Health System Officials Involved in State's Review of COPN Process

by Don Gehring

In the General Assembly's 2000 session, legislators put in motion a plan to phase-out the state's Certificate of Public Need process by 2004. As those involved in health-care know, this is a critically important issue, and its resolution will have a major impact on the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System.

In 1973, Virginia set up the COPN process, a system through which healthcare facilities sought state approval for changes such as increasing the number of beds or adding specialized equipment or services. The process was intended to tailor health-care supply to the local community's demand. As the health-care environment began its dramatic changes, debates sprang up in the medical and legislative communities about the usefulness of the process.

As Virginia's debate progressed, the Medical Society of Virginia advocated eliminating COPN requirements. The organization argued that more free enterprise and less red-tape could result in better pricing and more competition — to the benefit of consumers. The Virginia Hospitals and Health Systems Association, on the other hand, supported keeping the process in place. The association warned that eliminating the requirements would open the door for groups choosing to offer only lucrative services, a practice known as "cherry picking." They foresaw this as financially damaging to full-service hospitals, which provide a range of services, regardless of their financial return.

In the past several years, many states have begun dismantling their COPN processes. With this legislation, Virginia has begun to do the same.

Eliminating the COPN process has the potential to financially jeopardize academic health-care centers such as ours, which have traditionally provided costly, specialized services to patients regardless of their ability to pay. By a significant margin, the VCU Health System is the largest provider of indigent-care services in the commonwealth. More than 30 percent of the indigent-care services provided statewide come from our doctors, clinics and hospitals. This state-mandated mission, when linked with our medical education mission, creates an extraordinary financial burden. It's essential that decisions are urgently needed to

President Trani Announces Approval of VCU's Second IRB Panel

The Office of Human Research Protections (OHROP), formerly the Office of Protection from Research Risks, has approved Virginia Commonwealth University's request to activate a second VCU IRB panel. We now have three IRB panels reviewing clinical protocols.

Dr. Deborah Haller of the Department of Psychiatry will chair the new panel; as many of you know, she has been serving as chair of the VCU Exempt Research Committee, which OHROP authorized VCU to disband. The new panel is qualified to review all types of clinical protocols but will focus on social and behavioral research.

The new panel is qualified to review all types of clinical protocols but will focus on social and behavioral research.

We will also be requesting OHROP to approve two additional VCU IRB panels, bringing to five our IRB panels supporting clinical investigators. Volunteers—scientists, non-scientists, and non-VCU employees—are urgently needed to staff these panels. Please let Rosemary Kelso,

See COPN page 2

U.S. SENATE DEBATE 2000

Virginia Commonwealth University hosted the first televised debate between the commonwealth's two U.S. Senate candidates: U.S. Sen. Charles S. Robb (D), top left, and Republican George Allen, top right. The event, moderated by former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, bottom right, included questions by panelists Robert D. Hotworth, Ph.D., bottom far left, a political analyst and director of the VCU Center for Public Policy, and Larry Sabato, Ph.D., center, a political analyst from the University of Virginia. The debate aired on Richmond's WTVR-6, CSPAN, WRVA-AM radio, Roanoke's WDBJ and other stations throughout Virginia.

Senate Debate

Virginia Commonwealth University

VCU Police Chief Plans for Retirement

After more than 32 years with the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department, Dan Dean will retire on Jan. 1. Dean served as chief—the department's highest-ranking officer—for the past 11 years.

"I don't think you can stay with a job 32 years if you don't enjoy it. It's been an incredible experience," said Dean, who started with VCU Police as a patrol officer. That assignment enabled him to work closely with students in promoting safety, which remains his favorite part of his VCU career.

During Dean's tenure, the university has demonstrated low crime statistics, and violent crime has been virtually non-existent on both campuses. The innovation that Dean brought to VCU Police includes developing the state's first campus bicycle patrols, expanding departmental jurisdiction so that officers have authority in the communities surrounding both campuses, and increasing safety education and crime prevention efforts.

Today, the VCU department includes 71 sworn officers, more than many city and county forces in Virginia.

UniverCity News will take a closer look at Dean's accomplishments with a special profile in an upcoming issue.
VCU to Host Satellite Conference in Celebration of World Food Day

Nobel Prize Winner to Speak

In celebration of World Food Day on Oct. 16, Virginia Commonwealth University will host a satellite conference featuring Amartya Sen, the 1998 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics. "Poverty and Hunger: The Tragic Link," will be offered from noon-3 p.m. in Cabell Library, Room B-48.

The program will include a live broadcast of Sen, who will speak about the link between poverty and hunger, a panel discussion on public and private strategies for responding to hunger issues in America and a "town meeting," where program participants can interact with Sen and policy makers via live phone calls.

World Food Day began in 1981 with the founding of the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization — the largest specialized agency of the UN. The VCU teleconference broadcast is sponsored by the School of Social Work and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning's Geography Program. Video cassettes of Sen's speech are available upon request. For more information, contact PHMcMorris@vcu.edu.

COPN

Eliminating the COPN process has the potential to financially jeopardize academic health centers such as ours, which have traditionally provided costly, specialized services to patients regardless of their ability to pay.

The COPN process is critically important to the health system's future success; solutions are critically important to the health system's future success; we will provide periodic updates to you about dismantling the COPN process. From the recommendations of these groups, the Joint Commission will develop a proposal for the General Assembly to consider during the 2001 session.

The workgroup discussions are an invaluable opportunity to address the perennial question of how to handle indigent-care funding. Because the decision-making process has brought every stakeholder in the health-care community to the table, we have a rare chance to reach agreement on how the issue should be resolved. In these work groups, we have voiced our position that we don't oppose elimination of the COPN requirements, so long as the plan incorporates reasonable, long-term solutions to indigent care and medical education issues. Every year during the General Assembly session, our legislative agenda is dominated by these two issues. Finding long-term solutions is critically important to the health system's future success; nevertheless, our focus on these issues reduces our ability to support other priorities of the university and health system.

In order for VCU to be fully supportive of the plan for COPN elimination, it must — at a minimum — resolve the indigent-care issue. While the challenges of financially supporting medical education may not be directly resolved through this process, we consider indigent care to be the most pressing item. Its resolution will help directly and indirectly with medical education's challenges.

Our hope is that the workgroups and the Joint Commission will recommend that the state provide 100 percent funding for unreimbursed indigent care at the VCU Health System. Ideally, the recommendation would be implemented by the governor and the General Assembly by passage of a statute, which would mandate funding for unreimbursed indigent care. This would go a long way toward solving our most pressing financial problem.

Preliminary reactions to our proposal have been encouraging, and at this time we are confident that we will have a voice in shaping the final outcome. We will provide periodic updates to you as progress is made on this issue.

Don Gehring is vice president for external relations for both VCU and the VCU Health System.

Recently, Thomas Huff, Ph.D., interim vice provost for life sciences, met with Virginia Commonwealth University faculty to discuss VCU Life Sciences. Along with Dr. Eugene P. Trani, VCU president, Huff shared info about the university's progress to date in developing a comprehensive approach to the life sciences. He explained how the endeavor will bring increased focus to life sciences research and curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Faculty are encouraged to become involved with effort and to share their own ideas about how VCU Life Sciences should evolve.

Life Sciences

IRB

Director, VCU Office of Research Subjects Protection, know of your interest in serving on your recommendations for other individuals. All members will receive the appropriate training, qualifying them to participate in reviewing a wide variety of protocols and making decisions involving scientific ethical issues.

Ms. Kelso can be reached at 828-0131 or by e-mail at rhkelso@vcu.edu. She is located in Sanger Hall, Room 1-013. When fully activated, the new VCU IRB system will involve one panel meeting each week.

VCU's IRB reorganization is being implemented in stages, which will be updated on the VCU IRB Website at www.vcu.edu/irb. This also will continue to receive regular updates by e-mail. In the meantime, please continue to submit your protocols for approval to the VCU Office of Research Subjects Protection using the existing Exempt Research Committee and WIRB forms until the new VCU IRB forms are available.

