NEW LEADERSHIP: NEW OPPORTUNITIES
JEAN GIDDENS SEEKS COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE
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A New Start Toward Greater Distinction

Hello Alumni and Friends.

I am very pleased to join the School of Nursing and work with the talented faculty, staff, students, and alumni to continue the great tradition. From the moment I arrived in July, I have continued to be amazed and proud of the collaborative environment and the enthusiasm within the School of Nursing community.

In this edition of the magazine, you will learn more about my background and learn about the priorities I hope to address during my first year. The good news is that we’re in a great place and have the potential to move from great to even greater distinction.

Also in this edition, I am excited to share news on our interprofessional HRSA grant, the selection of one of our faculty members as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar, and the successful completion of the Cabaniss Leadership Challenge fund raising campaign. In addition, we celebrated an important milestone in October – the naming of our building after Sadie Heath Cabaniss, who was the founding director of our school. This has been a long awaited project that involved many tireless hours of effort by alumni, faculty and friends. I am honored to come into a school where so many great things are happening.

I also draw your attention to the article on page nine featuring alumna Helen Crossley, who turned 105 this summer. She graduated from our school in 1930, when it was known as the Medical College of Virginia School of Nursing. Her story, a reprint from The Washington Post, is engaging and we’re proud to call her an alumna.

In this edition you will be introduced to an outstanding cohort of new faculty, including Dr. Deborah McGuire, a distinguished researcher in oncology and palliative care, and Dr. Leigh Small, a nationally known child obesity expert, who is chair of the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. We are actively recruiting for additional faculty who are committed to biobehavioral and epigenetics research.

We’re off to a strong start this fall and we’re looking forward to an academic year filled with more great accomplishments among our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Let’s continue to work together to provide the best education possible for our students, make great strides in research, and raise the bar of excellence to shape an even brighter future for the School of Nursing.

Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow
New Leadership: New Opportunities
Jean Giddens Seeks Collaborative Excellence

Throughout her distinguished career in nursing and even earlier when she played softball and volleyball at the University of Kansas, Jean Giddens, Ph.D. RN, FAAN, has always been competitive.

That’s one of the reasons why she came on board this summer as the new dean of the VCU School of Nursing, a school that has achieved great distinction and is poised to rise to even greater heights of excellence. Often described as creative, optimistic, and collaborative, Giddens is viewed as the catalyst needed to take the school to the next level.
“VCU’s mission is about people, and Jean is helping advance the human experience through her commitments to teaching, innovation, service and leading-edge health care,” said VCU President Michael Rao, Ph.D. “Jean will make an indelible impact not only on our university but on the lives of people everywhere who need our help most.”

“She is a national leader for a national research university, and I am thrilled that she’s a part of the VCU community,” he added.

Before coming to VCU, Giddens served as executive dean more than 1,800 miles away at the University of New Mexico School of Nursing in Albuquerque, where she was content and thriving. She pursued the opportunity at VCU upon encouragement from colleagues who knew about VCU and thought she would be a good match, according to Giddens. After her initial interview, she agreed.

“I was really drawn to the energy, enthusiasm, talent and drive of the people,” Giddens said. “I felt the school had a lot of untapped potential and they were looking for someone to take it to greater distinction. It was a win-win and good fit for both parties.”

Giddens certainly knows a good fit when she sees it. Initially, she wanted to be an interior decorator when growing up in Kansas City, KS as the middle of five children. Her mother, a nurse and her father, a surgeon, encouraged her to pursue a career in health care and Giddens didn’t need much convincing about nursing.

She enrolled in nursing school at the University of Kansas and obtained a B.S.N. degree. Giddens later earned an M.S.N. from the University of Texas at El Paso and a Ph.D. in education and human resource studies from Colorado State University.

In one of her first jobs, Giddens worked as a staff nurse in the Emergency Department (ED) in Roswell, New Mexico. She caught the attention of faculty at the local community college. “I was always the nurse who welcomed students who came to the ED for a rotation. I didn’t realize the impact I was making until the faculty there asked me to teach a semester.”

“It’s funny how one semester changes your life completely,” she added. “I went from loving my job as an ED nurse to wanting to teach.”

From that point on, Giddens directed her enthusiasm and competitive nature to nursing education, where she became a nationally known expert on curriculum, conceptual learning, educational research, and innovative teaching strategies while serving in various teaching and administrative roles. The author of numerous journal articles, nursing textbooks and electronic media in nursing
education, she was appointed a professor and interim associate dean for academic affairs in 2008 and was named executive dean in 2010.

Her impact extended far beyond the walls of UNM when she created the nationally known web-based program, “The Neighborhood.” This online learning platform allows students to easily connect the concepts they learn to the clinical setting, through virtual patient experiences in a safe environment. The scenarios delve directly into the patient’s experiences, portraying patients of different races, sexual orientation and economic status. “The Neighborhood” is now owned by a national publisher and is used by nursing schools across the country.

“I think it’s a game changer in how we teach students and help them understand health and illness as it relates to an individual’s life,” Giddens said. “It’s about looking at the health condition from the lens of the patient, not just the lens of a nurse. Students don’t get that shared understanding by looking at the textbook and talking about medical conditions.”

“This is an excellent example of effectively using technology to improve teaching and enhancing student engagement,” she added.

Giddens, an Executive Nurse Fellow of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was also involved in another initiative with far reaching impact while at UNM. She was principal investigator of an Academic Progression in Nursing grant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The grant involved the development of a statewide nursing education plan for New Mexico, featuring university and community college partnerships.

