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July 10, 2000

UniverCity News

Vol. 28 No. 20

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY, THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA HOSPITALS & MCV PHYSICIANS

Retired VCU Pediatrician First Virginian to Receive AMA Award

50 Year Hospital Veteran, Founder
of MCVH's Child Chest Clinic

by Marcia L. Meredith
University News Services

Edwin Lawrence Kendig Jr., M.D., a retired pediatrics professor from Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, recently received the American Medical Association's Distinguished Service Award.



Edwin Kendig

An internationally acclaimed children's pulmonary disease pioneer, Kendig is the first Virginian and first pediatrician since 1948 to have received the AMA's highest honor. The award is given annually for meritorious service in the science and art of medicine.

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Research @ VCU

OPRR Approves Establishment
of VCU-Based IRB Panel
Review of New, Previously
Approved Studies Expected to
Accelerate

High Research Honors
Bestowed on Faculty Members
Dewey, Balster Honored
for Drug Abuse Research

Grants to Date

\$106,698,135

See the Research @ VCU section for
detailed list of grants and awardees.

VCU Health System Brings Changes to Health Center

CEO, Senior Management Structure Approved for VCU Health System Authority

by Erin Lucero
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Authority board of directors approved a chief executive officer and senior management structure for the new VCU Health System Authority. The VCU Health System will consolidate all the university's clinical services into one unified organization.

At a joint meeting between the MCV Hospitals Authority board and the VCU board of visitors held on

June 12, Hermes A. Kontos, M.D., Ph.D., was affirmed as the CEO of the VCU Health System Authority. Kontos' selection as CEO of the VCU Health System was designated by General Assembly legislation, which directed that VCU's vice president for health sciences should serve in the newly created CEO position, pending affirmation by the boards of VCU and the MCV Hospitals Authority. Kontos, who has served as vice president since 1997, will assume his dual role on July 1.

"Dr. Kontos is ideally equipped to oversee the integration of clinical

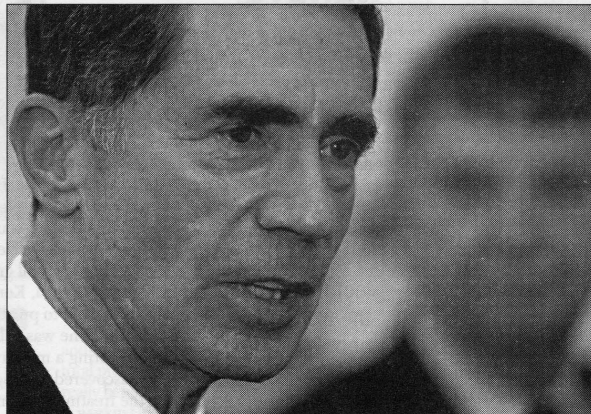
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President Trani Comments on Creation of VCU Health System

On June 13, Dr. Eugene P. Trani, Virginia Commonwealth University president and chairman of the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Authority board of directors, spoke to the board about the creation of the VCU Health System. He described the health system as the best way for MCV Hospitals to position itself for today's health-care marketplace through bolstering existing strengths and maximizing efficiencies.

"In 1996, we created the MCV Hospitals Authority as the first step in a process, but we knew that we could not stop there. The creation of the VCU Health System continues the transition by allowing us to better manage a situation that faces

See DR. TRANI page 6



Sen. Charles S. Robb recently visited with Virginia Commonwealth University faculty, staff and students to discuss current health care issues facing Congress, including

Congressional Visit

access to health care, HMO reform, prescription drugs and other issues critical to the VCU Health System. After the luncheon, hosted by the President's Office and the Division External Relations, Robb toured VCU's Massey Cancer Center and several other VCU facilities.

access to health care, HMO reform, prescription drugs and other issues critical to the VCU Health System. After the luncheon, hosted by the President's Office and the Division External Relations, Robb toured VCU's Massey Cancer

Allied Health Professions Thanks Faculty for Top National Rankings

Three of School's
Programs Ranked by
U.S. News & World Report

by Lisette Linares
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Allied Health Professions recently gathered together to recognize faculty and staff for a job well done. Three of the School's programs were among 10 VCU programs ranked nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Three allied health professions programs — Health Administration, Rehabilitation Counseling and Physical Therapy — were ranked in the top 15 for the publication's "Best Graduate Schools" 2001 report.

"Clearly, when we talk about quality at VCU, it begins with the schools, and the School of Allied Health Professions is the highest ranked school at VCU and in the

See ALLIED HEALTH page 4

VCU'S MCV Hospitals Authority Board 2000-01 Budget

Budget Includes Staff Reductions

by Erin Lucero
University News Services

The board of Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Authority recently approved the hospital's 2000-2001 operating budget. The budget projects revenues of \$434.5 million, representing a slight increase over the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

As part of the budget package, the board approved specific expense reductions including the elimination of a total of 101 staff positions at MCV Hospitals and MCV Physicians, the practice plan for university physicians. Hospital administrators expect that many of these employees will take other positions within the organization. The board also authorized abolishing 128 additional positions that are currently vacant.

Dr. Eugene P. Trani, chairman of the MCVHA board of directors and president of VCU, indicated that these reductions were necessary to maintain the financial viability of the hospital and to protect the hospital's long-term commitments to patient care, research and teaching. He cited financial pressures resulting from managed care reimbursements as well as federal reductions in Medicare reimbursements resulting from the 1998-2002 Balanced Budget Act as playing roles in the budget cuts.

"Financial pressures and difficult choices are facing all health-care institutions at this time, particularly acad-

emic medical centers," said Dr. Trani. "In addition to these necessary budget cuts, we are also establishing the VCU Health System, which we believe to be our best opportunity for strengthening the hospital's operations and financial viability."

Hospital administrators noted that the reductions were difficult to make with the hospital's costs already among the lowest of its peer teaching hospitals. The expense cuts were carefully planned to minimize reductions in services and to ensure continuation of quality patient care, and the majority of employees affected are not directly involved in patient care.

Employees affected by the cutbacks will receive severance packages as well as job search resources. In one-on-one conversations with their managers, they will be given the option of receiving severance pay or working through their termination date.

In October 1999, the MCVHA board eliminated 43 filled positions and 106 vacant positions. More than half of the employees affected have since taken other positions within the organization.

With more than 5,000 employees, MCV Hospitals is the teaching facility of VCU and a regional referral center for the Mid-Atlantic region. MCV Hospitals is the region's only Level I Trauma Center and provides a variety of other specialty services for the region.

