Nursing Research
Improving Care, Changing Lives
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Connections is the official magazine of the VCU School of Nursing and is published twice yearly. Comments and letters may be directed to the editors.

Dean: Nancy F. Langston, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN
Editors: Amy Ridolphi, Kelly Gotschalk, James Parrish and Linda Johnson
Art direction and design: Michael Harl
Contributing photographers: Tom Kojcsich and Jesse Peters
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Virginia Commonwealth University is one of only four research universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a part of such a university, this School of Nursing has a responsibility to assure that the University’s full mission is actualized in the School’s mission. Embracing research as an essential component of nursing and hence our work within a School seems an inherently logical derivation from our professional identity as nurses. With Florence Nightingale as the acknowledged “mother” of modern secular nursing, we might actually expect that research was embedded in the DNA of the discipline.

Numerous 20th century thought leaders in nursing, including Rozella Schlotfeldt, asserted “it was her [Nightingale’s] vision of the profession that established nursing as a field of essential, scholarly work and set forth the focus for inquiries through which to establish the scientific foundations” of the discipline (Schlotfeldt, 1975, p. 180).

Consequently, as we think about nursing and its full mission within a research university, we might think our research and the development of our science is long-standing and hence well established. However, that is simply not the case; full engagement in the conduct of research and its utilization as essential for our practice and education did not emerge for almost a century after Nightingale’s work. Thus we might conclude that while the conduct of science was within the DNA of nursing, it was not strongly heritable! The environment in which nursing was developing was a stronger force.

Continuing with this allegory and our efforts to advance our discipline, we might reflect on the recurring dialogue about the relative significance of nature and nurture on development. “Modern” nursing was developed within a social environment that structured both its education and practice within a service model informed by religious and military metaphors. These metaphors reflected and actually reinforced the expectation for development of nursing within a framework of compliance and subservience to higher orders, whether human or spiritual. The very characteristics that would under gird the development of scientists and science, e.g., intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and inquiry, were “drilled out” of the practice and practitioner by the social systems in which nursing evolved. As we have recovered from such environmental influences, our science has recovered.

Hence this issue of Connections is a story of the current state of development of research as a part of the essence of the work of nursing and of this School. It is also a celebration of Research (with a big “R” representing the development of knowledge) and the emergence of research (with a little “r” recognizing the attributes of intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and use of evidence in practice) as it permeates the work of all members of the community within this, your School of Nursing.
The last century has brought dramatic advances to health care and nursing. Despite the scientific and technological advances, one value has remained unchanged for the VCU School of Nursing: a commitment to providing the best care for patients. That commitment to the highest quality of care is also seen in the research being conducted at the School.

The School of Nursing’s researchers are committed to improving the lives of patients and their families. Whether identifying methods of improving feeding in preemies or helping patients cope with the debilitating symptoms of fibromyalgia, VCU’s contributions to scientific research are making a meaningful impact on the lives of patients and families around the world.

Over the last 20 years, the VCU School of Nursing has strengthened its research program by increasing funding and attracting nationally noted faculty researchers. The School has grown from an institution attracting minimal research funding to a highly ranked program.

The path to a more organized substantial research program began in the late 1990s. Four faculty members, Nancy McCain, D.S.N, R.N., FAAN; Cindy Munro, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; Mary Jo Grap, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; and Rita Pickler, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, engaged in discussions to identify common interests across their various studies. Biobehavioral clinical research emerged as a clear theme despite different study populations and methods.

“We worked a long time to examine our work and identify how it could be integrated through a common framework. From the very beginning, our research program has been a team effort. We could not succeed without working together to sharpen our focus,” McCain said.

Once a common focus was identified, the School set its sights on obtaining center center funding from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). With P20, Exploratory Center funding, the School could provide more extensive support for its junior researchers who needed support for preliminary studies for developing their research. According to the NINR, the P20 grant is targeted at institutions with new programs of research who are focused on building research expertise and research teams.

In 2002, the School submitted its first center grant. Although that first application was unsuccessful, researchers remained focused on their goal.

“We recognized our potential to strengthen our research programs and expand our contributions to nursing knowledge. Seeing the possibilities, we continued supporting our researchers knowing that eventually our P20 grant would be approved,” said Dean Nancy F. Langston, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN.

In 2004, the School submitted a new application and the School was awarded $1.5 million to establish the Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research (CBCR). Over the next five years, the CBCR had a measurable impact on research at the
VCU School of Nursing. Most importantly, the Center provided a support system for researchers early in their programs trajectories of biobehavioral research.

Through the CBCR, 15 junior faculty or post-doctoral students received pilot study funding. Senior Center scientists assisted the pilot study researchers in designing their proposals, developing effective outcome measures, recruiting patients for studies, and measuring and analyzing data.

“The CBCR has been critical in our growth as a School and our development as individual scientists. It has fostered an energy and excitement about nursing and nursing research,” Pickler said. “The reputation that the VCU School of Nursing has built, in part because of the CBCR, has helped us attract many more qualified students and many top-notch faculty to our ranks.”

Continued Growth

In 2009, the P20 funding concluded, but the School continued to expand it research program. In the summer of 2009, NINR awarded the VCU School of Nursing a P30 Center of Excellence grant to establish the Center for Biobehavioral Approaches to Symptom Management (CEBASM). As the School has built name-recognition around the title “Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research,” the School will continue using that name.

According to the NINR, the P30 supports institutions with several years of research experience. These centers include several developmental or foundational research projects organized around shared resources and research infrastructure.

“Receiving funding for the P30 Center was a huge success for the School and our researchers. Among all of the P20-funded nursing schools, the VCU School of Nursing was the only institution to receive P30 funding,” Langston said. “This sets us apart from other programs and demonstrates our research strengths.”

Through the P30 Center the School can continue to develop its research program and support nurse scientists who haven’t yet received major federal funding. It takes the School’s Biobehavioral focus one step further to concentrate on symptom management in patients.

Three of the Center-funded projects are currently in progress. Victoria Menzies, Ph.D., R.N. is studying the impact of guided imagery on patients with fibromyalgia and Nancy Jallo, Ph.D., R.N. is examining the impact of guided imagery on prenatal stress. Suzanne Ameringer, PhD, RN is examining fatigue and related symptoms in young adults with sickle cell disease.