We are receiving quite a bit of recognition from our peer institutions and OHBP for the efficiency and effectiveness of our response to ensuring the protection of human subjects in research.

Dr. Marsha Torr, our new vice president for research, has made a major commitment to our IRB reorganization, and I applaud all those who have dedicated their expertise and a significant amount of their time to enhancing our research review process on behalf of our clinical researchers.

— PRESIDENT EUGENE P. TRANI
Technology Award

 Gov. Jim Gilmore announced recently that an education partnership between NASA Langley and Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Engineering has won a 2000 Governor's Partnerships in Education Award. The annual award is given to 11 partnerships across Virginia that improve student academic achievement. The NASA-VCU partnership's FIRST — For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology — Robotics Competition, an annual high-tech sporting event for Virginia high school students, has been chosen specifically for the Technology Partnership Award. The award recognizes an exemplary local or regional partnership that supports the integration of technology into area schools in an effective, economical and sustainable way. One such program — FIRST partners teachers and students with local engineers, scientist and technicians to design and build a remotely operated robot. Above, the VCU engineering faculty and the VCU-sponsored team are congratulated by Gov. Gilmore.

VCU Part of Breakthrough MS Research

First Participant Enrolled Here By Principal Investigator

by Michael Ford

University News Services

A Virginia Commonwealth University researcher is part of a breakthrough study that shows treatments with interferon beta 1a, sold prescriptively as Avonex, may slow the progression of multiple sclerosis or even prevent the disease from developing in high-risk patients.

The study, published in the Sept. 28 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine involved 385 patients and 50 medical centers in the United States and Canada, including VCU's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals. The Controlled High-Risk Subjects Avonex Multiple Sclerosis Prevention Study, known as CHAMPS, began in April 1996 and ended in March 2000.

Affecting about 1 million people worldwide and more than 350,000 Americans, multiple sclerosis is a chronic inflammatory disease of the central nervous system. The symptoms include numbness, loss of balance, vision problems, weakness, difficulty walking and paralysis. The disease usually affects women between the ages of 20 and 40. Warren L. Felton III, M.D., chairman of VCU's Neuro-Ophthalmology Division, is one of the study's principal investigators. He enrolled the first clinical subject in the CHAMPS trial. Nine people participated in the trial at the VCU site. Researchers say the results show initiating therapy with Avonex at the first sign a patient may develop MS can significantly delay development of the disease. Felton said this finding will have a significant influence on the way doctors — particularly neurologists — treat patients with multiple sclerosis.

A person traditionally is diagnosed with clinically definite multiple sclerosis after at least two episodes of symptoms. MS causes the destruction of myelin, the insulation around nerve fibers in the brain and spinal cord. Researchers used magnetic resonance imaging to identify lesions on the brain consistent with the occurrence of demyelination, a marker for those at risk for a second attack or clinically definite MS.

"In the past, if a patient presented with a demyelinating event — that could be optic neuritis, a brain-stem event causing double vision or balancing trouble or a myelitis causing paralysis or sensory loss in the legs — the patient would be followed, anticipating another event," Felton said. "It would be after the second event that the drug would be started. This study indicates that by beginning this treatment right after the first attack, there is an improved chance of delaying the onset of that second attack, and therefore the disease itself. The CHAMPS results will to change the way that we administer this immunomodulating drug for patients who have MS."

CHAMPS results will to change the way that we administer this immunomodulating drug for patients who have MS.

In the CHAMPS trial, half of the participants received interferon beta 1a. The other half received a placebo. After observing participants for three years, about a third of Avonex patients had developed definitive MS, compared to half of the placebo group.

"Next will be an extension of the CHAMPS trial, called the CHAMPIONS study," Felton said. "We need to continue to monitor these patients to determine if giving the drug this early will reduce or delay the development of disability."

The study's lead author is Lawrence Jacobs, M.D., professor of neurology at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The study was funded by Biogen Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., the manufacturer of Avonex.

VCU Dance to Present 'No Less Black'

Contributed by Valerio Jeremijenko

VCU Dance

Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Dance and Choreography will open the 2000-01 season with "No Less Black," a dance-theater work dealing with issues of race and identity. The performance will feature 14 dancers from Washington, D.C.-based Mason/Rhynes Productions as well as several VCU dance students.

The show opens at 8 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Grace Street Theater.

"No Less Black" dissects stereotypes and social images of black America, allowing us to peek into the complexities of race, color and social responsibility within the African-American community, while finding parallels to our own," said Gesel Mason, artistic director for Mason/Rhynes Productions.

The VCU performance will feature choreography by Mason, who will have just completed a weekend residency with VCU Dance, and lighting design by Cheries Rhynes, also of Mason/Rhynes Productions.

Mason recently was awarded the Bates Dance Festival's Emerging Choreographer Fellowship, a highly prestigious award recognizing the work of young artists. A graduate of the University of Utah, she has toured Germany with the Repertory Dance Theater of Utah and taught and performed in Poland with the Silesian Dance Theater as part of the Minnesota Dance Exchange. Before joining the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in 1996, she was the dance coordinator at Apple Valley High School and performed for Dance Africa America as a member of "Umoja," directed by Chuck Davis.

Mason has presented her work at the Walker Arts Center and at the Hauser Center for the Arts in Minneapolis, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and at theaters in Miami, Houston and Washington, D.C., including at the Kennedy Center.

Mason will offer a Master Class, open to the dance community, at 6 p.m. Oct. 16 in Room 205 of the VCU Dance Center.

The presentation of "No Less Black" is made possible by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter foundation.

The VCU Dance presenting program presents new and innovative dance and artists to the Richmond community, also providing opportunities for artists to present and create work. For more information, contact Valerie Jeremijenko at 828-1711.
Chief Resident Receives Pfizer Scholars Urology Grant

by Laura Arbogast
University News Service

Jeffrey Kostiner, M.D., chief resident in VCU's Division of Urology, has been awarded the 2000 Pfizer Scholars in Urology Program Grant. The award honors outstanding physicians who have made important contributions to research and patient care in urology. The $2,000 grant will go to the MCV Foundation to use for lectures and other programs.

Kostiner graduated from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 1996, after receiving a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from McGill University, in Canada. His honors include the Fellowship Award from the American Society of Artificial Internal Organs and the Excellence in Research Award from the Western Student Medical Research Forum.

VCU Series to Feature Reading by Short-Story Author Tester

by Laura Arbogast
University News Service

William Tester, Ph.D., assistant professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University, will present a public reading from his new short-story collection "Head" in the School of Business Building Auditorium at 5 p.m. on Oct. 17.

Tester's fiction and poetry have appeared in numerous publications including TriQuarterly, Story Quarterly, Esquire and Prairie Schooner. He is also the author of the novel "Darling" and winner of the 1999 Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction.

Tester has taught at Syracuse University, the New York University School of Continuing Education and Columbia University. His honors include a National Endowment for the Arts Grant, an Edward Albee Fellowship and a Hoblom Brown Prize for Fiction from The Quarterly.

Tester's reading is part of the Visiting Writers Series sponsored by VCU's Department of English, the New Virginia Review and the Graduate Writers Association. The series is free and open to the public.

Professor Speaks on Technological Education at National Conference

Anthony Guseppi-Elle, Ph.D., director of the Center for Bioelectronics, Biosensors and Biosystems at Virginia Commonwealth University, recently presented "Biochips: Opportunities for Curriculum Enhancement at 2-Year & 4-Year Institutions" at the Conference on Advanced Technological Education in Semiconductor Manufacturing, held in Orlando, Fla.

In addition to serving as professor of chemical engineering and affiliate professor of biomedical engineering at VCU, Guseppi-Elle is the president and scientific director of ABTECH Scientific, Inc., a biomedical diagnostics company located in Philadelphia.

Guseppi-Elle holds a doctorate in materials science and engineering from the Michigan Institute of Technology, a master's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, and a bachelor's degree in applied chemistry from the University of the West Indies, Barbados. Guseppi's research interests include engineered biosystems in the service of health and medicine.

Pediatric patients, Ryan Texter, left, Jake Rickards, center, and Cory Brady listen intently as Summer Schultz, outreach educator from the Science Museum of Virginia, continues her talk about honeybees. Schultz was part of morning activities last month to celebrate the newly redecorated waiting room for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.