“That was a hard project to leave,” she said. “I put a lot of time and energy into it and it is really getting a lot of attention on the national level.”

Eager to take on new challenges at the VCU School of Nursing, Giddens said one of her most urgent priorities is to recruit outstanding, nationally known faculty. She also plans to provide the resources necessary for the continued success of the school’s academic programs and its Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research.

“Jean will make an indelible impact not only on our university but on the lives of people everywhere who need our help most.”

— Michael Rao
“Jean has a stellar record of developing groundbreaking approaches to nursing education. She has the vision and leadership skills to work with faculty, staff, students and alumni to build on the School of Nursing’s outstanding tradition,” said Sheldon M. Retchin, M.D., M.S.P.H., senior vice president of health sciences and CEO of the VCU Health System. “Jean is also well prepared to enhance the synergy between the School of Nursing and the VCU Health System, as well as the other health science schools and the larger community. We are very pleased that she is a part of our efforts to provide the very best in education, research and practice for our students.”

Since her arrival at VCU, Giddens has spent a lot of time learning more about the School of Nursing and getting to know alumni, donors and other stakeholders. She has met one-on-one with every full-time faculty and staff member, as well as student leaders as part of assessing the school's current status and getting input on its future.

“I hope to come to an understanding of the School of Nursing in the context of the larger university. All of our accomplishments are predicated on understanding who we are,” she said, stressing a need to know key stakeholders.

While becoming more familiar with the VCU School of Nursing, Giddens is also getting to know Richmond, a humid, subtropical climate compared to the dry and sunny Albuquerque. Because she loves to do yard work, barbecue, hike, play golf and participate in other outdoor activities in her spare time, she is intrigued by Richmond’s landscape.

“It’s very green here, much deeper and darker green than the forests in New Mexico,” said Giddens. “I especially love the river and the rolling hills south of the river.”

Giddens moved to Richmond with her husband, Jay Corazza. They have four grown children who still live in the west: Jayme Wessels, 35; Chris Giddens, 28; Taylor Corazza, 27, and John Giddens, 26. They also have two granddaughters, Nadia, 7 and Danika, 5, from Jayme.

Giddens said her mom and dad, 83 and 87 respectively, still live in the same house they bought when she was six weeks old. She counts them among the most influential people in her life, along with several mentors along the way.

“The influence of positive role models or mentors in your life and career can’t be understated,” she said. “Through my mentors I have learned the importance of paying that back and helping the next person grow and succeed.”

Dean Giddens is joined by nursing alumni Dr. Kevin Bringle and Dr. Janet Younger at an alumni welcome reception held at the Willow Oaks Country Club in Richmond.

Dean Giddens speaks to alumni and supporters at the Sadie Heath Cabaniss Dinner.

Dean Giddens was a part of a School of Nursing team of faculty, staff and students who ran in the medical mile of the VCU Broad Street Mile event.
A $1.5-million grant will allow the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing to expand an interdisciplinary, community-based pilot program that helps underserved older adults better manage their chronic health conditions and coordinate their care.

The three-year grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will expand and refine an existing model of interprofessional health care education and clinical service focused on improving the health and well-being of residents in their homes. The project eventually will serve as a model across the city and beyond.

Students in the Richmond Health and Wellness Program (RWHP) from the VCU schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine and Social Work, overseen by licensed clinical faculty, already work in teams to provide chronic disease management and medication...
VCU School of Nursing management to seniors living in the Dominion Place, a Richmond senior living facility owned by the Beacon Communities.

The VCU teams currently operate an on-site clinic once a week open to all 247 residents within the Dominion Place. The interprofessional teams of care providers work with patients on chronic health disease management and health promotion, focusing on conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, as well as triaging acute conditions. They also help residents better understand their medications to ensure proper dosing and scheduling, and they coordinate primary care for patients who do not have a provider.

The program was developed to provide coordinated care for low-income, often low-literacy, older adults with limited access to care—adults who many times require multiple providers to manage their complex care.

The VCU Council for Community Engagement awarded SEED funding in April 2012 to help get the first year of the pilot program started. The idea developed as an expansion of the work of Patricia Slaturn, Ph.D., associate professor and geriatric pharmacotherapy program director in the VCU School of Pharmacy, who has directed a student-led pharmacy model at the Imperial Plaza living facility in Richmond for several years.

“What’s most unique about this program is that students get to see residents within their home setting, while also having the opportunity to watch professionals across the spectrum of health care work together,” said Pamela Parsons, Ph.D., geriatric nurse practitioner, assistant professor in the VCU School of Medicine and the School of Nursing, and the project director on the grant. “We are so excited about the RHWP for Older Adults, as it is aligned with VCU’s strategic plan and the Center, bringing services into the community and providing opportunity for students to develop leadership and clinical skills within interprofessional team settings.”

As the program expands through the HRSA grant, more students will be able to participate, and the clinics will be offered twice a week. Through a partnership with the Better Housing Coalition, the clinics will expand to other living facilities in Richmond during the second and third years of the grant. In addition, the program will add a behavioral health component, the teams will start electronic charting and a new pharmaceutical model will be developed to allow the teams to administer outpatient pharmacy services on-site.

“This program is so empowering to our nursing students, as it promotes a leadership role in helping to coordinate patient care through curriculum and practice,” said Lana Sargent, M.S.N., RN, FNP-C, GNP-BC, adult-gerontology nurse practitioner coordinator in the VCU School of Nursing. “It teaches them that they can be leaders within a health care team structure.”