Hospital administrators cited recent developments at MCV Hospitals that are expected to further bolster the hospitals existing strengths. Key faculty physician appointments in the departments of surgery and pediatrics as well as the Stony Point expansion and the addition of the Gateway Building are expected to bring opportunities for continued growth and development.

"In addition to these necessary budget cuts, we are also establishing the VCU Health System, which we believe to be our best opportunity for strengthening the hospital's operations and financial viability."

State Makes Revisions to Employee Grievance Procedure

by Sherrie Macklin
University News Services

Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore and the General Assembly approved changes to the State Employee Grievance Procedure, which became effective on July 1. Also on July 1, the Department of Employee Relations Counselors — who oversee compliance pertaining to the grievance process — will change its name to the Department of Employment Dispute Resolution (EDR).

The following are highlights of the grievance process changes:

- Employees will be able to appeal to the Circuit Court if they feel a hearing decision is not legally correct. If an employee "substantially prevails" on appeal, the court will award reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Previously, hearing decisions were final and binding if consistent with policy and law; the Circuit Court only issued and orders to implement decisions.

- Management must have EDR approval to appeal to the Circuit Court.
- EDR will publish on its Web

page copies of pre-hearing rulings with the parties' names removed. Hearing decisions will be published in their entirety.

- EDR will hire two full-time hearing officers to review complaints at grievance hearings. Experienced hearing officers understand the grievance process and related state employment issues, and they can render more consistent decisions that comply with law.

- The revised procedure also requires both employee and management to produce supporting documents when requested unless either party can show "just cause." EDR will determine when "just cause" applies.

- VCU's Human Resource Division will provide employee relations specialists for confidential counseling to employees and managers to offer problem resolution, review draft complaints or responses, and provide guidance on the grievance process and new changes.

For details about the changes to the State Employee Grievance Procedure, call 828-1510 or e-mail questions to emprel@vcu.edu.

KENDIG

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"I was quite surprised, but very pleased when the AMA told me that I had been chosen for the award," said Kendig, editor of North America's first medical textbook on childhood chest diseases — the only publication dedicated to this topic for 25 years. The fifth and sixth edition of his book are titled "Kendig's Disorders of the Respiratory Tract in Children."

"Dr. Kendig is the epitome of a Virginia gentleman and physician," said Percy Wootton, M.D., a member of VCU's board of visitors and clinical professor of medicine at VCU. "I've given medical lectures around the world and once people realized that I was from Virginia, they would immediately ask if I knew Dr. Kendig."

"I've given medical lectures around the world and once people realized that I was from Virginia, they would immediately ask if I knew Dr. Kendig."

humility and understanding from the patient perspective," he said. Following his recuperation, he studied pediatric pulmonology at Johns Hopkins University and served as an instructor.

In 1944 at VCU, Kendig served as a member of the medical faculty and in 1958 became a professor of pediatrics. At that time, he established and directed the MCVH Child Chest Clinic, now known as the Pediatric Pulmonary Center, for five decades. In recognition of his many achievements at the university, the Edwin Lawrence Kendig Jr., M.D., Distinguished Professorship in Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine was established.

Among his many accomplishments, Kendig served as: president of the American Academy of Pediatrics; president of the Virginia State Board of Medicine; the chief of staff at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital and member of UVAs board of visitors for 11 years. He also supported fluoridation of water in the City of Richmond and crusaded for immu-

HEALTH SYSTEM

continued from page 1

services," said Dr. Eugene P. Trani, chairman of MCV Hospitals Authority board of directors and president of VCU. "He has been a key player in strategic planning for the health sciences and has a clear vision for how the move to an integrated system will promote efficiencies and allow our organization to respond quickly to marketplace changes and opportunities."

A member of the medical school faculty and administrator since 1964, Kontos also has served as dean of the School of Medicine since 1994. On July 1, he will relinquish the deanship to Heber H. Newsome, M.D., who currently is senior associate dean of the medical school.

At their June 13 meeting, the MCV Hospitals Authority board approved the senior management structure of the VCU Health System. The senior managers will develop the operational structure for the new health system. MCV Hospitals, MCV Physicians — the practice plan for physicians associated with the university — and the clinical portions of VCU's School of Medicine have functioned in a coordinated but autonomous manner, with separate budgets and resources.

"These changes will allow the health system to continue to build on its existing strengths and position itself for today's health-care marketplace," said Dr. Trani. "We've already seen the benefits of some key faculty physician appointments in the departments of surgery and pediatrics. In addition, the hospital is enhancing its physical facility with the addition of the Gateway Building on the downtown campus and the oncology expansion at Stony Point."

The General Assembly also approved legislation that will expand the board of directors overseeing the operation of the health system. From its current 16 members, the board will be expanded by five additional appointments from among the university's physician faculty. These physicians, nominated by their peers, will ultimately be chosen by the governor or the General Assembly.

At this time, only the Virginia Senate's appointment of John Ward, M.D., a pediatric neurosurgeon, has been announced.

nizations against polio.

A worldwide lecturer, Kendig is author of hundreds of scientific publications and editorials, primarily on tuberculosis and other diseases of the chest.

Four of his published works have appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

UniverCity News

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Submissions to *UniverCity News* can be mailed to P.O. Box 842036; faxed to 828-2018; or e-mailed to peclippin@starn.vcu.edu. Photographs and letters are also welcome.



An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University

VCU Graduate Art Students Garner National Awards

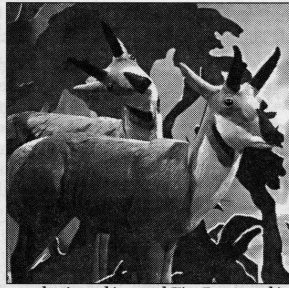
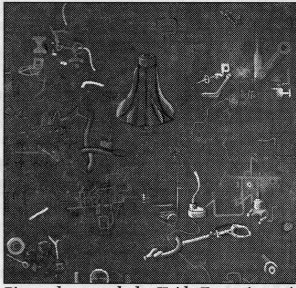
by Lissette Linares
University News Services

Two of 10 prestigious awards given nationally to promising young artists recently were awarded to Virginia Commonwealth University graduate art students Kim Baronowski and Heide Trepanier. Each received \$10,000 from the Joan Mitchell Foundation, Inc., to assist them in their transition from academic to professional studio work.

"We are extremely proud of the work and achievements of these young artists," said Richard Toscan, Ph.D., dean of VCU's School of the Arts. "They are representative of the tremendous talent we have here at VCU among both our students and faculty."

Baronowski recently graduated from VCU's graduate sculpture program. Her room-size installations use surreal backdrops and exaggerated images from the natural world to explore perceptions of the images and reconnect the audience with nature. Her work has been featured both nationally and internationally, including at the Corcoran Gallery and Washington Project for the Arts in Washington, D.C. and the University of Shanghai in Shanghai, China.