In conjunction with National Childhood Cancer Month, volunteers from the Association for the Support of Children with Cancer coordinated with employees from Target stores, who volunteered evenings during the past three months to install $40,000 in new materials, including floor tiles, cabinets, ceiling tiles, chairs, televisions, games and a custom paint job.
VCU Selected for D.C.
College of Choice Program

New Federal Program Gives Financial Support for Out-of-State College Tuition
to D.C. High School Graduates

by Mary Beth Alford
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University has been named among the top 20 colleges of choice for Washington, D.C., high school graduates who participate in a new federal program that gives financial support for out-of-state college tuition.

The D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program expands the educational choices of local graduates, since the district is home to only one four-year public institution, the University of the District of Columbia.

Starting with the class of 2002, district students can receive up to $10,000 annually to reimburse the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. Grants are sent directly to the students’ institutions.

After learning that families with children in high school had relocated to Maryland and Virginia to become eligible for in-state tuition, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., and Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., introduced the bill last year to create the federal funding program to aid these families.

In the Aug. 31 issue of Black Issues in Higher Education, Davis noted that there has been a noticeable increase in families moving back to the city.

Faculty Participate in Online Forum, Offer Tools for Coping With Death

by Laura Arbogast
University News Services

As the baby boomer generation ages, more and more individuals and families are forced to deal with end-of-life care issues. Four Virginia Commonwealth University faculty members recently participated in an online forum to offer tools on how to prepare for the inevitable.

The forum, available on FamilyCareAmerica’s Web site, www.familycareamerica.com, was offered in response to the Bill Moyers mini-series, “On Our Own Terms,” which aired last month on PBS. The series offers tools on how individuals and families can prepare for death.

“We must not discount friends, church, institutions and neighbors from making the dying process a graceful one,” said Alina Hassel, assistant professor in the Department of Patient Counseling and panel member. “Everyone needs someone to lend a helping hand, to listen to, or just to be with.”

Other VCU panelists were Frank Baskind, Ph.D., dean of the School of Social Work; Alexander Tartaglia, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Patient Counseling and Ken Faulkner, instructor in the Department of Patient Counseling. Hospice workers Pat Baskind and Melanie Humphreys completed the six-member panel. The panel provided answers to questions submitted by Moyers program viewers to the FamilyCareAmerica Web site. Questions included everything from disputes over living wills to how to be supportive of terminally ill family members and qualifying for hospice care.

Questions began coming into the Web site shortly after the debut of “On Our Own Terms” and answers were provided within a few days. FamilyCare America President Ron Moore anticipates continued interest in the online forum in the future. “Certainly, end-of-life issues are pertinent to the challenges facing our nation’s estimated 50 million who are providing care for us,” he said. “Caregivers and their loved ones can have questions and fears addressed by qualified, compassionate authorities by participating in our online forum.”

FamilyCareAmerica, headquartered in Richmond, is a source for caregivers to find and use local resources in their community. Its Web site provides information on home health care and caregiver-related issues.

Faculty and staff are reminded that pay and leave information is available online. In keeping with the university’s strategic plan initiatives to enhance technology access and promote administrative efficiencies, printed pay and leave advice forms will be discontinued in January. Departments should make pay and leave information available for individuals who do not have Internet access. For details about ESS, e-mail odachs@vcu.edu

VCU Kicks Off CVC Campaign

Virginia Commonwealth University kicked off its 2000 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign on Oct. 1. This year, Gov. Jim Gilmore is honorary chairman for the campaign.

The university has set a goal to raise $300,000 by Nov. 30. Staff and faculty play important roles in raising CVC funds for local charities. This year, our local efforts netted us second in the state for monies contributed, raising nearly $280,000.

Campaign contributors can give stocks or use credit cards, in addition to donating by payroll deductions, cash or check. Faculty and staff will receive pledge cards and directories of the participating charities. Contributors will be able to determine which programs they wish to contribute funds by using CVC codes on their cards.

From health care to violence, from poverty and medical research, for many residents across the state, the CVC contributions touch many lives. Each year, employee contributions help the human services organizations in Central Virginia assist their clients in overcoming challenges. This year, the state will send donations to 77 local charities.

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For tax purposes, no substantial value is given in return for contributions. For more information on the campaign, call 828-2184.

Employee Self-Service System to Be Available Online

by Lissette Linares
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University’s Employee Self-Service System will be available online later this month. The system enables faculty, staff, graduate teaching assistants and hourly and student workers to access their own human resource personal data from their home computers. All information is secure.

Information available online includes:

• Personal information, such as home address, phone number, emergency contact and current benefits
• Payroll information, including a history of paychecks, deductions, and individual and university contributions
• Leave information
• Tax-deferred annuity program, individual and university cash-match contributions

Individuals will access the ESS from the VCU Web site, www.vcu.edu, or through the Human Resource Division Web site, www.vcu.edu/hr. Log in, users should enter the last nine digits of their VCU Card numbers and an eight-digit password.

From ESS, eligible faculty and staff can view and print their leave, salary, and deductions for up to 12 previous months, as well as university contributions to retirement, health insurance, life insurance and other benefit plans. Currently, pay advice slips and check stubs do not include these university contributions. ESS also will allow employees to update personal information, including home addresses, phone numbers and tax withholding exemptions.

Human Resources will send e-mail messages to faculty and staff three to four working days before pay day as reminders that pay and leave information is available online. In keeping with the university’s strategic plan initiatives to enhance technology access and promote administrative efficiencies, printed pay and leave advice forms will be discontinued in January.

Departments should make pay and leave information available for individuals who do not have Internet access. For details about ESS, e-mail odachs@vcu.edu
RICHARD P. WENZEL, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University, is now one of two American physicians and among 10 scientists in the world to join the executive board of the International Society of Infectious Diseases.

Wenzel recently edited a pocket-sized guide for infection control that has been translated into three languages. The ISID plans to add five more languages in the next three years and distribute nearly 100,000 copies to health-care workers in developing countries free of charge.

Wenzel was assisted in developing the guide by Michael Edmond, M.D., hospital epidemiologist at VCU's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals and associate chairman for education in the Department of Internal Medicine.

With a central office at Harvard Medical School, the ISID organizes a biennial conference for nearly 6,000 registrants worldwide and hosts a Web site that serves as a global surveillance system for emerging infections and antibiotic resistance. The organization also provides a number of scholarships for brief educational visits and scientific exchanges.

Other members of the society's executive board include Dennis Kasper, M.D., from Harvard's Channing Library as well as representatives from Canada, Belgium, Peru, Singapore, Australia, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Japan. For more information about the society, visit their website at www.isid.org.

**VCU Offers Seminars for Women's Health Month**

The Virginia Commonwealth University Health System will offer seminars in October to mark Women's Health Month. Various topics relating to women's health will be discussed, including cancer prevention, ways to stay healthy while growing older and prenatal testing. All seminars are free and open to the general public.

Lunchtime topic seminars will be held from noon - 12:30 p.m in the 9th floor conference room of VCU's Main Hospital. Seminar attendees are invited to bring their lunches. For details, call Valerie Coleman at 828-4634.

- Oct. 11, "Women and Stress" by Barbara Burke, L.C.S.W.
- Oct. 15, "Urinary Incontinence" by W. Glenn Hurt, M.D.
- Oct. 25, "Alternatives to Estrogen Therapy" by Leanne Yanni, M.D.
- Oct. 26, "Estrogen Update" by Ellen Brook, M.D.

Three additional educational events will be held in the community.

Two seminars focusing on women's health and aging will be held from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. on Oct. 17 and 24. On Oct. 17, the seminar will be held at the Tuckahoe YMCA, 9211 Patterson Ave., and on Oct. 24, the seminar will be held at the Inman Center, 1506 Hull St. The educational sessions will address the topics of calcium, mental health, menopause and exercise. The events will offer free health screenings including blood pressure and blood sugar checks. Bone density screenings also will be available but will be limited in number due to time restraints. Seminars are open to the public; pre-registration is not required. For details, call 828-4634.