“The School is already reaping the benefits of this new funding and our researchers are engaging in important research that will benefit a broad patient population,” Pickler said.
“Additionally, we’re hosting monthly research forums that not only support our faculty, but also educate our Ph.D. students on important aspects of research. This is an exciting time in the life of our School and our research program.”

**Making an Impact**

Beyond the success of the CBCR, individual faculty are also making an impact at the School of Nursing and improving health care for patients one step at a time. Many of the School’s senior researchers have independent federal funding to explore issues related to critical care, neonatal health and cancer (see pages 10-14 for profiles on these researchers and their work).

Faculty have also garnered national recognition for their contributions to nursing research. Recent honors include:

- Rita Pickler, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN received the 2009 Award for Excellence in Research from the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.
- Mary Jo Grap, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN was selected for the American Academy of Critical Care Nurses’ 2009 Distinguished Nurse Lecture award.
- Nancy McCain, D.S.N., R.N., FAAN was named the 2008 Distinguished Researcher by the Southern Nursing Research Society.
- Debra Lyon (SNRS award from last year)

The School has also taken steps to recognize the successes of its researchers. Earlier this year, Pickler, Grap, McCain and Cindy Munro, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN were named as the VCU School of Nursing’s Nursing Alumni Endowed Professors.

“Each of these faculty members has made significant contributions to our school, our students and our university. In addition to being excellent educators, each of these scientists has made significant contributions to nursing research. Their discoveries are leading to increased understandings of biobehavioral clinical phenomena and important improvements in the care we provide to our patients and their families,” Langston said.

**Facilities and Collaboration**

Two important components of the School’s research success are its impressive facilities and collaboration with the VCU Health System (VCUHS). A portion of the fourth floor of the Nursing Building is dedicated to lab space.

Additionally, many faculty researchers recruit study participants and carry out research at the VCUHS. Studies also rely on the support of physicians, nurses and other scientists also working within VCUHS. The new Critical Care Hospital offers an ideal environment for many of the School’s researchers, particularly those working with premature infants and critically ill adults.

“Our partnership with the VCU Medical Center’s Critical Care Hospital gives us the opportunity to conduct landmark research that is improving the lives of our patients. Without their support, our work would not be possible,” Grap said.

The School’s researchers will continue to develop the science of biobehavioral clinical research. The expansion of this research will occur as we develop and perfect new methods of measurement and analysis of these complex data, including examination of genetic factors that influence health outcomes. Additionally, we expect expansion across a broader scope of clinical focus, including children with cancer, new mothers, and individuals experiencing a wide range of health conditions.

**P30 funded researchers**

**Suzanne Ameringer, Ph.D., R.N.**

More than 30 years ago, Ameringer began her nursing career caring for children and adolescents suffering from cancer. She was struck by the resilience of her young patients and their families. Years later, that experience led her to pursue her Ph.D. and focus her research on adolescents and young adults suffering from chronic disease, specifically symptom management.

Through support from the CBCR, Ameringer recently completed a study to examine the symptoms of adolescents battling cancer. Common symptoms include fatigue, nausea and loss of appetite. She is beginning a study to describe fatigue in adolescents and young adults with sickle cell disease. “These patients have a lot of help with symptom management in the hospital, but receive less support at home. We want to give them the tools to manage their symptoms and live as normally as possible,” Ameringer said.

Eventually, Ameringer would like to examine the effectiveness of certain symptom management interventions for adolescents and young adults suffering from chronic disease. However, she said the first step is to identify and fully understand the range of symptoms that these patients are living with.

**Nancy Jallo, Ph.D., R.N.**

Despite advances in health care, preterm labor continues to be a serious problem in the U.S. In 2009, 12 percent of all births were premature, placing both the mother and baby at risk. Nancy Jallo, Ph.D., R.N., a professor in the VCU School of Nursing’s Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, saw this problem first hand as a nurse in the Sentara Norfolk General. After receiving her Ph.D. in 2007 and joining the VCU faculty, she is now studying the links between maternal stress and preterm labor.

Through the support of the CBCR, Jallo is working with pregnant women treated in VCU’s Nelson Clinic to see if guided imagery can help women better cope with stress. For her study, she is working with women in the early stages of pregnancy. After an initial meeting and blood draw, each
participant is asked to listen to a CD featuring various tracks offering guided meditation. Participants also maintain a journal where they rate their levels of stress.

Jallo checks in with the women throughout their pregnancy to ensure they’re complying with the study. She’s comparing the women using the guided imagery intervention with a control group in which no guided imagery is used to evaluate the effectiveness of this type of stress relief on pregnant women.

Victoria Menzies, Ph.D., R.N.
Fibromyalgia (FMS), a chronic pain and fatigue syndrome, affects three to six million Americans; 90 percent of whom are women. Consequences of living with this syndrome include physical and psychological distress, loss of work productivity and a reduced quality of life. FMS symptoms of pain, fatigue or distressed mood may be worsened by stress, suggesting that mind-body modalities used as adjunctive therapeutic strategies have the potential to help manage these symptoms. Through the support of the CBCR, Menzies is currently exploring the effects of a guided imagery intervention on perceived stress, symptoms and immune markers in women diagnosed with FMS. Study participants randomly assigned to the intervention group receive a CD player and CD with three guided imagery tracks and are asked to use one guided imagery track at least once daily. Whether assigned to the intervention group or to a control group (women who continue their usual care but do not add the guided imagery intervention), each participant is asked to keep a daily journal to record daily pain, fatigue and pain medication usage. Through this research, Menzies hopes to identify what changes, if any, the daily use of a mind-body intervention may make on patients’ levels of FMS symptoms, perceived stress and immune markers.

JoLynne Robins, Ph.D., R.N., ANP-BC, CHTP
While the dangers of cardiovascular disease are well known for men, the condition has been under diagnosed and inadequately treated in women. The causes for this health issue include gender bias, lack of awareness of its prevalence among the public and health care providers, and the unique symptoms common in women.

To address this health issue, Robins is exploring the impact of tai chi on women at risk for developing cardiovascular disease. In her upcoming study, to begin in 2011, supported by the CBCR, Robins seeks to identify potential indicators of effectiveness of tai chi designed for women with cardiometabolic risk. A total of 66 participants will be included in the study, all healthy pre- and peri-menopausal women with abdominal weight gain and a family history of cardiovascular disease.