— Lana Sargent
Arlington Resident Celebrates 105th Birthday

By Julie Zauzmer, August 23, 2013
Reprinted from the Washington Post

Helen Crossley was born the year that the Ford Model T was invented, when Theodore Roosevelt was in the White House. She was born before the discovery of penicillin and the invention of the modern zipper; she can remember when her home in Virginia got its first light bulb and can recall the rationing rules during the first world war.

On Saturday, her 105th birthday, Crossley has a lot to look back on — and still finds more to look forward to.

Trim and petite, Crossley has a place in the independent living wing at Culpepper Garden, a retirement home in Arlington County for low- and moderate-income seniors, where she has lived for 32 years. She has been legally blind for six years, but gets around — sometimes using a walker and sometimes walking unaided. Staff members often marvel as she assists other residents who are decades younger.

Asked for the secret to her longevity, she enjoys chirping her favorite line: “This lassie’s taken care of her chassis.” After decades of nursing, she would know.

Crossley graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in 1930, and she still keeps a page from the yearbook — The X-Ray — that says the 22-year-old woman pictured there in fashionable pin curls was a basketball player, a dramatic actress and a contributor to the Skull and Bones school newspaper.

Her nursing degree took her from her native Virginia to jobs in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Dallas and a boarding school in North Carolina for Seminole and Cherokee students. It also brought her to her husband.

She was tending a woman in the hospital, and Crossley’s future husband came to visit. The patient was his then-girlfriend. Crossley still remembers the first time she saw him: “There he was with his white linen shirt on and a stiff-brimmed straw hat.”

After he visited his ailing girlfriend, Crossley walked him out of the hospital. “I said to myself, he’ll forget my name before he gets in the car,” she recalled. Instead, he called a week later to ask her out to dinner. She was surprised and pleased to find he had not brought his girlfriend along.

He proposed on a New Year’s Eve in New York City. “How would you like to marry me and live with me the rest of your life?” he asked. They wed in 1941.

Ten years later, they made a 19-day voyage to Capetown, South Africa. Crossley’s husband, an engineer for the Packard Motor Car Co., spent three years working for the company in several locations in Africa.

When they returned, Crossley became a school nurse in Prince George’s County. At Culpepper Garden, she keeps black-and-white photographs of her years there. They look as if they could be Norman Rockwell illustrations — Crossley in her crisp white dress and nurse’s...
cap sticking a thermometer under the tongue of a clean-cut teenage boy in a button-down shirt, Crossley leaning past neat jars of cotton balls to administer to a young girl on a metal cot.

She retired from the school district at 68 but continued to hold a nursing license until age 96. She brought her medical expertise to bear at the bedsides of family members several times.

“That’s the sad part, you see. I got to nurse them all before they died,” she said. Particularly painful was the loss of her only child, a son who died in a car accident on a Christmas Eve at age 23.

She chose to move to Arlington in 1981 because her husband, a World War II veteran, is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, where she also plans to be buried. “You won’t even have to have a hearse,” she joked. “You just put rollers on the casket and give it a push.”

Crossley’s ready humor is renowned among the staff at Culpepper Garden. As a photographer crouched to take her photograph before her birthday, she said to him, “It’s been a long time since a man’s been on his knees to me.”

“You look perfect,” he told her, and she replied, “You’re more blind than I am.”

Although she jokes about her appearance and her mental and physical capabilities, she also knows how well she has fared. Crossley attends church weekly and, as a music lover, is a regular in the audience when Culpepper Garden hosts concerts or karaoke night.

She credits her continued health to the hard work she did as a child raised on a dairy farm, where every day meant caring for cows and chickens.

She also ascribes much of the credit to God. “Just know the Lord,” she said. “You got it made in the shade when you have Him.”

From The X-Ray yearbook - Helen Crossley was a member of the MCV Sawbonnettes Basketball Team in 1930.
Marilyn Tavenner Confirmed by Senate to Lead Medicare and Medicaid

Two-time VCU alumna Marilyn Tavenner (B.S.’83/N; M.H.A.’89/AHP) won confirmation from the Senate to serve as administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Tavenner had been serving as acting administrator since December 2011. She was the first administrator for the centers confirmed in more than nine years.

Tavenner began her career in nursing in Virginia, where she eventually rose to the leadership of the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), as the CEO at Johnston-Willis Hospital. Tavenner then moved to government service, serving as Virginia’s secretary of health and human resources in the administration of former Governor Tim Kaine, before becoming the principal deputy administrator, and then acting administrator at CMS.

Lauren Goodloe Named to AACN Board

Lauren Goodloe (B.S.’83/N; M.S.’88/N, Ph.D.’00/N), assistant dean for clinical operations at the VCU School of Nursing, was named to the Board of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The AACN sets standards, provides resources and develops the leadership capacity of member schools to advance nursing education, research and practice.

Goodloe is also director of medical nursing and geriatric services and the administrative director of nursing research for the VCU Health System. She is an executive board member of the Children’s Miracle Network of Richmond, the Department of Internal Medicine at VCUHS and the Virginia Partnership for Nursing.

With this new position at the AACN, Goodloe will influence standards that impact undergraduate and graduate education at the national level.