Trepanier, a VCU MFA painting and printmaking graduate, also was awarded the \$10,000 prize for her wall paintings, which incorporate color, shape and line to show how humans, machines and the environment interact. Her work has been shown at the Marchtuz Gallery in Aix en Provence, France,



Pictured are works by Heide Trepanier, painting and printmaking, and Kim Baronowski, sculpture, who each were awarded \$10,000 from the Joan Mitchell Foundation, Inc.

the University of Shanghai and local and regional venues.

Since its creation in 1997, the annual Joan Mitchell Foundation Master of Fine Arts Grant Program has awarded more than 40 grants to young artists. The program is open to students in sculpture and painting who are enrolled in their second year of graduate study at one of 28 select art schools, including VCU. The grants are awarded for artistic quality and financial need.

Other schools with award winners this year include Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; Columbia University, New York City; Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, R.I.; Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pa.; Tyler School of Art of Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.; Hunter College, New York City; and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass. VCU and Cranbrook Academy of Art both received two awards each.



A newly renovated OB/GYN clinic was celebrated by representatives of Virginia Commonwealth University's MCV Hospitals Women's HealthCare during a ceremony held last month. The new clinic, located on the 5th and 6th floors of the Nelson Clinic, consolidates all of the hospital's outpatient gynecologic and general obstetric care services. In addition to

A New Look

a new ultrasound unit and state-of-the-art exam rooms, the clinic offers a wide range of prenatal education and high-risk specialty care programs.

VCU Student Named Gates Millennium Scholar

by BeeGee Brem
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University doctoral student Brandy N. Rutledge found herself seated next to computer guru Bill Gates at a recent Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation news conference in Seattle, Wash. Gates had invited Rutledge to attend the news conference making her one of 20 students named to the inaugural class of 4,100 Gates Millennium Scholars, chosen from more than 62,000 applicants.

From among the 20 scholars present, the foundation chose Rutledge and three others to speak to the gathering of media and business professionals. Rutledge expressed her gratitude to teachers, family and especially her mother, for encouraging her to apply for the scholarship.

Rutledge completed undergraduate studies at Norfolk State University on a full scholarship from the Dozoretz National Institute for Minorities in Applied Sciences. She has completed her first year in the doctoral program in

the Department of Biostatistics at VCU.

"I chose VCU because it was relatively close to my home, and I could go straight from undergraduate work to the doctoral program," Rutledge said. "I'm glad I did because I have really benefited from the applied part of the program, actually working in the practical application of biostatistics."

Rutledge and other millennium scholars will receive funds to cover housing, tuition and book expenses not covered by financial aid. The scholarship is renewable as long as the scholar maintains at least a 3.0 grade point average. Additionally, the Gates Foundation will provide intellectual support, including workshops on different topics, a Web site and a chat room in order for the scholars to stay in contact with each other and the foundation.

Applicants were judged on the basis of grades, leadership skills, citizenship and financial need. The scholarship will be administered by the United Negro College Fund, in partnership with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and the American Indian College Fund.

After the news conference, Rutledge briefly returned to Richmond before heading to Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., for a 10-week internship, where she will study the statistical relationship between soil moisture and its effects on flooding.

VCU Project Gives Legislative Leaders Look Inside Medical Education

by Kyra Scarton Newman
Special to UniverCity News

In barely 24 hours, some special Virginia Commonwealth University guests recently finished medical school and residency training — a journey that takes traditional medical students up to 15 years. The visitors' studies included joining physicians on patient rounds, stepping into research labs and learning about contemporary issues facing teaching hospitals.

The accelerated educational exercise, part of VCU's commitment to the national Project Medical Education, gave about 15 congressional staff representatives and state leaders hands-on experiences to use in their own professional practice: shaping public policy. Coordinated by the Association of American Medical Colleges, PME is helping participants understand the complex structure and collaborative funding mechanisms of medical education. With federal funding at jeopardy, this project is providing information that elected leaders can use in making informed decisions and introducing medical faculty who can advise on pending legislation.

"Having congressional staffers and their state counterparts participate in this program is one of the few ways that we can guarantee that governmental officials have personal knowledge of what our medical students go through and what it takes to make that education first rate," said Don Gehring, vice president for external relations.

Most elected officials and their staffs have limited knowledge of medical education, including multiple missions shared by medical schools and teaching hospitals. "We brought participants here to learn about the medical education process," said Dietra Trent, director of federal relations. "We helped them gain an understanding of the full scope of medical education, which includes cutting-edge patient care, training, research and other services that teaching hospitals provide."

During VCU's two-day April program, students relayed passionate accounts about becoming physicians, often balancing dreams with hefty educational loans. By taking participants everywhere from the hospital to the community, faculty illustrated how each ingredient comes together to produce both high-quality doctors and an integrated health-care system.

"Medical education is intimately related to clinical care at teaching hospitals and with research," said Hernes A. Kontos, M.D., Ph.D., vice president for health sciences and chief executive officer of the VCU Health System. "Any effect on one of these functions may have a significant indirect impact on medical education. It is important for Congress to understand these interrelationships and the complexities of organization of the institutions that are responsible for medical education."

While increased funding for the National Institutes of Health has the potential to reach campus research initiatives, other changes in federal funding have hit dramatically at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals. Already striving to maintain services, MCV Hospitals now, under recent Balanced Budget Act changes, is receiving reduced residency funding while continuing to provide disproportionate levels of care to underserved and uninsured residents. With debate ongoing about Medicare's long-term solvency, PME enabled VCU officials to explain how changes would impact both medical students and academic medical centers.

"I feel much better that these participants are going back to Capitol Hill, knowing the other side of what Medicare is funding," said Lisa Kaplowitz, M.D., assistant vice president for federal health policy. "I think we really succeeded in relaying the complexities of medical education, both at the undergraduate and the graduate levels."

This first outreach effort is generating benefits, and participants have sought insight from VCU officials on current health-care issues. VCU plans a follow-up program next year.

In Brief

Gateway Computers Now Available to VCU Community at Discount

Virginia Commonwealth University faculty, staff, students and alumni can now purchase Gateway computers at a discount. The deal is made possible through a contract with the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Education.

The contract also offers scholarship money for VCU students for each computer purchased by the university or a member of the VCU community. For more information, visit <http://www.vcu.edu/at/pdf/nafeo.pdf>.

University Library Services Offers Rapid Document Delivery Service

Virginia Commonwealth University Library Services will now offer rapid document delivery service to faculty, graduate students and professional students.