Jeanne Walter, Ph.D., R.N., FAAMA
Walter’s research focuses on neurocognitive impairment in women with early stage breast cancer. Women receiving chemotherapy not only face the ordeal of recovering from cancer, but may also suffer from cognitive setbacks that persist once treatments are completed. By gaining a better understanding of the link between chemotherapy and mental symptoms, health care providers can better treat cancer patients.

Through her research, Walter is examining the relationships between fatigue, stress, depression and neurocognitive impairment. Additionally, she’s exploring the behavioral and biological markers that could explain precise causes.

The study sample includes 60 women with Stage I or II breast cancer who have undergone surgical treatment (biopsy, lumpectomy or mastectomy) half of whom will be receiving adjuvant chemotherapy and a comparison group of 30 healthy education- and age-matched women without cancer.

Other Researchers
Lisa Brown, Ph.D., R.N.
Like other colleagues at the VCU School of Nursing, Brown’s work is focused on preterm infants, specifically enhancing maternal competence by assessing mother-infant feeding interactions and the factors that affect their outcomes.

Feeding a preterm infant can be more challenging than feeding a term infant. Preterm infants are easily fatigued which can lead to disorganization. These cues of disorganization are observable in the form of color changes (e.g. from pink to pale or blue), coughing or choking, and limp or rigid muscles. The mother’s ability to attend to these cues becomes the basis for her sensitive and responsive management of the feeding.

Sensitive and responsive maternal behavior entails an accurate perception of infant cues and both appropriate and timely responses. Sensitive maternal feeding behaviors support the preterm infant’s ability to maintain attentional focus, help to organize the infant’s behavior and physiology, and promote the attainment of self-regulatory skills.
Through a grant funded by Sigma Theta Tau International and the Southern Nursing Research Society, Brown will explore the relationships among the mother’s Internal Working Model (or mental model) of Feeding, attentional process (visual focus), and feeding behaviors (sensitivity and responsivity). Thirty mothers will be observed once in the NICU while feeding their infant. This study will support the development of interventions to enhance maternal sensitivity and responsivity which forms the basis of maternal competence and Dr Brown’s program of research.

Carolyn Driscoll, Ph.D., R.N.
In the years following a liver transplant, patients face a significantly elevated risk of developing diabetes, dislipidemia and kidney problems. Through her research with liver transplant recipients, Driscoll wants to identify the genetic biomarkers for these conditions.

“We’ve come a long way with liver transplants with regard to surgical techniques and immunosuppressants. However, we now need to focus on issues regarding quality of life and longevity following a transplant,” she said.

Currently, Driscoll is working on two grant proposals. The first will look at inflammatory biomarkers and genetic changes that lead to the development of diabetes, kidney problems and other conditions following the liver transplant. In addition, Driscoll would like to obtain funding to conduct a descriptive study to identify the rates of common complications following a transplant. If the problem is better understand, providers can then address prevention and treatment among these patients.

Tracy Estes, Ph.D., R.N., FNP-BC
Estes, who joined the VCU School of Nursing faculty in 2008, is interested promoting health outcomes in patients with chronic disease, asthma in particular. She is focused on the interaction between patient and healthcare provider and what characteristics lead to the best health outcomes.

The relationship between a patient and his or her healthcare provider can impact adherence to medications, control of symptoms and how the patient accesses healthcare. For example, an asthma patient who has developed a strong working relationship with his or her primary healthcare provider may be more likely to access healthcare services through the clinic rather than making a visit to the Emergency Room.

Currently, Estes is developing a program of research founded on expanding understanding of a survey instrument that measures the characteristics of the patient-healthcare provider relationship.

Linda Haddad, Ph.D., R.N.
Despite the widely known dangers of tobacco use, smoking continues to be a significant health issue throughout the country leading to a number of conditions including lung cancer, asthma and heart conditions.

For the last 10 years, Haddad has studied tobacco prevention and cessation, first in her native Jordan and now as a researcher at the VCU School of Nursing. Through the support of the CBCR and the Tobacco Settlement Foundation, Jordan is studying Trends in Tobacco Cigarette and Water Pipe Use among young Arab Americans in Richmond Metropolitan Area.

Through this project, Haddad wants to determine the prevalence of tobacco cigarette and water pipe smoking use among Arab Americans in Richmond and to compare that data to national and other Arab American data.

In addition, Haddad wants to gauge the effectiveness of smoking cessation efforts among Arab American residents and the influence of culture, social factors, home tobacco policies and demographic and contextual variables on cessation history.

Jeanne Sayler, Ph.D., R.N.
Sayler’s research is focused on symptom clusters in patients with heart failure. These patients face a variety of other issues including high blood pressure, diabetes and other conditions. The goal of this research is to contribute to the developing knowledge of how co-occurring symptoms influence clinically relevant outcomes in patients suffering from heart failure. If health care providers can better understand symptom clusters, they can provide direction for symptom management strategies.

In this study, Sayler will examine the inter-relationships among symptoms commonly experienced by patients with heart failure and identify those symptoms that cluster. Additionally, she will evaluate the impact of these symptom clusters on clinically important outcomes such as quality of life and functional status. Understanding the complex symptom experience of patients with heart failure may broaden the foundation of clinical assessment by demonstrating patterns of association and the additive effects of symptoms on clinical outcomes.

Linda Hughes, Ph.D., R.N.
Each day, health care providers make critical decisions that impact the lives and outcomes of patients. In a hospital setting, effective communication and good decision making can have life or death implications for some patients.

Hughes’ research area is clinical decision making, specifically nurses’ use of
discretion in advocating for patients and communicating with physicians. In a previous study, Hughes studied experienced nurses to identify discretionary or proactive work behaviors that lead those nurses to get what a patient needed. Those nurses were more likely to be persistent with a physician and to follow up on the patient's behalf.

Currently, Hughes is attempting to publish the results of her first study and to explore options for future funding.

Jackie McGrath, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN

Giving birth to a premature baby can be a difficult experience for mother and child. McGrath is examining ways to put preemies on the right path developmentally and reduce hospitals stays.