Emily Drake Receives AWHONN Award of Excellence

Emily Drake (Ph.D. ’05/N) received the Award of Excellence in Education from the American Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) at the group’s annual convention in June. An associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing, Drake was recognized for her creative approach to teaching. Though she has no training in theatre, Drake brings drama into the classroom when she appears as Postpartum Polly – a stressed out new mother with curlers in her hair, wearing a bathrobe and carrying a baby. The inspiration for this character came from an article that Drake read in a nursing journal, but Drake has completely brought her to life and students look forward to the appearance of Postpartum Polly each semester.

Drake volunteers for the Charlottesville Children, Youth and Family Services, the Virginia March of Dimes, and has been appointed to the State Health Commissioner’s Work Group on Infant Mortality. She was inducted into the local March of Dimes “Volunteer Hall of Fame.” She has served on the national board of AWHONN, is an active member of the nursing honor society Sigma Theta Tau International and is a member of the International Lactation Consultants Association. In addition to teaching, she has been certified as a lactation consultant, an in-patient obstetrics expert and a clinical nurse leader.
Karen Rose and Beth Collins Sharp Inducted as AAN Fellows

Karen Rose, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, (M.S. ‘86/N) and Beth Collins Sharp, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, (B.S. ‘81/N, M.S. ‘83/N) were inducted as Fellows this fall at the 40th Annual Meeting and Conference of the American Academy of Nursing.

The Academy is composed of more than 2,000 nurse leaders in education, management, practice, policy, and research. The Academy Fellows include hospital and government administrators, college deans, and renowned scientific researchers. With this new class, Fellows will represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 19 countries.

Rose is associate professor of nursing and director of the BSN program at the University of Virginia. She conducts research related to Alzheimer’s disease, including a current NIH-funded study on whether there’s a link between incontinence and Alzheimer’s.

Sharp is senior advisor for women’s health and gender research and senior advisor for nursing at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Her scholarly interests are in the areas of nursing research and practice, high-risk pregnancy, maternal-child/women’s health care, and evidence-based practice.

Josephine Hargis Receives Alumni Star Award

Josephine L. Hargis (B.S.’55/N), retired director of nursing from the Eastern State Hospital, was recognized with the VCU Alumni Star on Oct. 25. The Alumni Stars program, which is sponsored by VCU Alumni, recognizes outstanding graduates who have made significant contributions in the areas of humanitarian and professional achievement. Honorees are selected through faculty recommendations and alumni committees from across the university.

Throughout her life and career, Hargis has distinguished herself as a scholar and as a tireless advocate for the betterment of nursing and patient care. Her numerous degrees and 40-year career as a nurse and director stand as an example established through steadfastness and a deep sense of purpose.

Hargis attended Virginia Union University from 1949-1951. She then completed a B.S. in Nursing degree from the St. Philip School of Nursing at the Medical College of Virginia in 1955 and went on to earn an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Hampton Institute, an M.S. in Adult Psychiatric Nursing from the University of Maryland and two certificates in nursing administration from the American Nurses Association. From 1954 to her retirement in 1994, Hargis’ career included positions from staff nurse to instructor to supervisor. She was the first African-American clinical nurse specialist at the Virginia Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Her 20-plus years at Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, Va., stand among her most notable accomplishments. There, as the first minority director of nursing, she is credited with transforming patient care for geriatric and adult psychiatric patients from a mode of containment to holistic care.
A Letter from The Alumni Chair

As we transition and bid farewell to Dr. Nancy Langston we celebrate more than two decades of exceptional leadership and service as our dean. Dr. Langston's accomplishments are too numerous to list and her commitment to excellence elevated our school's national profile and facilitated a long-awaited state-of-the-art educational facility for students, faculty, and programs affiliated with VCU’s Medical College of Virginia campus.

We welcome Dr. Jean Giddens as our new dean, recognized for her innovative teaching and learning modules, as well as her commitment to student success. She is an energetic leader, committed to supporting and growing a world-class, best-practices community of extraordinary nurses. If you have not yet had the opportunity to meet Dr. Giddens there will be opportunities to do so as she embarks on a meeting and listening tour of VCU nursing alumni.

We also bid farewell to the dual alumni structure separating the Monroe Park and MCV campuses and initiate a new VCU Alumni structure that encourages graduates from all schools of the university graduates to honor the traditions of their school (Nursing, Medicine, Education, Arts, etc.) by selecting it as their primary affiliation (https://www.vcualumni.org) and choose additional affiliations based on additional academic, geographic or shared interest affinity.

For those with strong ties to the MCV Alumni Association, the MCVAA can still be selected as a primary or additional affiliation. In other words, you as an alum have to opportunity to customize your own alumni experience.

The new VCU Alumni structure provides us with an opportunity to establish a VCU SON Alumni Association. The new association potentially benefits alumni and our school in many ways. It will become the primary representative body and voice for all nursing graduates. It will increase leadership opportunities by way of a new governance structure on an association board and allow for enhanced and specialized SON-specific communication and outreach. It also provides nursing with a seat and vote on the new VCU Alumni Board of Governors, ensuring a direct voice before the university’s senior leadership team.

Please introduce yourself to Dr. Giddens, share what made your experience at the School of Nursing so special and ideas on how the educational experiences of our alumni-in-residence might be enhanced. Check out the new VCU Alumni website and take a few moments to customize your membership. Finally, I hope you will lend your voice and influence to allow for the greatest positive impact and experiences for you and all our fellow alumni.