The new service will deliver journal articles and conference proceedings not held in the VCU Libraries by fax, courier, and sometimes by on-line image delivery, offering faster and more convenient access than interlibrary loans. Funding will come from allocations previously spent on subscriptions to expensive highly specialized journals.

VCU's Library Services Adds Access to Two New Indexes

Virginia Commonwealth University Library Services now offers access to the International Index to Black Periodicals, an on-line resource that includes citations and abstracts from more than 150 scholarly and popular journals, newspapers and newsletters as well as full text coverage of 25 African-American Studies periodicals.

The index includes articles on art, cultural criticism, economics, language and literature, philosophy, politics, religion, and sociology.

VCU Library Services also offers access to the International Index to the Performing Arts. The index provides abstracts coverage of articles from more than 200 international scholarly and popular performing arts periodicals, as well as articles published in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. It includes coverage of dance, film, theater, stagecraft, broadcast arts, television, circus performance, and comedy.

Council for Institute of Chemical Engineering Approves VCU Petition to Become Chapter

The Career and Education Operating Council of the American Institute of Chemical Engineering has approved Virginia Commonwealth University's petition to offer an AIChE Student Chapter.

Student chapters enjoy the same benefits of membership available to professional members including participation in conferences, low rates on AIChE publications such as *Chemical Engineering Progress* and eligibility for scholarships.

For more information, visit <http://www.aiche.org/students/>.

Department of Interior Design Signs Agreement with Peruvian Design School

Schools to Offer International Exchange for Students, Faculty

by Lissette Linares
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Interior Design has signed a formal agreement with Peru's premier school of design — the Toulouse Lautrec Institute of Design in Lima, Peru. The agreement will facilitate student exchanges between the two schools, and eventually, the exchange of faculty members.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for us to expand our international contacts and the cultural diversity within our program," said Buie Harwood, chair of interior design. "Toulouse Lautrec has an excellent reputation and produces extremely high-quality

students."

The exchange program will go into effect in spring 2001 with students from the institute enrolling at VCU. Later, VCU students and faculty respectively, will attend classes and teach at the Peruvian art and design school.

Toulouse Lautrec Institute of Design has an ongoing relationship with VCU's School of the Arts. It has participated in exhibit exchanges with both the departments of interior design and painting and printmaking. A private school, the Peruvian institute offers degree programs in all areas of the arts and design.

VCU's Department of Interior Design is accredited by the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research. The program is ranked fifth in the country by *Interior Design* magazine.

Digital Images of VCU Now Available Online

by Sherrle Macklin
University News Services

Digital images of Virginia Commonwealth University's campuses, faculty, staff and students now are available online. Previously, the more than 400 stock images were available only by thumbing through books of 35-mm slides at VCU's Office of Media Production Services.

Now, by visiting the VCU Images Collection at www.vcu.edu/vcuimages, users can download pictures instantly and at no cost. The site utilizes an easy-to-use search function to find images by category or keyword. In addition to digital images, the VCU Image Collection features an on-line order form where users can order color prints, transparencies and slides. Payment for the orders is by university budget code or personal credit card. Orders will be mailed to an address specified by the user.

Now, by visiting the VCU Images Collection at www.vcu.edu/vcuimages, users can download pictures instantly and at no cost.

The VCU Images Collection went live via the Web in spring 2000. About 100 historical pictures will be added to the site this fall, as will VCU logos. Logos may only be accessed by VCU faculty, staff and students by entering a login number and password. The login number is the number found at the bottom of the user's VCU ID card; the password is the last four digits of the user's social security

number.

The program is accessible to the general public, but outside users must agree to follow copyright laws before entering the site. The site is maintained by Media Production Services using Cumulus Digital Asset Management Software by Canto Software.

ALLIED HEALTH

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country," Provost Roderick J. McDavis, Ph.D., told faculty and staff at the reception held in their honor. "We're here to celebrate you and your students and to talk about where we go from here." McDavis challenged the school's dean, Cecil Drain, Ph.D., as well as faculty and staff, to make all allied health programs not only No. 1 in the country, but in the world.

Shelly Lane, Ph.D., VCU chair of occupational therapy, said, "The dean's support really has been instrumental for us. Without his incredible support of the program and faculty, we could not have revamped our program the way we did."

Lane pioneered a shift in her department's curriculum to focus on graduate level education. The Department of Occupational Therapy now offers an entry-level and post-professional master's degree program in occupational therapy, as well as an interdisciplinary doctoral program in health-related sciences. The curricula emphasize occupations in health and the prevention and mediation of dysfunction across the life span. Lane also has placed an emphasis on research and doctoral education among faculty. Both changes have catapulted the department to a No.

12 national ranking.

While faculty attribute much of the school's success to Drain, he credits department chairs such as Lane, and faculty in the school with pioneering nationally and internationally recognized programs at VCU.

For example, the Department of Patient Counseling initiated the first master's program in the country in the field. Nurse Anesthesia is one of only a handful of programs nationally to boast a human simulator that provides student nurse anesthetists with hands-on crisis training. Dolores Clement, Ph.D., associate dean for Allied Health Professions, worked with the dean and chairs to initiate the first and only doctoral program in health-related sciences — a nationally-recognized program offered completely online.

"Each department has great people and we work as a family, as a team. That's the approach the school has taken and that's why we've been so successful," Drain said. "Look around. Every-



From left, Jan Clement, professor of Health Administration and Michael Fallacaro, chair of Nurse Anesthesia, take a minute with Dean Drain during the reception.

thing from ethics and stress management to alternative medicine.

"We wanted to create a positive atmosphere for learning and for research and I think we've been successful," Drain said. "If we keep going the way we're going, the sky's the limit."

This time around, the report did not include nurse anesthesia and occupational therapy programs, both of which were previously ranked 10th and 12th respectively in 1998, the last time rankings were published for those programs.

one here knows each other."

Guests from each department talked about current projects in their areas and even about family. Drain said the school emphasizes interaction and collaboration between the students in the departments as well.

For example, students are invited each fall to a dude ranch where they can interact with other students and faculty within the school. "Grand Rounds," a series of lunch seminars, also is offered to students in cross-discipline areas. Topics include every-

Research @ VCU

OPRR Approves Establishment of VCU-Based IRB Panel

Review of New and Previously Approved Studies Expected to Accelerate

by Erin Lucero
University News Services

On June 1, the federal Office for Protection from Research Risks (OPRR) approved Virginia Commonwealth University's plan for establishing its own university-based panel to review new and previously approved research studies involving human subjects. The new Institutional Review Board (IRB) panel is on schedule to review its first protocols as early as the end of June. It will review studies in addition to those being reviewed by Western IRB, an independent review board based in Olympia, Wash., that has reviewed VCU studies since January.