A seminar focusing on cancer prevention, breast health and estrogen will be held from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 26 at VCU's Medical College of Virginia Physicians in the Park at Stony Point, 5000 Stony Point Parkway. The seminar is free and open to the public; pre-registration is suggested. For more information, call 560-8846.

The women's health seminars are sponsored by the VCU Institute for Women's Health, the obstetrics and gynecology department, Women's Health at MCV Hospitals and Oncology Community Outreach.

**Trentham Appointed Director of Managed Care, Contracting at VCU's MCV Hospitals**

Virginia Commonwealth University recently appointed Penny Trentham as executive director of Managed Care and Contracting for VCU's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals. After serving as interim director for the past seven months, Trentham assumed the post on July 1.

"Although it's a daunting task, I am excited about the opportunity in bringing in revenue for the health system," Trentham said.

Trentham has been with the health system for 20 years, in roles such as admitting director and operations manager in the Office of Managed Care.

**People in the News**

- The October issue of Traditional Homes Showcase features a four-page spread of the 1990 Richmond Symphony Designer Room created by GARY INMAN, professor of design history.
- Inman recently took first place in both the residential and institutional categories of Richmond magazine's Interior Design Competition, judged by the American Society of Interior Designers in Washington D.C. Inman's institutional award was for his work on the New VCU Alumni House. Winners were announced in the magazine's October issue.
- GABRIEL RAMIREZ, Ph.D., professor of finance, insurance and real estate, recently presented "The Dynamics of Debit in Possession Financing: Bankruptcy Resolution and the Role of Prior Lenders" at the Joint Corporate Governance/Journal of Financial Economics Conference at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.
- JUDY RICHARDSON, Ph.D., professor of teacher education, was the keynote speaker on secondary reading at the Virginia Department of Education Reading Forum in Roanoke last month.
- JOHN ROSSI, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education, recently was elected to the board of the Social Science Education Consortium in Boulder, Colo. The consortium supports the integration of social sciences into the K-12 history and social studies curriculum.
- MARVIN L. SIMS, associate professor of theatre, was named one of three National Selection Team members for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival XXXIII in April.
- Sims also has been elected to serve as a member-at-large to the Governing Council of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education; as a member-at-large to the National Executive Committee of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival; and as vice president (president-elect) of Black Theatre Network.

**Thousands of students turned out at Norfolk State and Virginia State universities. Pictured above, Ebony Quest, a VCU dance troupe, managed to excite the crowd with their back-bending performance. The event was sponsored in part by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.**
VCU Dance Announces 2000-01 Season

Dance Legends Bebe Miller, Molissa Fenley Among Those to Perform

by Lissette Linares
University News Services

A unique collaboration between dance legends Bebe Miller and Molissa Fenley is among highlights of Virginia Commonwealth University's 2000-01 dance season. The season, presented by VCU's Department of Dance and Choreography, also will feature guest artist performances by the internationally recognized Pearson/Widrig Company, the Richmond premiere of choreographer Gesel Mason and new works by the department's students and renowned faculty.

"Our guest artists this year range from fresh to famous," said Martha Curtis, VCU chair of dance and choreography. "Richmond audiences also will have another chance to enjoy the work of our students and faculty, who perform to wide acclaim all over the nation."

Performances will include:

• "NO LESS BLACK," choreographed by Gesel Mason of Mason/Rhyne Productions, is a conversation about blackness portrayed through poetry and movement. The performance will be produced at 8 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Grace Street Theater.

• VCU Dance seniors will present their original choreographed works in "VOICES -- THE FALL SENIOR DANCE CONCERT," at 8 p.m. Dec. 8 and 9. Tickets are $5.

• "STUDENT/FACULTY PERFORMANCE," featuring original choreography by VCU dance students, faculty and guest artists, will be produced at 8 p.m. Feb. 23-24 at the Grace Street Theater. Tickets are $5.

• "THE VCU DANCE SALON" will be produced at 2 p.m. Nov. 10 at the VCU Dance Center. The informal showing of work by VCU dance students will be moderated by Laura Schandelmeier, director of The Field.

The VCU Dance Salon will provide an opportunity for viewers to discuss works-in-progress with student choreographers. Admission is free.

• "ORDINARY FESTIVALS," by Sara Pearson/Patrik Widrig Company will be presented at the Grace Street Theater at 8 p.m. Nov. 17-18.

• "THE WAKING HOUSE and "LESS BLACK," choreographed by Gesel Mason of D.C., offers workshops centered around peer feedback and review. The presentation is partially supported by the Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. The performance includes Christopher Cartwright, set; Seth Moyyos, lighting; and Elizabeth Weiss Hopper, costumes. Tickets are $10 for general admission.

• VCU Dance will close the season with "PROJECT DANCE CONCERT" at 8 p.m. April 25-26. Tickets are $5.

The 2000-01 season is supported by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. The presentation of "Ordinary Festivals" is partially supported by the Virginia Commission for Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

All events, with the exception of "The Concert's Divide," are free to VCU students with a valid ID. For tickets, call the VCU Dance Box Office at 828-2020.

Theatre VCU to Feature Political Intrigue in 'Madness of George III'

Contributed by Theatre VCU

Through a comedic look at how Great Britain's leaders fight for power after losing the Revolutionary War and witnessing the weakening of their king, Theatre VCU will show how timeless themes such as public image and political back-lating can almost topple an empire. The "Madness of George III," written by Alan Bennett, will be produced at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19-22 at Virginia Commonwealth University's Shafer Street Playhouse, Shafer Court.

"Though staged in the late 1700s, this play really serves as a contemporary mirror to our own nation during this presidential election season," said Christopher Soren, the play's director and a third-year graduate student. "Amidst the comedic undertakings, this play raises serious questions about what it really takes to lead a nation. Not only does this play tackle timeless concerns such as political and public perception, it also challenges viewers to weigh their allegiance, determine if facts are reported accurately and decide what authority means to them."

"The Madness of George III" chronicles the collapsing rule of the king, a passionate man who is struck by an illness that drives him insane. The play opens in 1788, shortly after George III, played by Matt Yule, had lost the American colonies. Parliament is. brewing with disloyalty and upheaval, and the king's son, the Prince of Wales, is eager to seize the crown.

As members of the court notice increasing signs of the king's dementia, the prince joins in a plot to get rid of the king and prevent the loss of government. Ultimately, the king and a new doctor, called in by the prime minister, face off in a battle of wills and the court and country guessing. Their struggle signifies the vulnerability of man, regardless of status.

Portraying other key roles are Matthew Shifflett, set; Seth Moyyos, lighting; and Elizabeth Weiss Hopper, costumes.

Tickets are available at the Theatre VCU box office at 828-0930. General admission is $10; seniors and VCU faculty and staff, $8; VCU students with valid ID, free.
**SEMINARS**

Oct. 9—"Gratuity of Simple and Complex Short Tandem Repeats by Electrospray Ionization Tandem Mass Spectrometry." Sponsored by Biology. For details, call 825-1582.
4 p.m./Life Sciences Building, Room 101

11 a.m./Student Commons, Capital B

7:30 a.m./Main Hospital, Rooms 422 and 427

Oct. 12—"Internships" Sponsored by the Career Center. For details, call 825-1645.
3 p.m./Student Commons, Capital C

**WORKSHOPS**

Oct. 9—"Academic Success: Tests." Sponsored by University Counseling Services of the Division of Student Affairs. For details, call 828-6280.
Noon/Student Commons’ Forum Room

11 a.m./Student Commons, Capital B

Oct. 11—"Useful Tips for Incorporating a Course Management Tool in an Allied Health Profile." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center. For details, call 825-4393.
Noon/Medical Sciences Building, Room 104

2 p.m./Tompkins-McCaw Library, 1st Floor

Oct. 18—"Resume Writing." Sponsored by the Career Center. For details, call 825-1645.
4 p.m./Student Commons’ Forum Room

Oct. 11—"Interviewing." Sponsored by the Career Center. For details, call 825-1645.
11 a.m./Student Commons, Capital B

