancement in technologies, including those in the fields of science and medicine. He urged the University’s graduates to become leaders in these disciplines.

Also at the graduation ceremony, Dr. JoAnne K. Henry, Ed.D, director of the VCU Community Nursing Organization and professor at the School of Nursing was awarded with the Presidential Medallion for extraordinary achievement in learning and commitment to the mission of VCU. Dr. Henry retired from her position in June after 28 years of service and contribution to the School, University and community.

Student Awards Presented at the Recognition Ceremony

Sarah E. Skelly - Marguerite G. Nicholson Award
Megan T. Cannon - Mabel E. Montgomery Award
Ida S. Trice - Yingling Senior Achievement Award
Anne A. Clements - Mayme B. Wilson Lacey Award
Veronica M. Buckovich - Temple Memorial Award
Judith M. Jarosinski - Martha M. Borlick Research Award
Lara K. Kascak - Martha M. Borlick Research Award
When it rains, it pours. For the 2006 MCV Alumni Reunion Weekend, the VCU School of Nursing had planned a rooftop reception – on top of the N Parking Deck right next to our new building – so alumni and friends could have an up-close view of the construction progress while enjoying refreshments with old and new friends. Unfortunately, the weather didn’t cooperate. But, thanks to our friends at the MCV Alumni Association, we moved the reception to the MCV Alumni House instead of canceling the event. In spite of the rainy day and the last minute venue change, there was a good turn out from both the St. Philip, MCV and VCU nursing classes. Highlights of the event included Dr. Katherine Bobbitt’s story of her “conversation” with our grand old girl, Cabaniss Hall, about her imminent “retirement” and presentations of two nursing awards – the Nurse Alumnus Award for Outstanding Service to Nancy C. Mitchell (BS 1957) and the Outstanding Nurse Alumnus Award to Patricia M. Rager (BS 1971, MS 1978).
On Thursday May 17th, 2006, the School of Nursing said goodbye to old Cabaniss Hall (the Nursing Education Building, or NEB for short). After 78 years of use, this familiar building at 1220 E. Broad Street was demolished this summer to make room for the MCV Campus expansion. Architectural details were salvaged for use in the new School of Nursing building’s Heritage Room and garden.

Students, faculty and staff are currently enjoying a glimpse into the future at the School’s temporary location at the Theater Row Office Building. The new Clinical Learning Center looks like a modern hospital unit (as opposed to a ward from the 1950’s) and is bright and clean. Patient simulators and Virtual IV, are proving to be very popular with students, who quickly requested that the lab remain open for extended hours to allow for more time to practice and review.

Construction on the new Leigh Street home for the School of Nursing is progressing and should be completed by spring 2007.
Old Cabaniss Hall Time Capsule Emerges Intact

In June, as the process of demolishing old Cabaniss Hall began, workers removed a carefully preserved box from within the cornerstone dating to 1928. The contents of the metal box were in near perfect condition.

Newspapers from 1928 featuring the opening of the dorm on the front page were included, as was a photograph of Sadie Heath Cabaniss, the mother of the VCU School of Nursing and the building’s namesake.

PACME Award

On April 27th the Administrative Professionals of the School of Nursing received the 2006 Presidential Award for Community Multicultural Enrichment (PACME) Award from VCU for their work with Children’s Health Involving Parents of Greater Richmond (CHIP). The Admin Pro’s involvement with CHIP began with Jackie Jackson, former Administrative Professional in the Dean’s office. Jackie (who passed away in 2000) understood the importance of helping the community and contacted CHIP. From that initial contact, a wonderful partnership was formed and continues to this day. Every holiday season the Admin Pros collect wrapped gifts (donated by the School of Nursing community and students) for local families and children. The VCU PACME award recognizes their commitment to CHIP and for brightening the holidays for countless local families, year after year!

Development Update

2005-06 was another good fundraising and friendraising year for the VCU School of Nursing – 853 alumni, individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations contributed more than $1.2 million. But the numbers only tell part of the story. From the statistics you would never know that several groups have helped raise money for the School – the MCV Hospital Auxiliary through their annual “love lights” sale, the Class of 1960 and Class of 1970 raised money for the new building as part of their reunion celebrations, members of the Class of 2006 made commitments totaling $2,180 before May graduation (continuing a tradition of graduating classes giving back to the School), the VCU Health System nurses launched a campaign to raise money for the new building and the list goes on and on. Plus, we are very fortunate to have such committed alumni and friends who make significant current and planned gifts in addition to leading these extra efforts on behalf of our school of nursing.