Working separately, Western IRB and the new VCU-based review panel will have responsibility for re-reviewing previously approved studies and approving or disapproving

proposed studies involving human subjects at VCU. The addition of the VCU-based panel is expected to accelerate the review rate of VCU protocols.

"I am proud of VCU's response to OPRR's concerns," said Dr. Eugene P. Trani, president of VCU. "We've made good progress in creating the administrative infrastructure to assist us in reaching our goals, and that progress is reflected in OPRR's approval of our first

university-based panel."

Since January, VCU's IRB Task Force has overseen a number of initiatives, including the submission of VCU's initial Quarterly Progress Report to OPRR. A new executive chairman of VCU's IRB system has been named as well as a new chairman of the first IRB panel. VCU also has implemented an education and training program for IRB members as well as all investigators involved in human subjects research.

VCU's IRB Task Force will continue to oversee the rebuilding of a VCU-based IRB system. Current plans call for four VCU-based IRB panels in addition to VCU's current Exempt Research Committee, which determines whether studies are exempt from review by an IRB panel.

On Jan. 11, OPRR suspended all human subjects research at VCU in response to administrative deficiencies with the university's Institutional Review Board, which monitors all research involving human subjects. OPRR did not identify any cases in which research study participants were harmed.

On Jan. 31, OPRR lifted the suspension on VCU human subjects research and approved Western IRB as the university's board of record. OPRR also directed that all previously approved protocols be re-reviewed by the Western IRB before investigators could resume research projects involving human subjects. To date, Western IRB has approved 325 VCU research protocols.

High Research Honors Bestowed On Two Faculty Members

by BeeGee Brem
University News Services

Two Virginia Commonwealth University faculty members have received two of the nation's highest honors for their contributions in the area of drug abuse research. The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) recently awarded William L. Dewey, Ph.D., former vice president for research and now senior professor of pharmacology and toxicology, and Robert L. Balster, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology and toxicology and director of VCU's Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies for their achievements.

Dewey received The Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award for lifetime achievement for drug abuse research, one

of the most prestigious international awards for research. The award was established in 1973 in memory of Nathan B. Eddy, a pioneer in the field of drug dependence. Dewey was selected by a committee of international experts, who acknowledged his research efforts which have advanced the study of drug dependence in humans. His many significant contributions include his study of how drugs relieve pain and the effect of opiates and marijuana on the brain and disease.

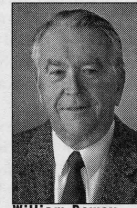
Dewey has worked as a scientist,

mentor and administrator during his more than 30-year career. His many accomplishments include serving as president of three national and international scientific organizations.

"It is fitting that Bill received the most prestigious national award there is for lifetime achievement in drug-abuse research," said Louis Harris, Ph.D., associate vice president for health sciences at VCU and fellow researcher. "Bill is a



Robert Balster



William Dewey

tremendous laboratory person and his ability to interact with people is one of his strongest attributes. A lot of relationships

between researchers and the pharmaceutical industry have been strengthened because of his involvement."

Balster received the CPDD Mentorship Award for exemplary mentoring of developing researchers. Nominated by former students, Balster is the inaugural recipient of the award. With a primary research interest in drug effects on behavior, Balster has advised many doctoral students and postdoctoral trainees, and has served as the director of graduate training for pharmacology and toxicology at VCU.

"The mentoring award is a very pres-

tigious national award. It reflects the quality of training and professional advancement that Bob has provided his students over the years," said Roy W. Pickens, Ph.D., associate vice president

for research and director of research in the Department of Psychiatry. "Many of Bob's students have gone on to become distinguished investigators. This award is a credit to both Bob and to VCU."

His students could not agree more.

"Dr. Balster's passion for policy issues, in addition to academic teaching and research training, serve to instill the highest goals of achievement in his trainees," said Lisa H. Gold, Ph.D., associate professor for The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif., and adjunct associate professor in Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego. "Not only did I learn about my particular research project when I studied with him, I was exposed to a vast array of techniques and processes by which to tackle new research problems."

The oldest research society in the U.S., CPDD addresses issues of drug dependence and abuse. It functions as an independent membership organization that serves to interface among governmental regulatory and research agencies and scientific, professional and academic communities. CPDD also collaborates with the World Health Organization.

VCU Student Named Spectrum Scholar by American Library Association

by BeeGee Brem
University News Services

Sandra T. Morton, currently enrolled in graduate studies in Virginia Commonwealth University's Division of Teacher Education, has been named Spectrum Scholar by the American Library Association. In addition to receiving a \$5,000 scholarship, Morton will participate in the ALA's Spectrum Initiative, organized to increase cultural diversity in the ranks of librarians serving communities and schools across the nation.

Morton, who has begun graduate course work in library media at VCU, teaches sixth grade at Salem

Church Middle School in Chesterfield County. At the suggestion of Gail K. Dickinson, her former advisor, she applied for the scholarship to provide financial assistance for her graduate studies.

"None of this would have happened without Dr. Dickinson," Morton said. "She brought the scholarship to my attention. I've worked really hard in my studies, and I'd hoped the ALA would recognize that. I was extremely excited and gratified that they did," she said.

Dickinson, a former instructor in the Department of Education, recently received her doctorate from VCU. She has accepted an assistant professorship at the University of North Carolina at Greenville.

The American Library Association is the world's oldest and largest national library association. It provides

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leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. The ALA works closely with more than 70 other library organizations and with other organizations concerned with education, research, cultural development, recreation, and public service.

VCU Student Recognized For His Work to End Sexual Violence

by BeeGee Brem
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University peer educator Jeremy Slivinski has been selected among 10 honorees for the "Men of Vision 2000" award by Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault. The program is a coalition that includes institutions, private businesses, colleges and universities. The award recognized men who have served as exceptional role models in their work to end sexual violence against women. Slivinski, a recent graduate of VCU's School of Mass Communications, is the only college student selected for the honor.

"It's outstanding that VAASA recognizes men who are part of the solution and not the problem," Slivinski said. "I'm both excited and honored to have been chosen."

To fulfill part of the internship requirement for his degree program, Slivinski worked as an assistant and peer educator in VCU's Office of Sexual Assault Programs, assisting the coordinator in program development and conducting workshops for fellow students and community organizations. He served on the planning committee for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. His involvement in the month-long event prompted Slivinski, the former president of a VCU fraternity and the Interfraternity Council, to implement a presentation on substance abuse and sexual violence for new members of fraternal organizations at VCU. Slivinski said the presentation received an excellent response on campus and hopes it sets an example for others to get involved in ending sexual violence.