A federally funded researcher and a neonatal nurse practitioner, McGrath's research is focused on interventions to support developing preterm infants including oral feeding readiness and parent delivered preterm infant massage. She is considered a national expert on integration of developmental interventions with infants and families, she is the co-author of the book, Developmental Care of Newborns and Infants: A Guide for Health Professional (2010), currently in its second edition.

This book was developed out of a taskforce movement within the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN). The text is used for care provision in many NICU's across the country as well as a textbook in several NNP programs.

Angela Starkweather, Ph.D., R.N.

Starkweather's research focuses on depression in patients with brain tumors. While it's natural for terminally ill patients to struggle with a range of emotions, ongoing or serious depression can impact a patient's appetite, sleeping habits and quality of life.

“If patients aren't receiving any type of treatment for symptoms of depression, that limits their ability to make decisions about treatment and end of life care,” she said.

Starkweather is relatively new to the VCU School of Nursing, but has already found support among the School's experienced researchers and the Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research. She said this network will be crucial as she continues develop her program of research.

She currently has an R01 pending with NIH. It would fund her research about biological mechanisms of depression in patients with an brain tumors and how these mechanisms affect patient outcomes.
For patients suffering from cancer, HIV infection and other chronic illnesses, stress management is a critical issue. High levels of stress can lead to a variety of symptoms such as depression, anxiety and insomnia, which can compromise a patient's immune function, treatments and physical and mental health.

For more than 20 years, Dr. McCain's research has focused on testing intervention strategies for stress management in patients suffering from chronic illness. She is widely known for her work in advancing the science of psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) through clinical interventions research.

This summer, she wrapped up her most recent project studying the impact of stress management in women receiving chemotherapy for early-stage breast cancer. Through a $3 grant from the National Cancer Institute, McCain examined the impact of both Tai Chi training and spiritual growth groups with 145 women being treated for breast cancer. Now that the study is complete, McCain is working with her study team to review their data and publish results. Key study investigators include Drs. Jolynne W. Robins, Jeanne M. Walter, R.K. Elswick Jr., D. Patricia Gray, Inez Tuck, Harry D. Bear and Thomas J. Smith, faculty of the Schools of Nursing and Medicine and the Massey Cancer Center.

Beyond her individual research contributions, McCain has continually supported research at the VCU School of Nursing and worked to advance the School's reputation. As principal investigator of a $1.5 million National Institutes of Nursing Research P20 grant, McCain worked with nursing colleagues to establish the Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research (CBCR). Following the P20 grant, the School received a P30 grant to fund the Center of Excellence in Biobehavioral Approaches to Symptom Management (NINR, R. Pickler, PI). McCain serves as biobehavioral science core director of the Center of Excellence, along with co-director Dr. Debra Lyon.

Through her long-term funded research program as well as her leadership in the School of Nursing's center awards, McCain has significantly contributed to the advancement of knowledge related to biobehavioral mechanisms, measurement systems and patient outcomes as well as biobehaviorally focused nursing interventions.
Each year, an estimated 500,000 babies are born prematurely in the U.S. Pre-term infants often face developmental delays, feeding issues and lengthy hospital stays. For nearly 20 years, Pickler has focused on the needs of this fragile patient population and committed herself to improving care for preterm infants and their families.

Her current research, funded through a $2.2 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), investigates feeding care for preterm infants. By identifying when babies are ready for feeding and addressing any barriers, health care providers can put infants on track developmentally and shorten hospital stays. This study continues the work begun her previous $1.5 million R01 from NINR.

Pickler’s contributions to nursing knowledge have established her as a national leader in research that includes years of service as a scientific reviewer of research grants for NIH. Her research has been published in numerous journal and has been presented at numerous conferences and has led to improved care for preterm infants.

Beyond her individual research, Pickler is supporting the research efforts of colleagues and students at the VCU School of Nursing. As principal investigator of a $2.6 million NINR grant, Pickler led the effort to establish the School’s P30 Center of Excellence for Biobehavioral Approaches to Symptom Management. She is also former chair of the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing and is currently the Acting Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship. She was named one of the first four Alumni Endowed Professors in 2009.
Debra Lyon, Ph.D., R.N.

Debra Lyon, Ph.D., R.N., is a testament to the strength of the VCU School of Nursing’s academic programs. A three-time graduate of VCU, Lyon has achieved success as a professor, researcher and administrator.

In 2009, Lyon received a $1.5 million R01 grant from the National Cancer Institute to study the effects of cranial electrical stimulation (CES) for chemotherapy symptoms in breast cancer patients. Women undergoing chemotherapy suffer from a variety of symptoms including depression, anxiety, fatigue, pain and difficulty sleeping. CES is a painless treatment using small bursts of electrical current.

Through her research, Lyon is trying to identify if the use of CES can alleviate these symptoms and improve the quality of life for breast cancer patients.

Her research is another example of the important collaboration occurring at VCU. Fellow nurse researchers Nancy McCain, D.S.N., R.N., FAAN and Jeanne Walter, Ph.D., R.N. and VCU School of Medicine researchers Harry Bear, M.D., Ph.D. and Christine Schubert, Ph.D. are all co-investigators on the grant.

In addition to her independently funded research, Lyon serves as the Science Core Co-Director for the VCU School of Nursing’s Center of Excellence for Biobehavioral Approaches to Symptom Management.

Lyon’s accomplishments extend well beyond research. She is now an administrator at the VCU School of Nursing. This spring, she was named the chair of the School’s Department of Family and Community Health Nursing.
Collaboration is a key component of the research occurring at the VCU School of Nursing. Nursing faculty work with each other and other departments to design studies, enroll patients and measure outcomes.

No two researchers illustrate the benefits of collaboration better than Mary Jo Grap, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN and Cindy Munro, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN. Throughout the last 20 years, they have built a substantial body of research focused on caring for mechanically ventilated patients. Those discoveries have positively impacted care in the ICU and improved lives for countless patients.

According to Dr. Munro, this type is collaboration represents the future of research. “The era of the lone investigator, working in isolation is gone,” she said. “Working as a research team provides a sense of synergy that brings so much more to bear than working alone. The science benefits from our collective wisdom.”