2 p.m./Student Commons, Capital B

4 p.m./Student Commons, Capital C

Oct. 12—"PhotoShop Introduction." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center. For details, call 825-4383.
9 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

Oct. 12—"Reservations and Events Training Workshop." Sponsored by Reservations and Events. For details, call 829-5892.
Noon/Student Commons, Capital A

Oct. 12—"Weight Watchers at Work." Sponsored by Commons and Activities. For details, call 825-9502 or e-mail at JRHsence@vcu.edu.
Noon/Student Commons

5:30 p.m./Student Commons’ Forum Room

Oct. 16—"Digital Sound Using SoundForge XP." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center. For details, call 825-7713.
9 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

Oct. 16—"Academic Success: Reading." Sponsored by University Counseling Services of the Division of Student Affairs. For details, call 828-4383.
Noon/Student Commons’ Forum Room

Oct. 17—"Introduction to Blackboard’s Course Management System." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center. For details, call 828-4383.
12:30 p.m./Student Commons’ Forum Room

1 p.m./Tompkins-McCaw Library, 2nd Floor

3 p.m./Student Commons, Capital D

5 p.m./Student Commons, Capital B

4 p.m./Student Commons, Capital C

Oct. 18—"RealNetworks Streaming Introduction." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center. For details, call 828-4383.
9 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

Oct. 18—"Weight Watchers at Work." Sponsored by Commons and Activities. For details, call 829-0502 or e-mail at JRHosence@vcu.edu.
Noon/Student Commons

2 p.m./Tompkins-McCaw Library, Room 2-001

Oct. 19—"Academic Success: Reading." Sponsored by University Counseling Services of the Division of Student Affairs. For details, call 828-4200.
3:30 p.m./Student Commons’ Forum Room

Noon/Tompkins-McCaw Library, 1st Floor

7 p.m./Siegel Center

2 p.m./University Meeting Center

**COMPUTER WORKSHOPS**

The following classes are sponsored by University Computing Services on the VCU Campus. The classes will meet in Cabell Library, Room 202 at 1 p.m.

Oct. 9—"WORD Intermediate." For details, call 825-4383.
9 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

Oct. 10—"EXCEL Intermediate." For details, call 825-4383.
10 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

10 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

11 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

Oct. 12—"ACCESS Advanced." For details, call 825-4383.
11 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

12 p.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

Oct. 18—"ACCESS/Publishing on the Web." For details, call 825-4383.
1 p.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

2 p.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 425

**EVENTS**

Noon/Tompkins-McCaw Library, 1st Floor

Oct. 21—"VCU vs. Davidson College" For details, call 828-0638.
2:30 p.m./Siegel Center

Oct. 22—"VCU vs. Old Dominion University" For details, call 828-0638.
3 p.m./Siegel Center

Oct. 23—"VCU vs. Hofstra University" For details, call 828-0638.
4 p.m./Siegel Center

5 p.m./Siegel Center

**SPORTS**

Last month's Trigon

Gurney Tourney may have been won on the street by the team from UPS, for the second year in a row, but the big winners were VCU's Hospital Hospitality Team, shown above, and the newborn intensive care unit at VCU's MCV Hospitals. This year's event raised a record $104,000, which will be shared between the two organizations. Forty-two teams competed in this year's event including teams from CSX, First Market Bank, Mape and Valentine, Ditch Witch and Richfood.
Mission of the VCU Libraries

VCU Libraries supports learning, teaching, research, health care, and public service at Virginia Commonwealth University by:

- selecting, acquiring, organizing, and preserving information and recorded knowledge in a wide variety of formats;
- facilitating access to materials and information available at Virginia Commonwealth University and elsewhere;
- instructing and assisting users to identify, locate, and use its resources.

VCU Libraries strives for excellence in all of these endeavors, keeping uppermost in mind at all times the importance of the highest quality service to the students, faculty, and staff of the university.

Vision of the Library

The university library is a vibrant community where ideas are generated, engaged, and shared. It is a dynamic center of culture and knowledge, serving as a conduit for recorded information in all its forms.
**Collections and Access**

### GENERAL COLLECTIONS

The combined collections of the VCU Libraries total more than 1.5 million volumes. Cabell Library supports learning, teaching, and research in the arts, humanities, social sciences (including business, education, and social work), engineering, and physical sciences. Materials in the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences touch on virtually every aspect of the health sciences. The VCU Libraries have 2.9 million microforms, which are increasingly available in electronic format. Other notable collections include over 2.9 million microforms, 20,000 sound recordings, and 10,000 films and videos.

### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The VCU Libraries offers a wide range of resources in electronic format, including full-text materials, indexes, encyclopedias, and dictionaries. Formats include remote access databases, databases available through the online catalog, Internet resources, and stand-alone and networked CD-ROMs. These resources cover major fields in the arts and humanities, social sciences, sciences, and health sciences. Access to Internet resources through the World Wide Web is available in the VCU Libraries.

The variety of resources provided by the VCU Libraries includes MEDLINE, LEXIS-NEXIS, Compendex, INSPEC, SciFinder Scholar, Beilstein, INFOPTRAC, Web of Science, Current Contents Connect, Bibliography of the History of Art, the English Poetry Database, FirstSearch databases, ABI-Inform, the Dow Jones Publications Library, Research Insight, ProQuest, and Social Work Abstracts. These are just a few of the many electronic resources the VCU Library has to offer. Staff are available to advise you about the specific databases that may be appropriate for your research. All databases are listed and available at http://www.library.vcu.edu/journals/.

### JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS

The VCU Libraries has a collection of journals and other serials to support the University's teaching and research missions. More and more electronic journals are being added to the collection; currently, 9,700 serial titles can be accessed electronically. A list can be found at http://www.library.vcu.edu/journals/.

The most recent issues of the approximately 7,000 current journal and newspaper titles in the collection are shelved on the second floor of Cabell Library. Approximately 3,000 current journal titles are housed in the Tompkins-McCaw Library current journal collection, on the lower level.

Bound volumes of the journals are shelved on the second floor of Cabell Library and are housed in the Tompkins-McCaw Library bound journals stacks. The VCU Libraries has an extensive collection of serial titles available on microfilm.

### MICROFORM RESOURCES

The VCU Libraries also has an extensive collection of 1,200 titles available on microfilm. Microform resources include not only newspaper and journal backfiles, some covering over 100 years, but also college catalogs and specialized research materials, such as "The Diaries and Papers of Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century," "The Shoenberg Clipping File" and the "Library of American Civilization," in addition to seminal British and American books and serials.

### MEDIA RESOURCES

Media Resources are located on the third floor of Cabell Library and on the second floor of Tompkins-McCaw Library. These units house non-print resources, including compact discs, videos, laserdiscs, cassette tapes, records, computer software, models, and slides. Playback equipment is available on site for a variety of formats. Media Resources have also added digital multimedia computer stations for scanning images or text and sampling audio or video.

Cabell Library's Media Resource Services also houses the music score and recording collection and the textbooks and curriculum guides for kindergarten through twelfth grade. Faculty can schedule videos, 16mm films, DVDs, and laserdiscs from the Film/Video Library or the Richmond Academic Library Consortium (RALC) for instructional purposes. The schedule reservation form is available online at http://www.library.vcu.edu/forms/reserv.html.

For more information, visit the MRS web page at http://www.library.vcu.edu/mrs/reserv.html.

Tompkins-McCaw Library offers instruction and assistance for making presentation materials in the Instructional Media Workshop by appointment. The equipment available in the workshop includes lettering systems, dry-mount/lamination film, matboards, and mat and paper cutters, and photographic copystand. You can also sign up to use the scanning computer workstation which accommodates flatbed, transparency, slide, and OCR scanning. The video digitization workstation converts VHS video to Internet movie formats. For more information about available services, please visit the web page at http://www.library.vcu.edu/library/pls/artworkshop.html.

For an appointment, call 828-1592.