VAASA will host an awards luncheon later this year to honor all those nominated and selected to be Men of Vision 2000.

Temporary Street Changes on MCV Campus Announced

The section of Marshall Street in front of the construction of Virginia Commonwealth University's new Gateway Building was reduced to two lanes beginning June 24 to accommodate heavy equipment. Marshall Street will return to three lanes early next year. It will then return to four lanes when the Gateway Building opens in June 2001. Located at the corner of 12th and Marshall streets on VCU's medical campus, the \$39 million structure will serve as the hospital's front entrance.

The nearly 200,000-square-foot building will connect Main Hospital to the Nelson Clinic, providing an important link between inpatient and outpatient care.

DR. TRANI

continued from page 1

communities across the country — the survival of the academic medical center. In the year 2000, in order to work at maximum efficiency, we need a common bottom line, which we will do by consolidating all the university's clinical services into one unified organization and integrating MCV Hospitals and MCV Physicians — the practice plan for university physicians."

Dr. Trani also spoke about the necessary staff reductions that were part of the 2001 budget package approved by the board. "The need to consolidate services, reduce costs and find creative solutions is not unique to MCV Hospitals. Every health-care institution is under tremendous financial pressures from insurers and from the federal Balanced Budget Act." He noted that academic medical centers are facing particularly strong pressure because of the additional financial burdens of educating medical students and treating those who can not pay for their care.

"As a public institution, we share information about the

challenges facing us and the actions we must take to be successful. Private hospitals are not under a similar obligation to share information but, believe me, they are involved in similar cost-cutting exercises. In fact, one-third of all U.S. hospitals are currently losing money — not just academic medical centers. At times, we will have to make tough choices, but we will do this while continuing the high quality of patient care for which MCV Hospitals and Physicians are known."

"With today's actions, we've created a structure that will save millions over the next year so that we're better prepared for what lies ahead."

"With today's actions, we've created a structure that will save millions over the next year so that we're better prepared for what lies ahead. We are grateful that we can do that and at the same time minimize the impact on people who've been committed to the institution and to our patients. We hope that many of the affected employees will remain with the hospital as we try to match the skills of affected employees to unfilled positions in the VCU Health System."

Dr. Trani emphasized that the VCU Health System will be committed to protecting the organization's long-term missions of patient care, research and teaching. "We're pleased that we've found this solution at a time when academic medical centers across the country are going bankrupt or being

People in the News

- The Virginia State Board of Education presented **TERRY AUSTIN**, Ph.D., director of VCU Bands, with a Resolution of Appreciation for his work as a steering committee member for the Music Standard of Learning revision team. Austin also guest conducted the Virginia Beach City public schools "Stars, Musical Bars, and Bands 2000 Concert" in June.

The concert made the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the largest concert of its kind.

- **KATHLEEN BODISCH LYNCH**, Ph.D., assistant professor of developmental disabilities, recently presented at the fifth National Head Start Research Conference in Washington, D.C. Lynch, an annual presenter at the conference, delivered information on the replicability of an early childhood prevention initiative.

- **RICHARD R. BROOKMAN**, M.D., professor and chair of the division of adolescent medicine in the Department of Pediatrics, is the 2000 Wyeth-Ayerst/Society for Adolescent Medicine Visiting Professor in Adolescent Medicine.

Brookman visited the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center in Kentucky to provide lectures, rounds and consultations for its departments of pediatrics and of obstetrics/gynecology.

- In June, the University of North Carolina Press published "Slippery Characters: Ethnic Impersonators and American Identities," a book by **LAURA BROWDER**, assistant professor of English.

- **LYNN FISCHER**, a registered nurse in VCU's Nelson Clinic, was selected *Style Weekly's* June Nurse of the Month.

- In recognition of the achievements of **DANIEL LASKIN**, M.D., VCU chief of oral and maxillofacial surgery, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons recently established the "Daniel M. Laskin Award for an Outstanding Predoctoral Education in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery."

- **KRISTI LEWIS**, instructor in the Department of Developmental Disabilities and education coordinator for the Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities, presented at the National Lead-Safe Housing Conference in Philadelphia this spring.

The session provided information on the

project's newly-developed primary health care provider training packet on lead poisoning prevention.

- VCU senior and two-time Colonial Athletic Association player of the year **REG MILLAGE** shot a 2-over par 74 in the first round of the 2000 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship at the Grand National Golf Club in Opelika, Ala.

He tied for 75th place after one round, just five strokes outside of the top 10.

- The Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association elected **ROD POINDEXTER**, assistant professor of the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, its president elect. The announcement was made during the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association meeting in Greenville, S.C. He will serve two years as president elect and take over as president for 2000-02.

- **GABRIEL G. RAMIREZ**, Ph.D., professor of finance, insurance and real estate, co-authored "CEO Leadership and Organizational Performance: The Moderating Effect of Environmental Uncertainty" which will appear in the *Academy of Management Journal*. The paper is the first to be published examining the relationship between transactional leadership and CEO charisma and the firm's individual performance.

Ramirez also co-authored "Bond Calls, Credible Commitment, and Equity Dilution: A Theoretical and Clinical Analysis of Simultaneous Tender and Call Offers," which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Financial Economics*.

- **JO READ**, Ph.D., and **KATHLEEN BODISCH LYNCH**, Ph.D. assistant professors of developmental disabilities, presented a paper on the use of a logic model to evaluate professional development offerings at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education Conference in Alexandria, Va., in June.

- **JOHN ROSSI**, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education, directed a weeklong institute for middle and high school teachers titled "Teaching about Conflict and its Management in East Asia and Africa." The Virginia Center for the Teaching of International Studies sponsored the workshop.

forced to sell to private hospital corporations. In contrast, our health system enhances our ability to carefully manage our resources and take advantage of opportunities to increase revenue. We are already strengthening our position in the Richmond marketplace through key faculty physician appointments like those of Drs. Ronald Merrell, Robert Higgins, Lucian Durham and Ynyne Nseyo to the Department of Surgery and Dr. Joseph Laver to the Department of Pediatrics. These physicians come to us from prestigious institutions like New Haven's Yale University, Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital and New York's University of Rochester Medical Center because they believe in our future and want to be a part of it."

Dr. Trani also referenced liver, cardiac and orthopedic surgeons who will soon arrive at the medical center from Stanford University, the Cleveland Clinic and other organizations. "As we identify areas of particular strength within the health system, we expect to add employees in order to maximize our potential for attracting and caring for patients. We also will continue to make necessary investments in our physical facility with important projects such as the Stony Point expansion and the Gateway Building. Not only will these projects attract patients to our health system, they also will support our research and teaching missions by allowing us to remain on the forefront of medical technology."