Munro and Grap started working together in 1995. Both researchers were interested in critical care, specifically issues around mechanically ventilated patients. In 1998, they received their first NINR grant as co-investigators studying backrest elevation and oral health in mechanically ventilated patients.

“With the R15, Mary Jo and I were focused on two different issues. However, we were able to use the same patient population to address a multitude of questions related to mechanically ventilated patients,” Munro said.
Since that first grant, Grap and Munro have continued collaborating and their research continues to focus on the care of mechanically ventilated patients. Throughout the last 15 years, their work has also relied on the support of other nurse scientists and researchers in medicine, dentistry and biomedical engineering.

For example, when they needed expertise on pediatric patients, they turned to Rita Pickler, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, a fellow professor at the VCU School of Nursing. Partnerships with Drs. Todd Kitten, Curt Sessler, Kevin Ward and Paul Wenzel have been essential to building their research.

“These partnerships enrich our research and provide wonderful opportunities for the students working with us on these studies. It's reassuring to know that experts in dentistry, biomedical engineering and medicine are just a phone call away,” Grap said.

In 2001, Munro and Grap further expanded their research as each received an R01 grant through NINR. As principal investigator, Munro was awarded a $1.5 million NINR grant to study “Oral Care Intervention in Mechanically Ventilated Adults.” Around the same time, Grap received a $1.5 million grant to study “Sedation Effects in Mechanically Ventilated Patients.” Again, the two scientists worked supported each other in their various research efforts.

In 2008, Munro received a $1.78 million continuation grant from the NINR to continue studying oral care intervention in the critically ill. With this study, she will determine if administering chlorhexidine (antibacterial mouthwash) before intubation reduces chances of developing pneumonia.

This summer, Grap started a new project studying the impact on backrest elevation on skin integrity on the critically ill through a NINR grant. Using a computerized pad, she’s measuring a patient’s pressure points to determine if elevation leads to pressure ulcers. To prevent pneumonia, mechanically ventilated patients are positioned at a 45-degree angle. Grap would to determine if this angle leads to pressure ulcers over time.

Throughout the years, both Munro and Grap have improved the standard of care and improved lives for patients. In addition, they’ve mentored doctoral and post-doctoral students and exposed them to the possibilities open to nurse researchers.

“It’s so rewarding to attend a conference and meet someone who’s read our work and changed the way they care for mechanically ventilated patients. It's wonderful to know that are our work has a real impact on the patients we want to help,” Munro said.

Like her colleague, Grap also takes great pride in her work. “Research is a continual journey. You make a discovery that opens the door to other questions and research opportunities,” she said. “But in the end, it’s all about our patients and making a difference for them one step at a time.”

The students who work on various studies also benefit from involvement with a research team. While one researcher can certainly mentor a student, a team of research with varying experience and knowledge opens doors to greater knowledge.

Importantly, the partnership also energizes everyone involved. “That synergy between us is truly energizing. If I’m experiencing a lull in my research, then I can get energized by what Mary Jo is working on,” Munro said.
The VCU School of Nursing values the importance of research for patients today and long into the future. To help ensure that students understand the important role of research, faculty introduce research early and offer paths for students to enter the field. In addition to learning about nursing science in the classroom, students can also participate in the research programs of the faculty.

“The VCU School of Nursing is not only focused on the research occurring today, but the impact we can have on the next generation of nurse scientists. Our students are exposed to research throughout their education, from undergraduate through master’s and Ph.D. We hope to spark a curiosity about the science of nursing and a commitment to evidence-based practice that will remain with them throughout their careers,” said Dean Nancy Langston, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN.

Kristin Filler (B.S. ’09) came to the VCU School of Nursing as a freshman nursing student in 2005. During her time as an undergraduate student, she discovered a strong interest in both nursing education and research.

“I became interested in education while working as a teaching assistant for the freshman nursing students. I loved standing up in front of the classroom and watching the students as they became excited about nursing. I want to share with others my passion for nursing,” Filler said. “I got involved with research at a later point in my nursing education, as a senior student working in the CBCR. I loved being involved in the studies, working with the nursing faculty and most importantly, the participants. It was a great experience. I see what our faculty has accomplished and I also want the opportunity to improve and enhance nursing practice for the quality of life of our patients.”

After completing her bachelor’s degree, Filler was accepted into the School’s B.S. to Ph.D. program. She also works as a nurse at the VCU Health System gaining valuable healthcare experience. She believes her exposure to research has a positive impact on her nursing skills.

“After my introduction to research as an undergraduate student and then working in my first job as a nurse, I am more prone to ask “why” when performing certain tasks. I also have a passion to promote evidence-based practice to ensure that patients receive the best care,” she said.

Filler has completed one year of her doctoral program and has enjoyed the experience and all that she’s learning.

“I look forward to delving more into the research aspects of the program and continuing to develop as a nurse educator and researcher,” she said. “I know what my future goals are: nursing and research. The B.S. to Ph.D. program will fast track me in achieving those goals.”
Lisa Sievers, an accelerated master’s student, came to the VCU School of Nursing with an eye towards research. After receiving a bachelor’s in physics and master’s in biomedical engineering she was accepted in a Ph.D. program in biomedical engineering. However, Sievers soon realized this wasn’t the right path for her.

“For two years, I worked as a patent examiner. The work was interesting, but I worked in a windowless office with no contact with patients or health care providers,” she said. “I decided to become a nurse so that I could interact with patients, do research and make a difference.”

After starting the accelerated master’s program, Sievers started knocking on doors to find a way to get involved with research. Eventually, she was introduced to Mary Jo Grap, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, a professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. Grap involved her in her work with critical care patients and introduced her to other research assistants.

Currently, Sievers is working with Grap’s study on the impact on backrest elevation on skin integrity for mechanically ventilated patients. Through her work, she’s involved with many aspects of the study such as enrolling patients, collecting data and presenting research posters.

Sievers believes her involvement in research compliments her nursing education and will make her a better nurse once she graduates. “Research encourages you to ask questions and think about why you’re doing what you’re doing. I’m curious about finding other solutions and delving into the literature to see if there are better ways of treating patients,” Sievers said.