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

Cabell Library's Special Collections and Archives, located on the fourth floor, includes: a book art collection widely recognized as one of the finest of its kind in the country; the James Branch Cabell Collection, housed in the James Branch Cabell Suite inside the unit, a limited but representative Virginia Writers Literary Collection of published works and manuscripts; a selection of books dealing with the history and Richmond; Virginia in the Richmond Area Development Archives; comic art and books, and the historical records of the Richmond Professional Institute and the Academic Campus.

Special Collections and Archives at Tompkins-McCaw Library, located in room 1-032, houses records and personal papers documenting the history of health care in Virginia, a rare books collection of predominantly 19th-century texts on medicine, a 3,400-piece collection of medical artifacts, and the historical records of MCV.

University archives and artifacts are housed in Special Collections and Archives on both campuses. For more information, visit the web page at http://www.library.vcu.edu/special.html.

Web exhibits and image databases can be viewed at http://www.library.vcu.edu/exhibits/.

### AIDS RESOURCE LIBRARY

From 1988-1999, the VCU Library has served as the state's AIDS Resource Library in cooperation with the Regional AIDS Resource Centers and the Virginia Department of Health. Tompkins-McCaw Library's collections are available to assist the HIV-related research and patient care needs of health providers throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Collection contains material related to all aspects of HIV infection and AIDS, including medical, social, psychological, economic, and cultural issues.

A page describing the information services available can be found at http://www.library.vcu.edu/infresources/aids/resource.html.

A new web finder for Internet resources is also available at http://www.library.vcu.edu/infresources/path.html.
A ny VCU faculty, staff, or registered student with a valid VUCARD number may use their personal Internet Service Provider (ISP) to connect to and search VCU Library databases, including full-text journal databases (such as InfoTrac, MEDLINE, or LEXIS-NEXIS) and the VCU Library Catalog from outside the VCU Libraries. This requires a short setup procedure, using either the Netscape or Internet Explorer web browser. Directions can be found on the VCU Libraries’ web pages at http://www.library.vcu.edu/help/isp.html.

For technical assistance with setting up a computer, modem, and communications software, contact University Computing Services—Academic Campus (828-2227) or University Computing Services—MCV Campus (829-9843). Catalog, database searching, and remote access questions should be directed to the Cabell Library Reference Desk (828-1101) or the Tompkins-McCaw Library Instruction Desk (828-6036). The catalog is available from approximately 7 A.M. until 2 A.M. daily. Access to the VCU Library Catalog is not restricted. Gaining access to other databases, however, requires a VUCARD.

M ore than 200 databases are accessible on the web for home and office use by following the web browser setup instructions at http://www.library.vcu.edu/help/isp.html. These are just some of the databases available for off-campus use:

- ABI/INFORM
- BIOSIS
- CINAHL
- Criminal Justice Abstracts
- Current Contents
- Ecolit
- EI Village/Compendex
- ERIC
- International Pharmaceutical Abstracts
- ISI WEB OF SCIENCE (Citation Databases)
- MEDLINE
- MLA Bibliography
- PSYCARD
- Social Work Abstracts
- Sociological Abstracts

Links to these and other databases can be found, listed alphabetically and by subject areas at http://www.library.vcu.edu/resources.html.

**Services and Facilities**

**WANT A TOUR OF THE LIBRARY?**

A t Cabell Library, regularly scheduled tours are conducted at the beginning of each semester for anyone interested in attending. For more information, contact Dan Ream at 828-6545 or dream@vcu.edu, or check the Library Instruction schedule of open instruction sessions on the web at http://www.library.vcu.edu/services/cabell_instruction.html.

At Tompkins-McCaw Library, monthly orientation tours are scheduled for new students, staff, faculty, or visitors. For schedule information, contact Lynne Turman at 828-0638 or at luturnan@vcu.edu, or check the Health Informatics Program schedule at http://www.library.vcu.edu/tml/classes.html.

**GETTING STARTED ON YOUR RESEARCH**

T o learn more about the electronic library, or just to brush up on basic searching skills, visit http://www.library.vcu.edu/help/getstarted.html. This “Getting Started on Your Research” page can also teach users how to find books, magazines, government documents, and Internet sites. Also included is an interactive quiz on search logic and tips for evaluating the sources found.

**MY LIBRARY**

T he VCU Libraries’ “My Library” service, developed in 1998, is one of the first personalized web page services offered by any library in the world. It allows any library user to create a personal page of “shortcuts” to their favorite library databases and web sites, eliminating the need to remember where to click to find favorite research tools on the web. Unlike bookmarks, which can only be accessed from one computer, a “My Library” page can be reached from any computer in the world with access to the World Wide Web. Use it at http://www.library.vcu.edu/mylibrary. For additional information, contact Dan Ream (828-6545) at dream@vcu.edu, or Jimmie Ghaphery (828-1103) at jghaphery@svirum.cau.edu.

**HEALTH INFORMATION PROGRAM**

T ompkins-McCaw Library on the MCV Campus provides training opportunities throughout the year to help users develop skills in information management. A wide variety of seminars focusing on health sciences topics are offered free of charge to VCU faculty, staff, and students. VCU Libraries staff also design a specialized program for your course or group. For more information and a list of current classes, visit http://www.library.vcu.edu/tml/classes.html or contact Lynne Turman at 828-0638 or luturnan@vcu.edu.

**INSTRUCTION AND OUTREACH SERVICES**

V CU faculty can schedule course-related library research instruction throughout the year at Cabell Library. Classes are taught by librarians and customized to meet the special research needs of both undergraduate and graduate students. Two weeks advance notice and professors’ attendance at sessions are required. In addition, open enrollment orientations to the Cabell Library and the World Wide Web are presented at the beginning of each semester. For more information contact Dan Ream at 828-6545 or dream@vcu.edu, or visit the web page at http://www.library.vcu.edu/services/cabell_instruction.html.

**USING ELECTRONIC FORMS TO REQUEST SERVICES**

M any of the services that formerly required VCU Libraries users to fill out paper forms and submit them in person can now be handled with one of the electronic forms found on the VCU Libraries’ web page at http://www.library.vcu.edu/forms.html. Using these electronic forms is more convenient (you always know where they are and we never run out), faster (you can submit your request from your computer workstation immediately), and more accurate (if you make a mistake and leave out vital information, the form is returned to you so you can correct it). Services available through online request forms include:

- Interlibrary Loan Request (request materials not owned by the VCU Libraries to be borrowed and sent here for your use)
- Book Renewal (request renewal of books and other items you have borrowed from the VCU Libraries)
- Hold/Recall, Delivery and Missing Item Search
McCaw Library

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vcu.edu/tml/interlib/unilib2.html.

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INTERLIBRARY LOAN SERVICES

Since no library is totally self-sufficient, libraries share their resources through interlibrary loan to supplement their collections. VCU is a member of the Center for Resource Libraries, OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. These organizations offer access to the collections of libraries in this country and abroad. For materials not held in the VCU Libraries, interlibrary borrowing services are available for student, faculty, and staff borrowers. These transactions can be arranged in person at the Cabell Library Interlibrary Loan Office (room 126), Tompkins-McCaw Interlibrary Loan Office (room B-001), Cabell Library Reference Desk, Tompkins-McCaw Library Service Desk, or by electronic mail at ulsbibclvcu.edu for Cabell Library and vusubbib@vcu.edu for Tompkins-McCaw Library. Forms are also available at http://www.library.vcu.edu/forms/ill.html. Because materials must be retrieved from other libraries, normal turnaround time is two weeks. For additional information, visit the web page at http://www.library.vcu.edu/interlib/ill.html.

PHOTOCOPY SERVICE

The Library's Photocopy Service will retrieve, photocopy, and deliver articles owned by the Library. This is a fee-based service. Photocopy request forms may be submitted in person at Cabell Library Interlibrary Loan Office (room 126), Tompkins-McCaw Library Service Desk, or by electronic mail at ulsbibclvcu.edu for Cabell Library and vusubbib@vcu.edu for Tompkins-McCaw Library. Forms are also available at http://www.library.vcu.edu/forms/ill.html. Because materials must be retrieved from other libraries, normal turnaround time is two weeks. For additional information, visit the web page at http://www.library.vcu.edu/interlib/ill.html.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

VCU and Card Value Center cards may be used for the printers, photocopiers, and microform equipment in the VCU Libraries. The Card Value Center vending machines in Cabell Library are located on the first and second floors. In Tompkins-McCaw Library, Card Value Center machines are located on the first floor and on the lower level.