James L. Jenkins, Jr., B.S./N, RN
Chair, VCU School of Nursing Alumni Division
VCU SON Accelerated Class of 2007

In Memory

March 2013
Ms. Carolyn Y. Allen (B.S. ‘85/N)
Mrs. Hazel C. Parrish (Diploma ‘35/N)
Ms. Emily Walter Eichelberger (B.S. ‘63/N)
Ms. Sarah F. Richardson (B.S. ’73/N, M.S. ’88/N)
Mrs. Janet B. Hindle (B.S. ’67/N)

April 2013
Mrs. Mary M. Willems (B.S. ’71/N)
Mrs. Betty Trippett (Diploma ’51/N)

May 2013
Mrs. Alice G. Steele (Cert. ’44/N)
Ms. Dixie L. Moore (B.S. ’67/N)
Mrs. Helen B. Cooper (Diploma ’40/N)
Mrs. Ethel C. Edwards (Diploma ’55/St.P)
Mrs. Elsie G. Couchman (Diploma ’53/N)
Mrs. Miriam S. Stinchfield (Diploma ’41/N)

July 2013
Ms. Kaye H. Maitland (B.S. ’85/N)

August 2013
Mrs. Cynthia A. Scheuermann (B.S. ’79/N)
Mrs. Marguerite U. Runyon (Diploma ’41/N)
Mrs. Vivian S. Wotring (B.S. ’61/N)
The weekend of April 19-21 was jam packed with activities as the School of Nursing welcomed over 100 nursing alumni home to celebrate. The weekend began with the Legacy Lecture in Psychiatric Mental Health with “Every Nurse is a Psychiatric Nurse,” presented by Barbara J. Limandri, Ph.D., APRN, BC (B.S ’70/N), professor of nursing at the Linfield College Good Samaritan School of Nursing in Portland, Ore. Many classes celebrated with dinners and happy hours around town on Friday night.

Saturday was a full day of events, beginning with breakfast in the student lounge for the Nursing Class of 1963. Alumni joined the MCVA for lunch and a meeting at noon at the Omni and then many returned to the School of Nursing for lemonade and cookies, followed by a State of the School address from recently retired Nancy Langston, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, ANEF, reflecting on her 22 years as dean of the VCU School of Nursing.

The 2013 Nursing Alumni Awards were presented to the following:

- **Pat Shell Caulkins (B.S. ’78/N)** - Outstanding Practice Award
- **Mildred Bailey (Diploma ’52/St.P.)** - Outstanding Service Award
- **Lisa Bresenoff Feierstein (B.S. ’78/N)** - Outstanding Alumna Award

Reunion Weekend 2013 Brings Alumni Back to Reconnect

Several members of the Class of 1963 came back for Reunion Weekend.
VCU Nursing Development and Alumni Relations Update

By Brian S. Thomas, Interim Director of Development

Last spring the School of Nursing celebrated the many accomplishments of Dean Nancy Langston during her 22 years of leadership. The transformation of the School’s development and alumni relations program during her tenure can easily be measured in both dollars raised and alumni participation across the School. Total giving to the School of Nursing topped $2.2 million last fiscal year. This compares with $670,000 in 2002. The momentum of the School’s fundraising efforts has not slowed with the transition in leadership. Dean Jean Giddens arrived in July and immediately began engaging alumni, faculty, staff and other friends.

The School of Nursing bid farewell to James Parrish in June. James, who directed the School’s development and alumni relations efforts for the past eight years, has joined VCU’s development staff as Director of Foundation Relations. A national search is underway for a new Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations. During the interim, the MCV Foundation will provide staff support to Kelly Gotschalk and Ethan Scott.

In the last few months the School has seen first-hand what a group of thoughtful and committed alumni and friends can do. The School of Nursing successfully completed the volunteer led Cabaniss Challenge, exceeding the $4 million goal by nearly $60,000. The Cabaniss Challenge was launched to raise endowed funds for nursing scholarships, professorships, and programs that support the School’s mission. As a result of the Cabaniss Challenge, 21 new endowed funds were created and donations increased to 37 existing endowed funds. In June, the School received several major gifts. The VCU Health System made a gift of $1.25 million to establish the Nancy F. Langston Center for Quality, Safety and Innovation. Gail W. Johnson, RN (B.S. ’67; M.S. ’76), CEO of Rainbow Station and chair of the MCV Foundation Board of Trustees, committed $250,000 to establish the Gail W. Johnson Professorship in Leadership and Innovation.

In September, Dean Giddens announced to the faculty the first ever Clinical Scholars Award. This project grew out of the efforts of Mrs. Judith B. Collins, M.S. RNC, FAAN (NP’75), her husband, Mr. Joseph M. Teefey, Dr. Barbara H. Dunn (B.S., ’70/N, Ph.D. ’84, SW), and Dr. JoAnne K. Henry, associate professor emerita. The award will provide opportunities for projects involving clinical practice, teaching, faculty development and research. The 2013-2014 Award is named for Emily (Mimi) C. Bennett (B.S. ’72/N, NP ’76), a women’s health nurse practitioner at VCU for 35 years who retired in 2012. The Clinical Scholars project was able to launch this year as the result of a $100,000 challenge grant from the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation. Meeting this challenge and raising a minimum of $300,000 to endow the program is among the top priorities of the development efforts in the coming year.