**Funding Opportunities**

Allison Montpetit, Ph.D., RN came to the VCU School of Nursing in July 2008 to complete a post-doctoral fellowship. Like Sievers, Montpetit works alongside Drs. Grap and Munro with an interest in critical care research.

“I chose VCU because of the researchers here have phenomenal experience in my research area. They area also committed to interdisciplinary collaboration and maintain wonderful relationships with the VCU Health System,” she said.

Like Grap and Munro, Montpetit’s research focuses on the care of mechanically ventilated patients and hospital-acquired pneumonia. Patients on mechanical ventilators have a one in four chance of developing pneumonia that they did not have upon entering the hospital. Montpetit is examining noninvasive methods of identifying biomarkers that would indicate the onset of pneumonia.

“Patients on mechanically ventilated have a one in four chance “Patients who are mechanically ventilated are at risk of developing pneumonia that they did not have when they arrived at the hospital. By using exhaled breath, we may be able to diagnose and treat pneumonia earlier, we can improve outcomes for patients and decrease hospital stays. Exhaled breath biomarker research has applications for a wide range of patients,” she said.

Although Montpetit has not been at VCU for long, she has already distinguished herself as a promising researcher. She’s the first post-doctoral student to receive a K99 grant from NINR. According to the National Institutes of Health, the K99 was established to support young investigators and put them on the path to successful research careers. Currently, the average investigator doesn’t receive his or her first R01 research grant until the age of 44. The K99 is intended to change this trend by offering up to five years of support.

“The K99 is a wonderful opportunity for young researchers like me. It promotes independent research and helps launch the careers of young researchers,” Montpetit said.

For the first two years of the grant, Montpetit will work on her research, publish results and benefit from the mentorship of more experienced researchers. After that, she will search for a tenure-track research position in which to continue her research.

“I’m so happy that I received both the post-doctoral fellowship at VCU and the K99 funding. The faculty and senior investigators at VCU were so supportive of the K99 application and my work here,” Montpetit said. “These experiences really set a young researcher up for a successful independent career in academic research.”
NRSA Funding

Doctoral students at the VCU School of Nursing also benefit from the availability of National Research Service Awards (NRSA), provided through the National Institute of Nursing Research. These awards help doctoral nursing students get a start in research. Recipients have a faculty sponsor who guides them through the NRSA application process and supports them once they receive funding.

Michelle Frazelle, who started the Ph.D. program in fall 2008 semester, is one of five current Ph.D. students with NRSA funding. While the application process was challenging, Frazelle believes it has been a great experience.

“Applying for the NRSA gets you focused on research much earlier in the process. You think about your dissertation topic and what research areas interest you most,” Frazelle said.

Through the NRSA application process, Frazelle made connections with Cindy Munro, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, a VCU nursing researcher, and Michael Edmond, M.D., MPH, MPA, an internationally recognized expert on infectious disease. Both scientists will be valuable resources throughout her research.

In addition, the funding will allow Frazelle to attend conferences and conduct pilot studies of her research focusing on Healthcare-acquired Infection Risk and Toothbrush Contamination in the ICU.

Currently, the following doctoral nursing students have NRSA funding:

- **Mamoona Arif**
  - Facial Expression During Pain

- **Brenda Baker**
  - Understanding Late Preterm Mothers and Infants

- **Ruth Burk**
  - Predictors of Agitation in the Critically Ill

- **Michelle Frazelle**
  - Healthcare-acquired Infection Risk and Toothbrush Contamination in the ICU

- **Anne Hamilton**
  - Patient Discomfort and Agitation in the ICU: ET Tube Movement Effects

VCU seeks to fill nursing faculty positions

The VCU School of Nursing has several open nursing faculty and administrative positions. Please share with qualified colleagues who may be interested in applying. Open positions include:

- Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship
- Judith B. Collins Distinguished Professorship in Women’s Health
- Two tenure track oncology positions (one for each department)
- Two child health tenure track positions (one requiring PNP)
- One community health tenure track position
- Two adult health tenure track positions
- One collateral Psychiatric-Mental Health position

For more information, please visit www.nursing.vcu.edu or contact Dr. Jacqueline McGrath, chair of the faculty search committee, at (804) 828-1930 or jnmcmgrath@vcu.edu.

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.
NINR Director Presents Mahoney-Hamner Lectureship

In April, the VCU School of Nursing welcomed Patricia Grady, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, director of the National Institute of Nursing Research as she presented the MCV Alumni Association of VCU’s Mahoney-Hamner Nursing Alumni Lectureship.

More than 75 alumni, students and faculty attended the event as Dr. Grady addressed Bringing Science to Life: Translational Interdisciplinary Research.

“Dr. Grady’s visit was a wonderful experience for our faculty, students and alumni. As director of the NINR, she has valuable advice to offer our School, particularly current and future scientists,” said Dean Nancy Langston, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN.

In addition to the lecture, Dr. Grady spent time with doctoral students and faculty offering advice and guidance regarding nursing research. Prior to giving the lecture, she joined VCU nursing researchers for a luncheon. Following the lecture and reception, she met with doctoral students to discuss their futures in nursing research.

“Dr. Grady gave an informative and thought-provoking talk that will help faculty and students in the School of Nursing consider our own future research and scholarship directions,” Rita H. Pickler, PhD, RN, PNP-BC, FAAN, Acting Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship for the VCU School of Nursing.

A recording of the lecture is available on the VCU School of Nursing website. Please see the links below:
Each time I visit the VCU School of Nursing, I am energized by the passion for learning exhibited by the nursing students. As we chat, I absorb their excitement in applying theory to practice in clinical situations. Their enthusiasm is contagious! I eagerly look forward to talking with faculty about their nursing research projects and how they are contributing to the profession and nursing knowledge. As we talk, I feel their passion not only for research but for preparing the next generation of nurses. When my visit concludes, I think, "I want to be like that when I grow up."

As nurses, we understand the value of lifelong learning, particularly given the rapid pace of change in healthcare today.

Personally, I find myself in a stage of life where I have more questions than answers. No longer am I content to accept change without understanding the evidence behind it. “Because we’ve always done it that way,” just isn’t an appropriate answer.