Printing and copying services are provided, within 48 hours of the request. Assistance will be given in the new due dates for all renewed materials at the end of the telephone transaction.

REFERENCE SERVICES

Reference assistance is provided at the Cabell Library Reference Desk and at the Tompkins-McCaw Library Service Desk. Staff at these two service points are ready to help students, faculty, and others learn to use library resources effectively and efficiently, by teaching the use of electronic resources, including the Internet, the library catalog, CD-ROMs, and subscription databases. They also help patrons formulate search strategies, use print reference sources, locate information and materials, and learn about library collections and services. Library users can also make appointments with subject specialists to help them with difficult research questions. Reference services are also available by e-mail. Turnaround time for that service is within 48 hours, Monday through Friday. The query form is available online at http://www.library.vcu.edu/forms/ref.html.

SERVICES FOR USERS WITH DISABILITIES

Cabell Library has a wheelchair ramp to enter the building through automatic doors. Accessible restrooms are in the basement level and on the second floor; elevators provide access to all floors. Special audio and visual equipment is available to aid in using library materials, including the Kurzweil "Reading Edge," a synthesized-voice reading machine; the Voyager/Visualtek Reader for enlarging printed text; and a personal computer with a 20-inch monitor and screen magnification for accessing library databases. Staff at the Reference Desk can provide special research assistance and orientations by appointment. The document delivery service provides materials between the two campuses and staff provides assistance with retrieving and photocopying materials from the collection within 48 hours of the request. For further assistance, please contact Sally Jacobs at 828-1101 (TDD 828-1101) or ulsbibclvcu.edu.

Tompkins-McCaw Library has a monitored wheelchair ramp entrance that the staff can open. Or, you may register your VCUCard number with the library, allowing card swipe access to the ramped entrance during the library's operating hours. Accessible restrooms are available on the first floor; elevators provide access to all floors. Specialized equipment includes a personal computer with screen magnification. A Voyager/Visualtek Reader and large-print microphone reader are also available. Staff at the Service Desk can provide special research assistance and orientations by appointment. For users with physical disabilities that prevent them from retrieving and photocopying materials from the collection, the photocopy service fee will be waived and assistance will be provided, within 48 hours of the request. For further assistance contact John Jones at 828-1881 or jjones@vcu.edu.

PHOTOCOPY SERVICE

The VCU Libraries Photocopy Service will retrieve, photocopy, and deliver articles owned by the Library. This is a fee-based service. Photocopy request forms may be submitted in person at Cabell Library Interlibrary Loan Office (room 126), Tompkins-McCaw Library Service Desk, or by electronic mail at ulsbibclvcu.edu for Cabell Library and vusubbib@vcu.edu for Tompkins-McCaw Library. Forms are also available at http://www.library.vcu.edu/forms/ill.html. Because materials must be retrieved from other libraries, normal turnaround time is two weeks. For additional information, visit the web page at http://www.library.vcu.edu/interlib/ill.html.

PRESEVATION OF COLLECTIONS

The Preservation Department promotes proper care and handling of library materials, provides preventive maintenance for new materials, and treats damaged materials to help protect the university's investment in the VCU Libraries' resources. It is important for these materials to remain accessible now and for future generations of researchers. This department also manages the Cabell Library stacks, provides staff and user education, reformats library materials, and coordinates binding and repair services. For more information, contact Patricia Palm Seling at 828-3287 or pepalm@vcu.edu.

THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS

The VCU Libraries binds all student theses and dissertations for a nominal fee. The Thesis and Dissertation Manual is available in print from graduate advisors and on the web in Acrobat PDF at http://www.library.vcu.edu/services/ binding.html. The web version allows students to download some of the forms for easy editing.
STUDY ROOMS

Group study rooms are available on a first come-first served basis for two or more users and to individuals with a demonstrated study or research-related need for a private room. The Cabell Library study rooms are located on the first floor and third floor and are not locked. Keys to the study rooms at Tompkins-McCaw Library are available at the Service Desk and can be checked out for two-hour periods.

PUBLIC PHONES

Public telephones are located on the second floor in Cabell Library and the first floor of Tompkins-McCaw Library. Campus telephones are located on the first floor of Cabell Library; Tompkins-McCaw Library has these telephones on each floor. A telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) is installed at one of the public telephones on the first floor of Cabell Library.

Employment Opportunities

The VCU Libraries employs numerous student workers (including Work-Study) each semester. The University Career Center serves as a point of contact for student employment. Visit the Center at 907 Floyd Avenue, 1st Floor, Room 130 of the University Student Commons. Information about student services may be found at http://www.vcu.edu/ascweb/careers/services.html. Information about Work-Study may be found at http://www.vcu.edu/ascweb/careers/workstudy/. Information about student employment in the VCU Libraries is available at the VCU Libraries Administration office—Room 201, James Branch Cabell Library or at the Tompkins-McCaw Library Service Desk. Employment opportunities for students are also listed on the VCU Libraries home page http://www.library.vcu.edu/admin/jobopens.html.

Full-time classified and hourly positions are often available in the VCU Libraries. The Employment Office at Virginia Commonwealth University facilitates the hiring process for departments on the academic campus and Medical College of Virginia Campus. Applicants may apply for hourly positions, which are restricted to 1500 hours per 365-calendar day period or staff positions that offer a full complement of benefits. The Employment Office is located at 1000 East Marshall Street, Richmond, VA 23298-0067. Inquiries may also be made over the telephone at 225-4196. Further information may be obtained by visiting their Web page at http://www.vcu.edu/hr/jobs/index.html. A 24-Hour Job Hot Line is also available at 278-0266.

State applications for all classified positions (full-time and hourly) are available in VCU Libraries Administration office—Room 201, James Branch Cabell Library or at the Tompkins-McCaw Library Service Desk. The State Employment Application form is also available online at http://www.dpt.state.va.us/statefrm.htm.

Faculty positions (full and part time) are often also available in the VCU Libraries. Employment opportunities are listed on the VCU Libraries home page http://www.library.vcu.edu/admin/jobopens.html.

VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, Veteran's status, political affiliation or disability.

Re-energize with the Remodel!
Library Renovations Planned for 2000/2001

The VCU Libraries facilities are being renovated to make them more responsive to your needs, the University's mission and the VCU Libraries strategic plan. Specifically, the plans will refurbish first floor prime service areas in both library facilities and upgrade basic facility infrastructure (electrical, networking). Additionally, to better preserve and protect both our resources and our facilities, sprinkler systems will be installed in both libraries.

JAMES BRANCH CABELL LIBRARY

The first floor represents a key resource within Cabell Library, as well as for the academic campus. It has an estimated 6,000 uses per day. Highlights of the renovation include the redesign of the initial entrance area; the installation of public restrooms; the installation of a coffee bar and mini-lounges; the installation of additional computer stations; and the upgrade of existing student study facilities. The Library Instruction Classroom Lab (LICL) will be expanded and relocated to the third floor.

TOMPKINS-MCCAW LIBRARY FOR THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Renovations at TML will also improve prime user space on the entry level. Highlights of the TML renovations include the relocation of the service desk; the relocation of current journals to the first floor; the installation of additional computer stations; construction of a self-service copy and printing room; the addition of a refreshment area with vending machines; and the expansion of public restrooms. The existing computerized learning facility (LIMERC) will be expanded and relocated to the second floor.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Since last September, the VCU Libraries has been working with a design team from the Norfolk-based architectural/engineering firm of Tymoff & Moss. Construction is expected to begin in December in both library facilities. By that time we will know if the budget will support our ambitious plans, or if certain areas will have to wait for future funding. We are confident that the renovations will exceed our expectations to maximize existing space, improve aesthetics, and upgrade technology which will more than compensate for any experienced inconveniences. Reenergize with the remodel!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the renovations, please visit http://www.library.vcu.edu/building/.
Jean Shipman Becomes Tompkins-McCaw Director

J ean P. Shipman, the new director of the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences, began her appointment at VCU on August 1, 2000. Prior to moving to Richmond, Ms. Shipman held the position of Associate Director, Information Resource Management, Health Sciences Libraries at the University of Washington. She has also held positions at the Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, the Greater Baltimore Medical Center and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region.