So far you have helped us raise more than $8.2 million of our $10 million Campaign for Solutions goal. Now that fundraising for our new home is almost complete (we are about $35,000 shy of our $3 million goal for the building) we are turning our attention to other opportunities to make a difference.

We need your help to establish endowed funds for merit-based scholarships and professorships to attract (and retain) the best and brightest students and faculty to the VCU School of Nursing. In addition, we are refocusing our attention on the annual fund to ensure that we have sufficient unrestricted money available each year to address exciting new challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Thank you!
Students, faculty and staff are settling right in to our temporary location at Theater Row and have had a glimpse of what is to come with our beautiful Clinical Learning Center.

Just recently we staged an eight patient simulation to give some of our senior students a taste of what they can expect as nurses. Nursing staff from the MCV Hospitals as well as faculty and students volunteered to pose as patients, doctors, care partners, sitters and distraught family members so that our students could get firsthand experience in assigning priorities with real patients. We look forward to more such experiences in our ever-improving facility!

If you would like to volunteer for such projects in the future, please contact Elizabeth Crooks, MSN, CCRN, CS, Clinical Assistant Professor at eacrooks@vcu.edu or by phone at (804) 828-0722.
A Life in Bloom
To say that the VCU School of Nursing will never be the same is perhaps the understatement of the year. In June, Dr. JoAnne K. Henry, Theresa Thomas Professor and Director of the Community Nursing Organization, retired after 28 years of service. Her career at VCU was far reaching and included teaching, research, scholarship, community outreach, governmental relations, and leadership. In honor of her achievements, she was presented with the Presidential Medallion at commencement on May 20th. She is the first nurse to receive this award.

After earning a diploma from the St. John’s Queens Hospital School of Nursing in New York, Dr. Henry began her career as a pediatric nurse; however, she soon realized she wanted to continue her education. It was on a family vacation that she discovered the University of Virginia and enrolled, completing her BS in 1967. Dr. Henry’s teaching career began soon thereafter and accelerated rapidly once she earned her Master’s degree from New York University. In her very first full time teaching position at Shenandoah University School of Nursing she was appointed Chair of the School, a position she admits that she didn’t feel quite ready to accept; so, a year later when the opportunity to teach at UVA came along, she readily accepted. Not only could she teach at her alma mater, but she could also pursue a doctorate in Higher Education Administration, a degree which would prove to serve her well.

When the opportunity to teach graduate students in Women’s Health materialized at VCU six years later, Dr. Henry applied. She has served in many capacities at VCU over the years, including a decade as Chair of the Maternal Child Nursing department, a position she especially enjoyed as she had the good fortune to meet each student that applied to the program during those years. In the late 1980’s she was appointed Interim Dean where she found great satisfaction in helping shape the administration of the School, recruit faculty and launch the long anticipated PhD in Nursing program. Following her years as Interim Dean, Dr. Henry took a sabbatical to earn a Master’s in Public Health focusing on Policy and Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The course of study prepared her to serve as the Director of the Office of Health Care Policy and later as founder and Director of the Community Nursing Organization, a program that links the community and the School to address the public’s health needs. During her tenure as Director of the Community Nursing Organization alliances were formed with many schools at VCU for the Carver-VCU Partnership, where the faculty of the VCU School of Nursing provide health services to elementary school children.

While active on many fronts at VCU – through teaching, research, administration and legislation, Dr. Henry also made an impact through nursing organizations and local non-profits. During her retirement, she will teach at VCU as Associate Professor Emerita and remain engaged in the community through her volunteer work with St. Joseph’s Villa and the Daily Planet, among others. Indeed, her first year of retirement may be nearly as busy any other year, as she assumes the role of Chair of the Board of Directors of St. Joseph’s Villa while also serving as President of the Board of Directors of the Daily Planet. She will remain active with the Virginia Nurses Association, the Virginia Partnership for Nursing, and the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN).

In 2002, Dr. Henry became a member of the Medical College of Virginia Society by including the School of Nursing in her estate plans. Through this planned gift, the School will create The Henry Nursing Faculty Support Endowment to enhance the teaching and educational administration skills of faculty.