It is an exciting time to be at the VCU School of Nursing. Thank you for all that you do to support your School of Nursing.
120 Visionary Leaders
VCU School Nursing

Evelyn C. Bacon (1916-1997)
Betsy A. Bampton
Francine M. Fuoco Barr
Lorna Mill Barrell
Emily C. “Mimi” Bennett
Patricia B Bernal
Golden Bethune-Hill
Wilse Paulette Bishop
Katherine C. Bobbitt
Barbara S. Brown
Carola M. Bruflat
Shelly Buck-Turner
Imogene M. Bunn (1912-2002)
Ursula N. Butts
Sadie Heath Cabaniss (1865-1921)
Marilyn Poindexter Campbell
Mary Elizabeth Lancaster Carnegie (1916-2008)
Bernardine A. Clarke
Martha Stokes Cleveland
Judith B. Collins
Shelley F. Conroy
Mary C. Corley
William Richard Cowling
Patrick J. Coyne
Beauty D. Crummette
Regan L. Crump
Patricia B. Cushnie
Barbara Kinzie Deller
Corinne F. Dorsey
Barbara H. Dunn
Nancy K. Durrett
Sister Patricia A. Eck
Cynthia M. Fagan
Olive J. Faulkner (1896-1988)
Lisa B. Feierstein
Stephanie L. Ferguson
Barbara W. Fleming
Sherry W. Fox
Gloria M. Francis

Theresa Adcock Gaffney
Jerri J. Stuart Garison
Martha Blechar Gibbons
Shirley R. Gibson
Lauren R. Goodloe
E. Louise Grant (1906-1993)
Mary Jo Grap
Betty H. Gwałtney (1918-1983)
Nora Spencer Hammner (1895-1971)
Ann Hamric
Linda C. Hancock
Diane L. Hanna
Josephine L. Hargis
Mayme Wilson Lacy Harris (1912-1992)
Lulu Wolf Hassenplug (1903-1995)
JoAnne K. Henry
Elizabeth A. Hoettels
Gail W. Johnson
Lillian Epps Johnson
Pauline R. Jones-Tate
Mary Jo Ellis Kahn
Frances W Kay
Jill M. Kennedy
Norah Knutsen
Nancy F. Langston
Judith A. Lewis
Margaret G. Lewis
Barbara J. Limandri
Eleanor A. Lynch (1921-2003)
Debra E. Lyon
Sybil MacLean (1897-1985)
Anne Franks Mahoney (1906-2004)
Barbara A. Mark
Bennie Lee Marshall
Nancy McCoy
Carolyn W. McCrocklin
Elizabeth I. Merwin
Emmy R. Miller
Nannie J. Minor (1871-1934)
Trula Minton

Martha W. Moon
Mary Lou Moore
M. Teresa Mullin
Jean Hayter Muny
Barbara A. Munjas
Cindy L. Munro
Judith Parker-Falzoi
Faye L. Peters (1930-2000)
Rita H. Pickler
Clementine S. Pollok
Patricia M. Rager
Deborah A. Raines
Agnes Dillon Randolph (1875-1930)
Barbara A. Reyna
Bell-Jo M. Rodgers
Ariethia V. Rogers
Dorsye E. Russell (1920-2000)
Paula B. Saxby
Beth A. Collins Sharp
Sallie L. Smith
Margaret R. Spaulding (1925-2010)
Jessye Davis Spencer
Judith A. Spross
Tracy Kemp Stallings
Ann Steigleder
Marilyn B. Tavenner
Hilaire J. Thompson
Shirley J. Thompson
Denise Craven Thornby (1954-2012)
Frances Helen Zeigler Tunnell (1894-1963)
Rose Z. Van Vort (1876-1944)
Thelma Walker-Brown (1927– 2008)
Kenneth R. White
Helen W. Wiesmann (1912-1989)
Louise Lomax Winters (1920-2011)
Leslie Groome Wyatt
Jean F. Wyman
Doris B. Yingling (1918-2002)
Janet B. Younger
Ellis Q. Youngkin
Oct. 9 Marks the Celebration of Innovation, Legacy and Leadership

Innovation, legacy and leadership were the dominant themes on Wednesday, Oct. 9 as the VCU School of Nursing hosted three commemorative events – the Mahoney-Hamner Nursing Alumni Lectureship, the Sadie Heath Cabaniss Hall Building Dedication Ceremony, and the Sadie Heath Cabaniss Society Dinner. Alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends came together to reflect and celebrate at each activity.

Activities began with the Mahoney-Hamner Nursing Alumni Lectureship by Diana J. Mason, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, DHL (Hon.), the Rudin Professor of Nursing at the Hunter College-Bellevue School of Nursing, City University of New York. Mason discussed the topic “Transforming Health Care: Lessons from Nursing Innovators.” She shared examples of nurses who have created successful models of care to address what patients and families need. Mason also encouraged nurses to be leaders and to be strategic in acting on their vision to promote health.

Due to the weather, the Building Dedication Ceremony was held later that afternoon in Younger Auditorium, where a photo was unveiled showing the building’s name, Sadie Heath Cabaniss Hall. The building is named in honor of Sadie Heath Cabaniss, a nursing pioneer who founded the VCU School of Nursing. Several members of the Cabaniss family were in attendance, including Mr. Robert (Bob) W. Cabaniss, Jr., Mrs. Edie Cabaniss, Mr. James Cabaniss and Mrs. Suzanne Cabaniss.

“The greatest mark we can make is the success of our people, including students, faculty, staff, alumni – all who will impact the community in profound ways through commitments to helping other human beings,” said VCU President Michael Rao, Ph.D. “It’s so fitting, then, to honor one of the first champions of this idea at VCU—and who personified commitment so well—Sadie Heath Cabaniss. In doing so, we remember and
proudly recognize her contributions by naming the School of Nursing building in her memory.