Ms. Shipman currently holds the office of secretary of the Board of Directors of the Medical Library Association (MLA). She is also serving as co-chair of the National Program Committee for the 2001 annual meeting of MLA.

A member of both Beta Beta Beta honor society for biological sciences and Beta Phi Mu honor society for library and information science, Ms. Shipman received the Bachelor of Arts in biology from Gettysburg College and the Master of Science in Library Science from Case Western Reserve University.

VCU Libraries Offers Electronic Reserves

T his fall, VCU Libraries are offering a new service, electronic reserves, which will make digitized course materials available via the World Wide Web. The service will initially be oriented towards serving VCU's distance education programs in Social Work and the School of Allied Health Professions. This limited roll-out will allow VCU Libraries staff to benchmark and evaluate the service before it is expanded to other programs at the University. The web site for the service, located at http://www.library.vcu.edu/cfapps/ereserve/index.cfm, will allow users to search paper, media, and electronic reserve materials by either course or instructor. Access to copyrighted material will also be limited to the VCU community through the Libraries' proxy server. For more information on Electronic Reserves, please contact Shirley Thomas, Head, Access Services, James Branch Cabell Library. E-mail: arthomas@vcu.edu, or Mona Thiss, Information Services Manager, Tompkins-McCaw Library. E-mail: rthtais@vcu.edu.

You've Got Books!

A mong the new services debuting this fall is a new books announcement service called "You've Got Books", located at http://www.library.vcu.edu/cfapps/jhec/instruct/newbooks/ which will notify the VCU Libraries' users when we receive new books in their areas of interest. You can sign up to have a subject-specific list of new books e-mailed to you regularly, or just browse what is available by topic on the web. We anticipate that the new books list will be updated and e-mail notifications will be sent out monthly.

VCU Libraries Expands Document Delivery Service

A s part of its Collections and Services Redesign, VCU Libraries offers rapid document delivery service to faculty, graduate students, and first professional students. The new service, called RaPDS (Rapid Page Delivery Service) began in June. Through RaPDS, VCU Libraries will provide an expanded library-subsidized service allowing users to search online and order for delivery articles in journals not held in the VCU Libraries. Articles are delivered to users by fax, courier, and for some titles, by online image (desktop) delivery. The new service delivers documents to users faster (within 48 hours) and more conveniently than traditional interlibrary loans. Funding for rapid document delivery comes from the reallocation of the collections budget dollars that were previously spent on subscriptions to expensive highly specialized journals. Documents are supplied by two contracted providers, CISTI and the UnCover Company.

The Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) can provide articles in the physical and life sciences, medicine, health sciences, technology, engineering, and psychology. Users can search and order documents online from CISTI Source, which lists the table of contents from nearly 14,000 titles currently received at CISTI that are available for document delivery. The UnCover Company can provide documents to VCU users in social science disciplines, in the arts and humanities, and from general scholarly and professional journals. Tables of contents are searchable in UnCover's online database, which covers over 18,000 titles and includes over 8 million citations. Information about using CISTI Source and UnCover can be found at http://www.library.vcu.edu/ill/rapds. Contact Andrew Morton, Access Services Manager, for more information at 828-1700 or visit the Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Services webpage at http://www.library.vcu.edu/ill/

Online Exhibits

V CU Libraries is excited to announce two digital image collections available over the Internet. These break new and important ground for the VCU Libraries as they are original and unique sources not being made available to the widest public possible. "Rarely Seen Richmond: Early Twentieth Century Richmond as Seen through Vintage Postcards" consists of over 600 postcards which show interesting and varied views of our city, including buildings and structures that either no longer exist or have been noticeably altered. "Through the Lens of Time: Images of African-Americans from the Cook Collection" is a joint project with the Valentine Museum which provides access to 200 turn-of-the-Century photographs of African-Americans in Central Virginia, giving insight both into the lives of the African-American subjects but and the perceptions of the white photographers. Both are available from http://www.library.vcu.edu/exhibits.
Join the VCU Friends of the Library

Our Partners for Progress

The VCU Friends of the Library...

- is an organization of more than 300 members — individuals, organizations, and businesses.
- raises funds to help provide resources and services beyond what the VCU Libraries' budget is able to provide.
- stimulates support and awareness of the VCU Libraries' resources and services.
- sponsors special programs, including a book sale and special events
- needs your support!

Commitment to VCU Students, Faculty, and Staff

- More than twenty library endowments have been created to enhance the collections in areas such as American history, English literature, and health administration.
- A primary function of any library is to preserve its materials once they have been acquired and added to the collections. To assist with the preservation program of the VCU Libraries, the Friends fund recyclable, plastic bags to help patrons protect books during inclement weather.

Commitment to VCU Libraries Staff

- The Friends established a new endowment, the VCU Friends of the Library Staff Excellence Endowment, to provide support for staff development. The endowment will allow library staff to conduct, participate in, and attend such events as training programs, lectures, and workshops. This endowment is the first of its kind and is an expression of the Friends' commitment to staff development and excellence.
- The Friends strongly support the VCU Libraries faculty and staff. At the end of the year, a holiday gathering is held in honor of the staff.
- During National Library Week, the Friends present achievement awards to student workers who have shown extraordinary work and academic talents.

Community Service

For the past four years, the Friends have sponsored community service programs of interest to the Richmond community.

- In 1994, a panel consisting of members of the VCU and Richmond communities explored the future of Richmond. "The Libraries, The Internet, Restricted Access: Censorship or Good Taste?"
- In 1995, the Friends presented "The Public in Public Art," during which a nationally renowned keynote speaker and panelists discussed how art is selected and developed for the metro Richmond area and the role the public plays in this process.
- The Friends tackled a controversial, library-related issue in 1997 with "Regionalism: The Next Step." The libraries were the focus of a workshop and panel discussion in this process.
- In 1996, the Friends sponsored "The Reading Book," which presented "The Internet," "The Reading Book," and "The Reading Book: A Field Guide." The workshops were designed to provide tools to help people become more familiar with the materials available at the VCU Libraries.

Membership and Benefits

The membership of the VCU Friends of the Library is as diverse as VCU's student body. Various levels of giving are provided to encourage the entire community to participate. Anyone can join!

Annual membership is extended to everyone who contributes the minimum annual dues of $25. The Friends make a variety of exciting and unique benefits available to their members, including:

- One FREE one-hour Internet training session at the VCU Libraries. Friends can learn about the wonders of the World Wide Web and the Internet.
- FREE borrowing privileges. Upon request, all Friends receive free borrowing privileges to the VCU Libraries for one year.
- Invitations to Friends-sponsored programs. All Friends receive invitations to annual lectures and programs.
- A subscription to Library Online, the Friends newsletter. This bimonthly publication includes articles about VCU Libraries happenings and an events calendar.

How to Join the VCU Friends of the Library

Join the Friends and watch the VCU Libraries grow. Some members support the Friends simply by paying their annual dues, while others become more involved in Friends' programs and activities.

[ ] Yes! I would like to join the VCU Friends of the Library and contribute to the continued excellence and growth of the VCU Libraries.
[ ] Personal Gift
[ ] Corporate Gift

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Contribution by Credit Card

Circle One: [ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard

Contribution by Matching Gift

Many companies have programs through which they will match the contributions of current and retired employees. If you or your spouse is employed by or retired from a matching gift company, please contact your human resources office to find out how you can double or triple your gift to the VCU Libraries.

Please return this form to VCU Friends of the Library.

P.O. Box 843042
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3042

Your support is greatly appreciated!
The VCU Libraries' "My Library" service lets you create your own personal library web page, with shortcuts to your favorite library research tools and web sites. And it's better than bookmarks, because you can use it anywhere the web is!

New Users click here: Create your own library page

http://www.library.vcu.edu/mylibrary