In her retirement, Dr. Henry is looking forward to traveling with her husband, Jim, a retired high school chemistry teacher. She also plans to study and become a master gardener. Gardening is a fitting metaphor for the nurturing care she has given the VCU School of Nursing over the years, and indeed will continue to provide.
Legacy Lecture: November 13, 2006

The 2nd Legacy Lecture in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing featuring Dr. Susan McCabe, EdD, APRN, BC, is scheduled for Monday, November 13, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the MCV Alumni House & Paul A. Gross Conference Center (corner of East Clay and 11th Streets). Dr. McCabe’s lecture is entitled Improving Outcomes of Patients with Psychiatric Disorders: Intersections of Evidence, Innovations, and Thoughtful Caring.

Health care systems are increasingly characterized by organizational complexity, overwhelming amounts of available data, and shrinking nursing presence. Within the practice landscape, evidence-based practice is fast becoming the dominant paradigm and expectation for professional nurses. This is all occurring against a backdrop of increased awareness of the nature and burden of psychiatric disorders, and pressure to move much of traditional psychiatric care to non-psychiatric settings.

Dr. McCabe’s presentation will explore patient outcomes in psychiatric nursing, providing a rubric for understanding the multi-tiered components of outcomes of care. It will examine historic aspects of psychiatric nursing and discuss the intersection of evidence-based nursing care with traditional roles and functions of psychiatric nurses. It will conclude by discussing issues of innovative psychiatric nursing care and propose one model for practice that is truly innovative and that expands existing practice.

The lecture will be followed by a reception from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Parking will be available in the N Deck, located at Leigh and 10th Streets. To make reservations to attend, please contact Olivia Dickerson at dickersonoe@vcu.edu or (804) 828-3620. Seating is limited, so please RSVP by Friday, November 3!

The Legacy Lectureship was established to honor the outstanding careers and accomplishments of four former School of Nursing faculty: Dr. Lorna Barrell, Dr. Katherine Bobbitt, Dr. Gloria Francis, and Dr. Barbara Munjas.
From the Alumni Chair,
Nursing Division

As the incoming Nursing Division Alumni Chair I look forward to working with the many accomplished nursing alumni, the MCV Alumni Association Board of Trustees, and the extremely talented and dedicated staff. During the past four years, while serving on the Nursing Division Alumni Board, I have become increasingly proud of our School’s progress as it positions itself to meet the current and future nursing demands.

This is a very exciting time in the life of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing. Most of us realize that our school has been a leader in education, service and research for more than a century. There is a great deal of excitement in the air as progress continues on the new state-of-the-science school of nursing building. As many of you already know, the Nursing Division pledged to raise $50,000 from our current and past board members (and any other interested nursing alumni) to name the Heritage Room, a dedicated space on the first floor of the new building that will celebrate our School’s grand history and the contributions of our alumni.

In the spring, I had the opportunity to serve as the co-chair for my twenty-fifth nursing reunion, the Class of 1981. I gained an appreciation for the time and effort the alumni association staff put into this elaborate annual event. Though those of us from my class who attended the reunion had a great time, we have set a goal of tripling our attendance numbers in five years when we celebrate our thirtieth reunion. I challenge all classes to reconnect with the VCU School of Nursing and each other by taking advantage of this wonderful event. The Nursing Division can learn a great deal from the Divisions of Medicine and Dentistry who both drew amazing attendance numbers this year.

The MCV Alumni Association plans to continue the tradition of hosting a luncheon for the senior nursing students featuring roundtable discussions with talented MCV nursing alumni who offer first-hand insight into a variety of nursing practice career options. The students are encouraged to choose the nursing specialties to be presented. We have received positive feedback from the seniors who felt the day served to reinforce the fact that the nursing profession of today offers a tremendous variety of professional opportunities.

I invite you to tell the Alumni Association how we can help you stay connected with your School of Nursing. Also, we ask that you support the association by joining or maintaining your membership. Feel free to contact me at b ethsmcneil@comcast.net or the staff of the Alumni Association at (804) 828-3900 or 1-800-628-7799 if we can be of service.

Beth S. McNeil, RN, MSN
Faculty Presentations


Chapin, H. M. “Management and educational plan development.” Presented at the Asthma Educator Institute, American Lung Association, Richmond, VA, September 2006.


“Reducing ventilator associated pneumonia.” Presented at XII Brazilian Congress of Intensive Care Medicine, Recife, Brazil, April, 2006.

“Mechanical ventilation: Evidence-based practice.” Presented at XII Brazilian Congress of Intensive Care Medicine, Recife, Brazil, April, 2006.