VCU Fast Track MBA Students Re-Enact Civil War Battle

Team Building and Leadership Lessons Learned

by Marcia L. Meredith
University News Services

The leadership abilities of famous American Civil War generals came under scrutiny recently during a Virginia Commonwealth University Fast-Track MBA program class exercise on team building and leadership. Forty-five VCU students traveled to Fredericksburg to re-enact the battle where Union Gen. Joseph Hooker suffered a defeat and Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson was erroneously killed by his own troops.

"We didn't take any political stances in this exercise," said Bill Miller, director of the Fast Track MBA program in VCU's School of Business. "Rather, we challenged students to understand the dynamics of leadership in this battle, to analyze the outcome and assess how the skirmish could have been better managed as a project on both sides."

Following a guided tour of the battlefield and a round of historical video presentations, students were divided into teams: one representing the North, another the South. A third group functioned as judges. Each team — sporting blue hats for the North and Gray for the south — was then asked to develop a winning strategy based on the information supplied to them.

In the actual 1863 battle, Hooker's forces overwhelmingly outnumbered the troops of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee — about 130,000 to Lee's 60,000. However Lee managed to defeat the Northern faction by dividing his troops. Caught by surprise, Hooker ordered a retreat despite his strategic advantage. Many historians have questioned Hooker's leadership abilities because of this loss.

"I learned two key valuable lessons in this exercise that I can immediately apply to real-world business situations," said VCU sophomore Anja Thomas, a product manager for Hamilton Beach Proctor Silex. "First, it is important to have a plan and a common goal. Secondly, you have to be flexible. If competitors raise or lower their prices, for example, you must adapt or you will get killed in the marketplace."

Thomas began the exercise as the head of the Northern team. Halfway through their strategy session, designated leaders were taken out of each group to test the teams' ability to endure adverse and unexpected situations — much like Confederate troops had to do when they mistakenly shot and killed one of their leaders, Gen. Stonewall Jackson.

"In the business world, key personnel such as chief executive officers, are hired away by the competition, or they leave to start their own business," said Randy Barker, Ph.D., associate professor of management in the School of Business. Known for his creative teaching methods, Barker piloted this educational exercise last year.

During the re-enactment, student judges determined that the South prevailed over their rival Northern team. "Regardless of who won, we were able to bring to life concepts students have been learning about in class. Each team member got to test their communication skills and leadership style," Barker said.

The VCU Fast Track Executive MBA program allows middle to upper level managers to earn a master's degree in business administration over an 18-month time frame while working full-time.

Fulbright Scholar Student to Study Adult Education Delivery Systems in Vietnam

by BeeGee Brem
University News Services

Dongphuong Truong, a doctoral candidate in Virginia Commonwealth University's Division of Education Studies, is the first student in the VCU division to be named a Fulbright Scholar. The scholarship will enable her to study the educational needs of adults in her native Vietnam.

Truong and her family fled Vietnam in 1980 on a leaky fishing boat packed with 87 refugees. Their journey lasted 12 days and 11 nights and ended when the refugees were pulled to safety in the Philippines where they stayed for eight months.

"Because of Vietnam's political system at the time, it would have been impossible for my sister, my brother and me to attend college. My parents escaped to give us the opportunity," Truong said.

In 1981, a church sponsored the Truongs' move to Virginia from the Philippines and the family has worked to make a new life here. Truong's father and mother worked odd jobs of manual labor until her father found work in Loudoun County where he remains employed. Truong said

that a family dream has come true: she and her siblings all have been able to pursue advanced degrees. She said her family is delighted that she has been named a Fulbright Scholar.

"I want to thank my parents and pay them respect for their sacrifice," Truong said. "I'm also grateful for the love and support of my entire family."

Truong said she wouldn't have gotten the Fulbright without the guidance of all of her professors at VCU. She especially thanks Michael D. Davis, Ph.D., director of the Division of Teacher Education, and Robert L. Dilworth, associate professor of adult education and vocational training, for helping her define goals and to reach them. Truong says she hopes to some-

day open a school in Vietnam, providing training and education to any adult who wants it.

"With the Fulbright, I can return to my homeland and be of service," Truong said. "That's something I've always wanted to do."

Truong departs for Vietnam this fall to research workers' perceptions of adult education delivery systems in North, South and Central Vietnam.

"With the Fulbright, I can return to my homeland and be of service. That's something I've always wanted to do."



At a campaign kick-off

for the VCU's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Heart Center, an announcement was made that more than \$5 million of the

\$6.75 million goal to open the center has been reached. Kenneth Ellenbogen, M.D., has been named the first

Kick Off

Hermes A. Kontos Professor in Cardiology, thanks to the gifts of Jeanette Lipman and two anonymous donors. Pictured from left are Ellenbogen, Lipman, Dr. Hermes Kontos, his wife Nancy and son Mike. The co-chairs of the campaign are Jim Roberts and Charles Thalheimer.

Athletes Named to 2000 All-District, All-American Teams

by Cynthia Brown
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University student-athletes Maria-Elena Calle, track, and Martina Nedelkova, tennis, have been named to the 2000 GTE Academic All-District III Women's University Spring At-Large First Team. VCU was the only school in the district to place two student-athletes on the first team.

Calle, an occupational therapy major, currently holds a 3.78 grade point average. She finished 12th in the 10,000-meter run at the 2000 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Durham, N.C. held last month.

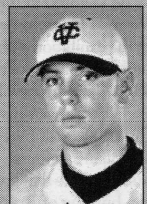
Nedelkova, a business management major, holds a 3.95 grade point average and has achieved a 23-13 record playing No. 1 singles.

Lopaze Named Freshman All-American

DANNY LOPAZE, a Virginia Commonwealth University baseball player, was named to the 2000 Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American team.

Lopaze hit .344 this season with 10 home runs and 63 RBI while starting in 57 games. He also posted a 4-2 record this season for pitching, with three saves and a 4.82 earned run average.

Lopaze, the second VCU baseball player to earn All-American honors this season, was ranked among the Colonial Athletic Association's top 10 in home runs, RBI and doubles earning him conference freshman of the year honors.



Danny Lopaze

Campus Calendar

WORKSHOPS

July 19— "Planning for Scanning." Sponsored by VCU Libraries. For details, call 828-0638.

10 a.m./Tompkins-McCaw Library, Room 2-001

July 27— "PubMed Medline Workshop."

Sponsored by VCU Libraries. For details, call 828-0638.