So began the next stage of my educational journey and with the guidance of Dean Langston, I gave serious thought to returning to school. As I explored the educational opportunities Virginia’s colleges offered, I learned that each university, including my alma mater, provides a rich environment. VCU offers one of the nation's best graduate nursing programs with a PhD program focused on preparing nurses to advance clinical nursing practice. However, the dean encouraged me to find a program that would “focus on the nature of the science I wanted to explore.” Following, Dean Langston's wisdom, I narrowed my search to programs that targeted my area of interest - public and health policy.

I am pleased to be continuing on my journey of "life-long learning" and entering a doctoral program this fall. Although I may not be a student at VCU, I know I will have great support from both faculty and students along my journey. No matter where my nursing pursuits take me, VCU School of Nursing always welcomes me home with open and comforting arms.

Terri Adcock Gaffney (B.S., ’81)
Chair, Nursing Division Board
MCV Alumni Association

PS: Alumni can now obtain a permanent e-mail address identifying them as alumni of Virginia Commonwealth University. Visit the Alumni Association for details and write to me at tgaffney@alumni.vcu.edu
On April 25, the MCV Alumni Association of VCU presented its 2010 Nursing Alumni Awards as part of Reunion Weekend. This year’s recipients are listed below.

Outstanding Nurse Alumnus Award:
Janet Younger, Ph.D., R.N. (B.S. ’67, M.S. ’72)
Younger retired from her position as associate dean of academic programs for the VCU School of Nursing in December 2009. She has dedicated nearly 40 years of her academic career to the School and made a meaningful and lasting impact on the School, nursing education and the nursing profession. Throughout her career, Younger held a number of leadership roles including president of the Virginia Board of Nursing and chair of the VCU School of Nursing’s Department of Medical-Surgical Nursing. Younger, and her husband, Carter, were also strong supporters of the VCU School of Nursing’s Building Campaign.

Outstanding Nurse Service Award:
Connie Wornom Bush (B.S., ’80)
An active member of her community, Bush is committed to educating the public about the dangers of cancer and the importance of prevention and early detection. Since 2006, she has received more than 10,000 people through screenings, health fairs and support groups. She serves as the cancer network community outreach coordinator for the Sentara Careplex Hospital in Hampton, Va. She’s the chairman of the Sentara Community Health and Education Committee and was the 2008 recipient of the American Cancer Society Sunrise Award.

Outstanding Nurse Practice Award:
Lynn Goodloe (B.S. ’80, M.S. ’01)
Since 1991, Goodloe has served as the nurse manager for the VCU Health System’s Neurosurgery and Epilepsy Monitoring Unit. For the last seven years, she has worked as a clinical instructor for the VCU School of Nursing. A true leader in neuroscience nursing, Goodloe served as president of the American Association of Neuroscience Nursing in 2005 and was a nurse manager fellow of the American Organization of Nurse Executives in 2006.
The VCU School of Nursing is working with alumni to establish a number of new scholarship for future students. As the cost of education continues to rise, scholarships offer much needed assistance to nursing students. Thanks to the support of dedicated alumni and friends, these funds will support students on their path to nursing.

Janet Younger Scholarship Fund
After her retirement in December 2009, faculty at the VCU School of Nursing (not sure if this is correct) decided to honor Dr. Janet Younger by establishing a scholarship in her name. On May 5, the School announced the scholarship during a retirement party celebrating Younger’s commitment to the School.

For more information about donating to this scholarship, please contact James Parrish at 804-828-5172 or jtparrish@vcu.edu.

Margaret Spaulding Scholarship Fund
Last winter, Margaret Spaulding, Ph.D., R.N., a former faculty member of the VCU School of Nursing, passed away. She was a professor emeritus with the VCU School of Nursing and former chair of the Department of Maternal Child Health.

To honor her service to the School and its students, Betsy Bampton, EdD, RNC-E, WHNP and Judy Collins, M.S., R.N., FAAN are establishing a scholarship honoring Spaulding’s legacy.

For more information about donating to this scholarship, please contact James Parrish at 804-828-5172 or jtparrish@vcu.edu.

Class of 1960 Scholarship Fund
To celebrate their 50th Reunion in April, the Class of 1960 raised more than $20,000 to establish a student scholarship. The Class presented a check to the School on April 24 as part of Reunion Weekend.
Register Today for the Student-Alumni Connector Program

The MCV Alumni Association is partnering with the VCU School of Nursing to pair alumni and students. The program encourages alumni from the School of Nursing and the St. Philip School of Nursing to serve in a nurturing role for second-year nursing students. About 35 students and alumni participated in the fall of 2009.

Alumni play a supportive role to students by contacting them at least once every two weeks to offer words of encouragement during stressful times or to provide a friendly voice celebrating accomplishments or everyday successes. The alumni association and the School of Nursing provide alumni with a list of significant dates in the students' lives, such as birthdays, first clinical rotations, first days of exams and more.

If you are interested in participating, you can register online or contact Michael Greene-Russell (B.S.’91/B), program manager for the MCV Alumni Association, at (804) 828-4595.
Ferguson Appointed to National Expert Panel

Stephanie Ferguson, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the VCU School of Nursing Community Nursing Organization, has been appointed by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to participate in an expert panel guiding the "Study and Report to Understand the Impact of Health Information Technology in Underserved Communities and Those with Health Disparities" mandated by legislation passed in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Ferguson is the only nurse to be appointed to this panel representing a variety of organizations including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. HHS Office of Minority Health, National Quality Forum and many others.

“Throughout her nursing career, Dr. Ferguson has committed herself to improving care for the underserved and addressing health disparities. Her work has extended from our local community of Richmond to throughout the world. We are pleased that she has been selected to be at this important national table and in so doing bring our University, School and Community Nursing Organization prominence at the national level,” said Nancy F. Langston, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Dean of the VCU School of Nursing.

The work of this panel fulfills an important provision within the Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The legislation called for efforts to explore initiatives that could improve health care for all patients through the use of information technology.