Hills, R., & Voll, S. “Teaching nurse practitioner students the gynecologic examination: Incorporating the computer-based pelvic simulator into a nurse practitioner curriculum.” Presented at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Orlando, FL, April, 2006.


Pickler, R. H. “Basic care that isn’t: Feeding, bathing, and sleep care for term and preterm infants.” Workshop presented at the Association for Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nursing, Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, June, 2005.


Roux, G. “Gender-specific needs of women surviving cancer.” Presented at the Cancer Control Committee, Indiana University Cancer Research Center, Indianapolis, IN, April, 2006.


Also presented at the SNRS Conference:

Grap, M. J. and Munro, C. L. “Peri-Intubation Intervention to reduce Oral Flora in Trauma Victims.”

Jablonski, R., Munro, C. L., and Grap, M. J. “ Provision of mouth care to frail nursing home elders.”

Jones, D. J., Munro, C. L., and Grap, M. J. “ History of Dental Plaque Accumulation in Mechanically Ventilated Adults”

Munro, C. L. “Oral Health: Common Issues, Common Measures, Diverse Populations.”

Faculty News and Notes

Lisa F. Brown, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor of Child Health Nursing, joined the Department of Maternal Child Health in July. Dr. Brown received her BSN in 1991 and her Master’s degree in 1996 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2004. Dr. Brown just completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). Her research focuses on the mother-infant relationship during feeding.

Jennifer F. Brown, PhD, APRN, Assistant Professor of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing, Department of Integrative Systems, joined the School in August. Dr. Brown received her BSN and MSN from the University of Virginia in 1997 and 1998 respectively. She was awarded her PhD in Health Services Research and Organization in 2004 from the VCU Department of Health Administration. Dr. Brown is an experienced teacher, whose research focuses on emergency and outpatient psychiatric consultation arrangements.

Marie Gardner, PhD, joined the School in August as the Assistant Dean for Resources and Research Support. Dr. Gardner received her BS from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in 1983. She earned her MS in Quantitative Biology in 1990 and her PhD in Education and Urban Services Leadership in 2000, both degrees from VCU respectively. She will supervise all research and fiscal staff, manage the research support systems, business systems, as well as, fiscal and human resources functions in the School.

Joan Kolenich was appointed and commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Joan L. Kolenich, USAR, ret, a Military Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of Virginia by The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine.

Jacqueline M. McGrath, PhD, RN, NNP, FNAP, Associate Professor in Child Health Nursing (Department of Maternal Child Health). She received her BSN from the University of Akron in 1984; her MSN from Kent State University in 1989, completed an interdisciplinary fellowship at Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia in 1998, the same year she earned her Neonatal Nurse Practitioner certification, from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. McGrath received her PhD in Neonatal Behavioral Physiology in 1999 from University of Pennsylvania. Dr. McGrath has extensive teaching experience and her research focuses on feeding of preterm infants and developmental interventions. Dr. McGrath joined the School in July, from Arizona State University.

Sandy Voll, MS, CNM, WHNP, FNP, RNC has been appointed the Director of the Clinical Learning Center at the VCU School of Nursing.

Dinah P. Welch, ARNP, PhD, Assistant Professor of Community Health Nursing (Department of Integrative Systems) joined the School in July. Dr. Welch received her BSN, MSN-FNP, MPH and PhD degrees from the University of Florida in Gainesville. Her research focuses on multi-disciplinary, community-based social and economic related health disparities, and conducting health promotion activities in underserved communities.
Jean Ellen Zavertnik, RN, MN, joined the Department of Adult Health Nursing in August as a Collateral Clinical Instructor, who will provide clinical teaching by creating a model of educational planning specifically linking the theory of the classroom and the students’ applications in clinical practice.

Faculty Publications


Davis, K., Selig, P., Goodloe, L., Lewanowicz, W. & Gray, P. (June 6, 2005) “Boosting Research: VCU Med Center’s nursing internship in evidence-based practice encourages the bedside nurse to do research.” *Advance for Nurses*, 7(13), 20% Effort (SF)


Moon, M. W., Fornili, K., & O’Briant, A (In press). “Risk comparison among GLBQ adolescents who report sex with same-gender versus both-gender partners.” (Accepted for publication by *Youth & Society* for July, 2006) (DB, Moon effort 90%)

students choosing a career in public health nursing.”  
*American Journal of Public Health, 95 (7), 1102-05. (DB, Moon effort 95%)*