10 a.m./Tompkins-McCaw Library, First Floor

COMPUTER WORKSHOPS

The following courses are being co-sponsored by the Office of Training and Development and University Outreach. The classes will meet at 9 a.m. in Cabell Library, Room 320. For details, call 828-0179.

July 10,12,17,19, 25, 27— "PowerPoint."

July 11,13,18,20— "Excel 5.0 for Windows."

July 24,26,31— "Word for Windows."

Aug. 1,3— "PowerPoint."

Aug. 2— "Word for Windows."

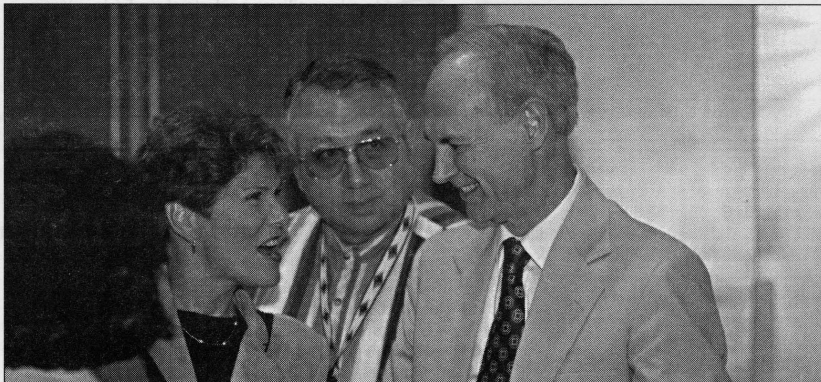
EVENT

July 25— "Tompkins-McCaw Library Tour and Orientation." Sponsored by VCU Libraries. For details, call 828-0638.

1 p.m./Tompkins-McCaw Library, First Floor

Aug. 24— Fall classes begin on MCV Campus. 8 a.m.

Aug. 28— Fall classes begin on Academic Campus. 8 a.m.



Tom Schudel

Service Award

Several employees recently received a customer service award from Virginia Commonwealth University's Finance and Administration Division. Joseph Mannix, program manager in Facilities Management/Construction Management, and Cheri Stickels, an administrative assistant to the executive director in Human Resources, each

received an Individual Award. O. Allen Davis, above right, director of Human Resources in Payroll and Effort Reporting, was given the Management Award. Employee Health Services won the Model Department Award. Established in 1996 in support of VCU's Strategic Plan, the awards are granted in recognition of faculty and staff who have consistently exhibited the highest levels of customer service.

Anderson Gallery to Feature Works by Internationally Known Artist

New Additions to Permanent Collection and Other Works to be Featured

by Lisette Linares
University News Services

Works by internationally known artist Jacqueline Bishop and new additions to the Anderson Gallery's permanent collection are among items to be featured in this year's Summer/Fall Exhibition at the Virginia Commonwealth University gallery. Other shows in the exhibition will include acrylic paintings by a local artist and a travelling collection of photographs of Mexican Jesus icons. The shows will run from July 14-Oct. 1.

"Terra," an installation by Bishop, combines more than 200 small bird portraits and natural objects from the Brazilian rainforest. The piece memorializes the creatures and plant life that are now extinct or endangered because of the burning of Brazilian rainforests to make way for cattle ranches.

"Bishop brings an artist's aesthetic to a very devastating problem," said Ted Potter, Anderson Gallery director. Potter said Bishop uses sight and sound to transport the viewer to the rainforest to experience it as she does. "The viewer is amazed by the beauty of these birds and feels a sense

of remorse when he learns that they now are extinct."

A New Orleans artist, Bishop travels to North, South and Central American rainforests with scientists to document bird and plant life.

Bishop's "The Insect Corridor" also will be featured in the Anderson Gallery exhibition. Viewers enter "Terra" through "The Insect Corridor," an installation piece consisting of butterflies made from Brazilian newsprint — a product of rainforest cuttings. Attached to long strips of seemingly wind-blown gauze, the butterflies appear to flutter around the viewer. A continuous soundscape created by composer Chris Becker plays in the background, combining Brazilian instruments, guitar and vocals to create sounds of the rainforest.

"New Gifts" will feature additions to the Anderson Gallery's permanent collection. This year's focus will be on a special gift from Richmond's Hand Workshop Art Center, featuring more than 80 selections from the Richmond Printmaking Workshop. The show was organized by Amy Moorefield, assistant director for the Anderson Gallery.

"We felt that the Anderson Gallery was the most appropriate repository, given the recent growth of its permanent collection and its focus on regional representation," said Ashley Kistler, curator of the Hand Workshop. "Also, many of the artists represented in the print collection have been, or currently are, associated with VCU."

Founded in 1978 by Nancy David and her husband John, the Richmond Printmaking Workshop provided a

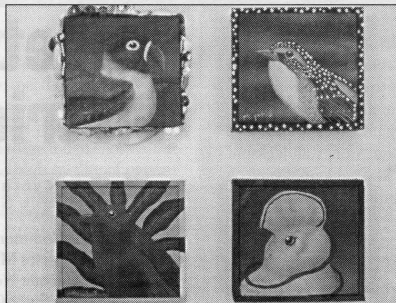
place for artists to share printmaking techniques and for the public to learn about printmaking as art. The workshop has sponsored well-known artists for visiting residencies as well as local talent, many of whom now are nationally and internationally respected artists.

"Brett Busang: The State of Broad" will feature a collection of paintings by local artist Brett Busang. The acrylic works painted on site document the ever-changing landscape along Richmond's Broad Street corridor, an area of VCU expansion. Busang's works, created in the en plein air painting tradition of the French impressionists, have been shown throughout the country.

"Divine Humility: Jesus Icons in Contemporary Mexico" is a travelling collection of 60 photographs by Robert E. Lewis, an art history professor at the University of Memphis in Tennessee. Lewis began photographing in Mexico about 15 years ago and soon was drawn to the number and beauty of Jesus icons and to the integration of Christ and death in everyday life in Mexico.

The resulting collection, photographed in churches, cemeteries, stores and the pueblos, is one Lewis said preserves a view of the exuberance and sensitivity of Mexican spiritual life in the late 20th century. This show will close on Sept. 3.

The Summer/Fall Exhibition will open with a reception at 7 p.m. on July 14. A fall opening will be held Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. Summer hours at the gallery are 1-5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call the gallery at 828-1522.



"Terra," an installation by world-renowned artist Jacqueline Bishop, combines 200 small bird portraits and natural objects from the Brazilian rainforest. The piece memorializes the birds and plant life that now are endangered or extinct because of the burnings of the rainforest.