VCUHS Celebrates Week of the Nurse

During its annual Week of the Nurse ceremony, the VCU Health System honors nurses working to make a difference for their patients. Many of those honorees are either alumni or faculty of the VCU School of Nursing. Congratulations to the following nurses:

Janet Younger, Ph.D., R.N.: Recognition of Service award
Christi Adams (B.S. ’88): Community Leadership Award
Lauren Floyd (B.S. ‘09): Novice Nurse Award
Shelley Knowlson (B.S. ’96): RN Excellence in Leadership Award
Cindy L. Munro (PhD ’92, NP ’97): VCU School of Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award
Mary Nugent (B.S. ’86): Barbara A. Farley Scholarship Award
Asha H, Solanky (BS ’84, MS ’90, NP ’02, PhD ’98): RN Exemplary Practice Award
Dr. Lyon Named Department Chair

Debra Lyon, Ph.D., R.N., FNP-C, CS, has been appointed as Chair of the VCU School of Nursing’s Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She has been on faculty at VCU School of Nursing since 2004.

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

A VCU alumna, Dr. Lyon earned her B.S., M.S., post-master’s certificate and Ph.D. from the VCU School of Nursing. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship while on faculty at University of Virginia. Previous academic appointments include serving as a Centennial Fellow and Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. Dr. Lyon is dually-certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psychiatric Nursing. She currently practices as a family nurse practitioner in a corporate wellness practice. Her teaching focuses on professional issues for advanced practice and quantitative research design.

Lyon’s research focuses on symptom management in women with breast cancer, specifically complementary and alternative therapies for symptom management. In February 2009, she was awarded a five-year, $1.5 grant from the National Cancer Institute to study the impact of cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) on chemotherapy symptoms in breast cancer patients. CES involves the use of mild pulses of electric current to treat anxiety, stress, pain, depression and other symptoms common during chemotherapy.

In addition to her independently funded research, Lyon serves as the Science Core Co-Director for the VCU School of Nursing’s Center of Excellence for Biobehavioral Approaches to Symptom Management. She is active in a number of professional organizations including the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS), the Oncology Nursing Society and others. She is an associate editor of the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing.

Lyon’s accomplishments have earned her numerous honors including the 2010 D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award, presented by SNRS, and induction into the National Academies of Practice. In 2009, Dr. Lyon was appointed to a three year term as a core reviewer for the Oncology Nursing Society Major Research Grant Program. She starts a four-year term in July 2010 as a standing member of the Biomedical Computing and Health Informatics Study Section, Center for Scientific Review.

“I am excited to have the opportunity to become the Chair of the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing at VCU School of Nursing. Our department has dedicated faculty members who strive for excellence in teaching, research and service focused on women, children, families and communities,” Lyon said.

Faculty Notes

Dr. Brown Receives Grant to Study Infant Feeding

Congratulations to Lisa Brown, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. Her proposal, “Mothers’ Attention and Preterm Infant Feeding” has been selected to receive the 2010 Sigma Theta Tau International/Southern Nursing Research Society Grant in the amount of $4,280.

Dr. Haddad Selected as AAN Fellow

Linda Haddad, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor in the VCU School of Nursing’s Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, has been selected as a fellow by the American Academy of Nursing. Haddad will be inducted in November. The American Academy of Nursing’s approximately 1,500 Fellows are nursing leaders in education, management, practice and research.

Una Vida Sana Receives Grant Funding

The VCU Council for Community Engagement in partnership with the City of Richmond Hispanic Liaison Office and Cross-Over Ministries announced that Allison Gregory, R.N., FNP-BC, a clinical instructor with the VCU School of Nursing, and team (Mark Ryan, M.D. and Sallie Mayer, PharmD, MBA) have been awarded funding of $17,500 for their Community Engagement Grant, Una Vida Sana (UVS). The UVS project will provide multidisciplinary service-learning opportunities for School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy and School of Nursing students while collaborating with CrossOver Ministry and the City of Richmond’s Hispanic Liaison Office to improve the health of the Hispanic community in Richmond.
Join the **MCV Alumni Association**

The MCV Alumni Association is your connection to lifelong educational, career and social networking opportunities. Your continuing involvement with the university is critical to its sustained excellence.

Join now at [www.vcu-mcvalumni.org](http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org).

Or call 804-828-3900 or 800-MCV-7799

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**Members Can Rent the MCV Alumni House**

New for 2009, members of the MCV Alumni Association may now rent the Alumni House for a variety of uses:

- **Receptions** – Weddings, Business, Social
- **Meetings** – large or small conferences, individual breakout rooms, etc.

Call or stop by for details.

804-828-3900 or 800-MCV-7799

1016 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23298

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**Online Journals Access**

Through the VCU Libraries, current students enjoy online access to an amazing range of publications, journals and reports. Now as a benefit of membership in the MCV Alumni Association, alumni can get that same kind of access courtesy of the alumni association’s Online Journals Access provided by EBSCOhost. Alumni can get access to more than 3,350 full-text academic and professional publications plus 1,450 business publications and reports.


**A sample of recently viewed publications:**
- American Journal of Nursing
- Creative Nursing
- Biological Research For Nursing
- Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal
- Autonomic Neuroscience
- Pain Practice
- JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association
- Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology
- International Journal of Social Welfare
- Paediatric Anaesthesia
- The Journal of Alternative & Complementary Medicine
- British Medical Journal
- Annals of Oncology
- New York Times
- Spine
- Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise
- Lancet
- Time Magazine
- People
- Journal of Family Practice
- Women in Business
- Smithsonian
- New England Journal of Medicine
- New York Review of Books
- Fortune
- Futurist
- Brain Research
- Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine
- Nursing Management – UK

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**MCV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**1838**

**VCU MEDICORUM VIRGINIANAE**

**MEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION**

**1838**
Upcoming VCU Nursing Events

August 25, 2010
Fall semester begins

October 7, 2010 – 6 to 10 p.m.
VCU School of Nursing GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Happy Hour at Europaa
1409 East Cary Street, Richmond, Va.

October 24, 2010
MCV Foundation Scholarship Brunch
Jefferson Hotel
Invitations to follow

October 19, 2010 – 6 p.m.
Cabaniss Dinner
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Invitations to follow

December 10, 2010 – 7 p.m.
Winter 2010 School of Nursing Recognition Ceremony
VCU Siegel Center

January 18, 2011
Spring semester begins

April 15-17, 2011
MCV Campus Reunion Weekend
For classes ending in 6 and 1
Details will be available in January 2011

May 20, 2011 - 7 p.m.
Spring 2011 School of Nursing Recognition Ceremony
VCU Siegel Center