**Nintachan, P. & Moon, M. W.** (In press) “Modification and Translation of the Thai version of Youth Risk Behavior Survey.” (Accepted for publication by the *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*) (DB, Moon effort 25%)


**Tuck, I. & Thinganjana, W.** (In press) “An Exploration of the Meaning of Spirituality Voiced by Persons Living with HIV Disease and Healthy Adults.” *Issues in Mental Health Nursing.*

## Administrative Notes

**Jeanne Barrett** has returned to the School of Nursing after retiring in May 2005. After traveling, moving to Tennessee and spending time with family and friends in various southern states, she realized that she wanted to be back in Virginia. Rejoining the School in March as Part-Time Development Associate, she resumed her former position in Academic Programs when it became available. She is happy to be back again!

**Ke’Shauna Davis** is the Student Recruiter for the VCU School of Nursing. Ke’Shauna’s previous position was Student Recruiter for the Department of Integrative Systems Nursing Administration and Leadership Grant. Ke’Shauna has also worked as a Marketing Specialist for SunTrust Education Loans.

**Olivia Dickerson** joined the School of Nursing in May as Development Assistant. Olivia previously served as Statewide Outreach Liaison for the FAMIS Children’s Health Insurance Program. Olivia will complete her Master’s of Public Administration from VCU in May 2007.

**Carrie Newcomb** is the Student Services Coordinator for the School of Nursing. Carrie previously worked as the Assistant Director of Campus Visitation at Spring Arbor University in Michigan.

**Scott Simmons** joined the School of Nursing in July as the computer tech. He comes to VCU from Strayer University. Scott has lived in Richmond for over 12 years (the longest he has lived anywhere). He has a B.S. in Computer Networking and is enjoying the job and working with the faculty and staff.

## Recent Dissertation Defenses

**Janet Byam-Williams** “Factors Influencing Health Status in Community-Dwelling Older Adults”

**Judith Jarosinski** “A Life Disrupted, Still Lived”

**Sangthong Terathongkum** “Relationships Among Stress, Blood Pressure, and Heart Rate Variability in Meditators”

## Congratulations to our new PhD’s!

## Obituaries

Mrs. Mary (Bowles) Barrick, N ’50, December 2005
Ms. Elsie (Mitchell) Frierson, St. Philip ’51, January 2006
Mrs. Florence (Hays) Riner, N ’53, March 2006
Ms. Elizabeth K. Ryan, N ’30, April 2006
Mrs. Alice (Lambert) Smith, N ’53, March 2006
Mrs. Thelma (Defrees) Thomas, N ’48, February 2006
Mrs. Meredith (Smith Haymes) Ward, N ’60, April 2006
Alumni Notes

Dr. Ok Chon Allison, PhD ’03, was featured in the cover story for the Duke University Health System Newsletter in the spring of 2006. The article detailed her involvement in the “Just For Us” program which serves homebound seniors in the Durham area and helps them to receive regular healthcare.

John Morgan, BS ’96, launched a new online vintage record store, “It’s All About the Grooves” (www.thegrooves.biz). He will continue his work as a home health nurse with Family Love, Inc. in Richmond.

Dr. Courtney McKay Stevens, BS ’66, is teaching half time at Alvernia College in the BSN program.

Joan K. Wotring, MS, WHCNP ’94, retired as a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve after 26 years of service.

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

Smithing a Slogan

Thanks to everyone that wrote in with a suggested slogan for the VCU School of Nursing. We received some wonderful suggestions, which are currently in review. The selected slogan should be announced in the spring 2007 issue of Connections.
During Reunion Weekend in April 2006, four members of the Class of 1946 (Claire Hodge Dovel, Kate Van Doren Holbrook, Dorothy W. Suter Howard and Mary Ann Horne Tate) shared their memories with the VCU School of Nursing. These nurses began their schooling in 1943 – in the midst of wartime. The MCV School of Nursing graduated three classes that year (February, June and September) to try and meet America’s need, both in civilian and military hospitals. Student nurses worked hard and played hard. It was an experience they will never forget.
In the early 1940's a young woman needed to be 18 years of age to be admitted to the MCV School of Nursing, though occasionally the rules were stretched to allow a student to start the program at 17. Some students came into the program after spending a year or more at other colleges. Becoming a nurse was a dream come true for some with the start of the United States Cadet Nurses Corps. Participating students received a uniform (they had to buy the shoes), free education and a monthly stipend ($15 initially and later $45). In return they served in an essential civilian or military hospital for the remainder of the war. Since the war was over by 1946, many from this class served for 6 months during their final semester of School – going to other areas of the country to help with polio and tuberculosis outbreaks.