The naming of the building represents the culmination of the Cabaniss Leadership Challenge, a $4 million fund raising campaign that was chaired by Corinne Dorsey (Diploma ’54/N, B.S. ’65/N). Following the dedication, the school celebrated Sadie’s 148th birthday with cake and ice cream in the Student Lounge.

Activities concluded with the Sadie Heath Cabaniss Society Dinner at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing, recognized first-time distinguished donors who were present at the dinner. A distinguished donor is one that makes gifts to the school totaling $1,000 or more during a fiscal year. First-time distinguished donors who were present include Ann Hamric, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, associate dean of academic programs; Ph.D. candidate Kristin Filler, RN, (B.S. ’09); Arlethia Rogers (Diploma ’60/St.P, B.S. ’96/N); Becky Bowers Lanier; and Mary Jane Hogue.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Clinical Scholars Award. Kathleen Bell, M.S.N., RNC-OB, WHNP-BC (B.S. ’07/N, M.S. ’11/N), clinical instructor, and Susan Lindner, M.S.N., RNC (B.S. ’04/N), assistant clinical professor, both in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, were recognized as the first recipients. The first Clinical Scholars Award is named in honor of Emily C. “Mimi” Bennett (B.S. ’72/N, M.S. ’76/N), who retired a little over a year ago after 35 years of service to the Richmond community as a nurse practitioner. Bell and Linder received the award based on their proposal, “Improving Birth Outcomes Through a Birth Companion Program: Educating Nursing Students as Doulas.”
Candace Burton Named a 2013 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ‘Nurse Faculty Scholar’

Candace W. Burton, Ph.D., RN, FNE, an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, is one of just 12 nursing educators from across the United States to win a highly competitive grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Nurse Faculty Scholars program this year. Burton will receive a three-year, $350,000 award to promote her academic career and support her research. The Nurse Faculty Scholar award is given to junior faculty who show outstanding promise as future leaders in academic nursing.

“This award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides a wonderful opportunity for me to grow as a nurse leader and scientist, as well as to explore the intersections of nursing science, epigenetics, and the health impact of teen dating violence,” Burton said.

For her research project, Burton plans to combine epigenetic science with her passion for reducing the effects of intimate partner violence. Epigenetics is the study of changes that can occur in an individual’s genome as a result of outside influence—such as acute stress. In this case, the stress is that of experiencing teen dating violence, and Burton’s study will be the first to examine these changes in affected young women.

“The importance here is the fact that some of these changes have been shown in adult women following intimate partner violence, and in those women we see increases in problems like chronic pain, sleep disturbance, and cardiovascular disease,” Burton said. “If we can identify these changes in younger women, we may be able to reduce or prevent their progression to chronic illness.”

The RWJF Nurse Faculty Scholars program is strengthening the academic productivity and overall excellence of nursing schools by developing the next generation of leaders in academic nursing. Burton is a part of the program’s sixth cohort.

To learn more about the program, visit www.nursefacultyscholars.org.

Jo Robins Wins PeRQ Grant for Collaborative Study

Jo Robins, RN, ANP-BC, AHN-C, CHTP, (M.S. ’91/N, Ph.D. ’99/N) assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, and her co-investigator, Wendy Kliewer, Ph.D., chair and professor of psychology in the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences, were selected for a $50,000 grant from the VCU Presidential Research Quest Fund (PeRQ). Their interdisciplinary study, "Project HEART: Health and Resilience in Teens," will examine the impact of stress on the physical body of mothers of teenagers in underserved communities in the Richmond area and its surrounding communities.

Retired Dean Nancy Langston Receives VCU Presidential Medallion

Retired VCU School of Nursing Dean Nancy Langston, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, ANEF, was honored this fall at the VCU Convocation with the Presidential Medallion. Langston was recognized for numerous accomplishments that led the VCU School of Nursing to achieve great distinction during the 22 years she served as dean and professor.

“Virginia Commonwealth University is a place of high expectations, and no one has done more to advance those high standards than Nancy Langston,” said VCU President Michael Rao. “We celebrate the legacy she has built for the School of Nursing at VCU. Simply put, it is a legacy of profound national excellence that has elevated the entire university and has made a difference for every alumnus and alumna of the school.”
Angela Starkweather Receives NIH Grant for Back Pain Study

Angela Starkweather, Ph.D., RN, associate professor and chair of the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems, is the principal investigator of a three-year back pain study that has been awarded a $1.27 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health. The study is titled "Pain Sensitivity in Low Back Pain." Her study team includes Debra Lyon, Ph.D., RN, FNP-BC, FNAP, FAAN, associate dean for research and the Judith B. Collins and Joseph M. Teeffy Distinguished Professor; Nancy McCain, D.S.N., RN, FAAN, Nursing Alumni Distinguished Professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems; R.K. Elswick, Ph.D., director of Biostatistics and Data Services; and Susan Dorsey, Ph.D., RN FAAN, associate professor and associate dean for research at the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

Leigh Small Named American Academy of Nursing Fellow

Leigh Small, Ph.D., RN, CPNP-PC, FNAP, FAAN, associate professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, is one of 172 nurse leaders inducted as Fellows during the American Academy of Nursing’s 40th annual meeting held this fall in Washington, D.C.