The Class of 1946 lived in old Cabaniss Hall, which had no air conditioning, window screens or fans. Students slept three to a “double” room, unless you were lucky enough to get a double “single” to share. Beds were extras from the hospital and each room had one chest of drawers. If you had a room on the east or south side, you woke up covered in soot from the railroad during the summer. Meals were served in the basement and had much to desire. Scrapple was served frequently, soft boiled eggs were raw and hard boiled eggs were soft. One highlight was the homemade ice cream. Students’ ration tickets were given to the College.

Those who came to school in September (often on the train – standing all the way so that soldiers and their families could have seats) were working in the hospital by Christmas. Doctors were few (most were away at war) and nursing students found themselves in supervisory roles early on. They cared for many polio patients; often bonding with the young women patients (some contracted the disease while studying at Longwood College). They nursed young women who developed infections and other effects of illegal abortions. Burn treatment was in its infancy and they suffered with the patients as they gave them healing but painful baths. Penicillin was new and could only be injected by the interns or night supervisor Dorsye Russell, until they taught the nursing students to do it (injections were every three hours).

Nursing students learned to clean it all – from beds to stands to sterilizers (often cooking up a hardboiled egg in the sterilizer afterwards). Cooking and flower arranging were part of the curriculum, and PM care was standard practice (washing all patient’s faces and hands, brushing their teeth and giving backrubs before bedtime). On average, each student cared for 17 patients simultaneously. Long hair (touching your collar) was forbidden, as were wristwatches (nurses carried their watches in their pockets).

When they had time off, students traveled around Richmond in groups of two or three, and wore white gloves. There was a curfew, but the tunnels came in handy for sneaking in and out on your own (once you knew the guards) and there was a back window that you could creep in through. Trips to Grant’s Drug store for pints of ice cream, eating at Chicken in the Rough, or just riding the streetcar all over town were fun excursions (there were few young men to date at the time). Dorothy Suter Howard (the President of the Class of ’46) remembers making and selling BLT sandwiches to raise funds to buy a record player for the Parlor. Playing on the basketball team was a nice diversion. Trips home were fun, but expensive – Claire Hodge Dovel took in laundry to earn money for such a trip at one point. Marye Haltigan Marks remembers the day Red Skelton walked down the sidewalk on Broad Street, calling out “Hi Honey” to her in passing.

The Class of ‘46 says that they wouldn’t trade their experiences in the MCV School of Nursing for anything, and wish to remember some of their very fine teachers – among them Ruth Dalyrymple, nursing arts, Cornelius Friend, surgical, Amy Frances Brown, medicine, The Greer twins (Florence and Gertrude) in ob-gyn, Dorsye Russell and Jennie Matthews, night supervisors and of course, E. Louise Grant, Dean of the School. Thanks to Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Hessler for being guardian house mothers and keeping them “safe by day and night.”

(Above) From left to right: Claire, Dorothy, Mary Anne and Kate visit old Cabaniss Hall during reunion weekend.

Share your memories with the VCU School of Nursing!

Spring 2007 will feature memories from St. Philip School of Nursing. Please contact James Parrish with your memories at (804) 828-5172, jtparrish@vcu.edu, or by mail P.O. Box 980567 Richmond, VA 23298-0567
Nominate a Nurse!

The MCV Alumni Association of VCU invites you to nominate a Nursing alumnus/a to be recognized for outstanding accomplishments and service. You do not have to be an alumnus to submit a nomination. Most awards will be presented during the MCV Campus Reunion Weekend (April 27-29, 2007). For more information, contact the MCV Alumni Office at (804) 828-3900, or (800) 628-7799.

Nurse Alumnus Award for Outstanding Practice – honors an alumnus who exemplifies an innovative, professional and scholarly approach to their practice and contributes to the development of others.

Nurse Alumnus Award for Outstanding Service – celebrates an alumnus who has shown outstanding leadership and service to the community, the School/University, professional or community organizations.

Outstanding Nurse Alumnus Award – honors an alumnus as a leader and expert who has contributed to health-related and other groups and has impacted the nursing profession with creativity and innovation.

To submit a nomination:
Please send nominee name, address and resume/vitae along with your name and phone number to:
MCVAA Awards Committee
Post Office Box 980156
Richmond, VA 23298-0156

Deadline: January 12, 2007