The Academy is composed of more than 2,000 nurse leaders in education, management, practice, policy, and research. The Academy Fellows include hospital and government administrators, college deans, and renowned scientific researchers. With this new class, Fellows will represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 19 countries.

“Selection for fellowship in the Academy is one of the most prestigious honors in the field of nursing,” said Academy president Joanne Disch, Ph.D., RN, FAAN.

Selection criteria include evidence of significant contributions to nursing and health care and sponsorship by two current Academy Fellows. Applicants are reviewed by a panel comprised of elected and appointed Fellows, and selection is based, in part, on the extent the nominee’s nursing careers influenced health policies and the health and wellbeing of all.

Small is a nationally renowned researcher who focuses on prevention and treatment interventions with obese/overweight young children and their parents to enhance parental and child outcomes; and young children who have experienced an unanticipated ICU hospitalization, and their parents. She has published in several professional journals and has been nationally recognized for nursing education excellence.

Small earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Keuka College in Keuka, N.Y. and both a master’s degree in pediatric nursing and a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Rochester School of Nursing in Rochester, N.Y.

Ann Hamric Publishes 5th Edition of Advanced Practice Book

Ann Hamric, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, associate dean of academic programs, recently published the 5th edition of her book "Advanced Practice Nursing: An Integrative Approach." The book addresses all major advanced practice nursing competencies, roles and issues. Co-authors include Charlene M. Hanson, Ed.D. RN, CS, FNP, FAAN; Mary Fran Tracy, Ph.D., RN, CCNS, FAAN; and Eileen T. O’Grady.

Audrey Roberson Named VONEL Scholar

Ph.D. candidate Audrey R. Roberson, M.S., RN, CPAN, CNS-BC, nurse manager and clinical nurse specialist at the VCU Health System, received the 2013 VONEL Sara Tatem Scholarship at the Virginia Nurses Foundation Gala on Sept. 28. The scholarship honors Sara Tatem, who was the driving force in creating the Virginia Society for Nursing Service Administrators. This organization evolved into the Virginia Organization of Nurse Executives and Leaders.
Tara Albrecht, Ph.D., RN, ACNP-BC, joins the School of Nursing as an assistant professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently served as a post-doc at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. She earned a B.S. in biology from University of Massachusetts, as well as B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees all in nursing from the University of Virginia.

Genevieve Beaird, RN (B.S. ’09/N, M.S/ ’11/N), joins the School of Nursing as assistant director of the Clinical Learning Center. Beaird most recently served as an adjunct instructor at the School of Nursing. She is a clinical nurse in Labor and Delivery at the VCU Medical Center. Beaird earned a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Virginia and both a bachelor’s and master's in nursing at VCU.

Candace Johnson, Ph.D.(c), (B.S. ’07/N, M.P.H. ’07), joins the School of Nursing as an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. Johnson most recently defended her dissertation, titled “Dance/modified yoga: A Health Strategy for African-American women at risk for Chronic Diseases,” at the University of Virginia, and served as an adjunct nursing faculty member at Fortis College. She earned a B.S. in nursing from the VCU School of Nursing and an M.P.H. from VCU.

Colleen Lynch, M.S.N., RN, CPHQ, joins the School of Nursing as assistant director for quality improvement education. She most recently served as director of performance measurement and improvement at the Community Care Network of Virginia. She earned a B.S.N. and M.S.N. (nursing administration/adult health) from Villanova University.

Deborah McGuire, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, a nationally renowned researcher in oncology and palliative care, joins the School of Nursing as a professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently served as a professor at the University of Maryland’s School of Nursing. McGuire earned a B.S.N. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and received both an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing.
Carla Nye, D.N.P, ARNP, CPNP-PC, CNE, joins the School of Nursing as director of the Clinical Learning Center. She most recently served as an instructor and a clinical collaborative, VA Nursing Academy Faculty at the University of South Florida. She earned a B.S. in nursing from the University of Delaware, an M.S. in nursing from the University of Washington and a D.N.P. from the University of South Florida.

Tracye Proffitt, M.S., CCRN, joins the School of Nursing as a clinical instructor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She most recently served as a clinical adjunct faculty member. She earned an A.A.S. in nursing from Rappahannock Community College, and both a B.S. in nursing and M.S. in nursing (adult health/acute care clinical nurse specialist concentration) from the VCU School of Nursing.

Leigh Small, Ph.D., RN, CPNP-PC, FNAP, FAAN, a nationally renowned child obesity researcher, joins the School of Nursing as an associate professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She most recently served as director of the Center for Healthy Families Research and coordinator of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner DNP Program at Arizona State University’s College of Nursing and Health Innovation. Small earned a B.S.N. from Keuka College in Keuka, N.Y, and both an M.S. in pediatric nursing and a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Rochester School of Nursing.

Jamie Sturgill, Ph.D., joins the School of Nursing as an assistant professor and director of Biobehavioral Laboratory Services. She most recently served as a research assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at VCU. She earned B.S. in biology from the University of Kentucky and both a basic health sciences certificate in microbiology and immunology, and a Ph.D. in immunology from VCU.
Upcoming VCU Nursing Events

December 13, 2013
Recognition Ceremony
Greater Richmond Convention Center

VCU nursing student Jenna Hulton checks a patient’s blood pressure at the annual Remote Area Medical (RAM) event held in Wise, Va., bringing together hundreds of volunteer physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, students and other health care professionals to provide a variety of free medical services.

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