VCU Names New Police Chief

Former Officer to Return to VCU

by Mary Beth Alford
University News Services

A former Virginia Commonwealth University police lieutenant is returning to VCU, this time as the university’s new chief of police. William (Willie) B. Fuller, currently the police chief at Virginia State University in Petersburg, will begin work at VCU next month.

Fuller will replace Dan M. Dean, Jr., VCU’s police chief of 35 years, who will retire in January.

“Wille will be a wonderful addition to VCU’s police force,” said Dean. “I have worked with him for 16 years, and have known him on a professional as well as personal level. I have total confidence that he will do an excellent job here in the VCU community.”

As chief, Fuller will direct and manage VCU’s police force of 70 sworn officers and 70 non-sworn security personnel. VCU police officers complete a 14-week basic training academy and a 10-week field-training program to earn certification and are empowered by the Code of Virginia.

“We conducted a national search to find the right person for this position,” said Paul Timmreck, VCU senior vice president for finance and administration. “We are very fortunate to have found an extremely qualified person who knows VCU, its campuses and its community.”

“I began my academic and police careers at VCU and feel blessed by the opportunity to return and serve the VCU community as police chief,” said Fuller. “Dan Dean has been both father figure and mentor to me for more than 20 years. Following in his footsteps will be an honor.”

State Forum on Environmental Education to be Held at VCU

by Lissette Linares
University News Services

More than 300 people from across Virginia will meet at Virginia Commonwealth University Dec. 7-8 to survey programs and recommend ways to strengthen environmental education at all levels in Virginia.

The Virginia Environmental Education Advisory Committee, appointed recently by Gov. Jim Gilmore, will hold the forum in the Commonwealth Ballroom of VCU’s Student Commons.

The event also will be broadcast live via the Internet to encourage widespread public input.

“The governor’s forum provides a significant opportunity for members of the VCU community to participate directly in forging the future of environmental education throughout the Commonwealth.”
VCU Announces Winter Holiday Schedule

by Lisette Linares
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University will observe the following holiday schedule. In keeping with university policy, employees who work on any of the dates below will accrue holiday leave if applicable.

• **THANKSGIVING:** The university will be closed at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 22 and will remain closed on Thanksgiving Day and on Friday, Nov. 24.

• **CHRISTMAS:** The university will be closed on Friday, Dec. 22 and remain closed on Christmas Day, as well as Tuesday, Dec. 26.

• **NEW YEAR’S DAY:** The university will be closed on Friday, Dec. 29, on Monday, Jan. 1 and on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

VCU employees will accrue four flexible holiday hours on Dec. 27 to use within 12 months with supervisory approval. An additional eight-hour holiday will be given on Jan. 12 in observance of the Lee-Jackson Holiday. Legislation passed by the 2000 General Assembly created separate holidays for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson observances. VCU will observe the King Holiday on Jan. 15 and the Lee-Jackson Holiday as a "flexible" holiday.

Departments should allow reasonable accommodation for employees observing religious holidays not covered by this holiday schedule. Moreover, the holiday schedule described in this memorandum does not apply to employees of MCV Hospitals and clinics, as they are covered by the Paid Time Off (PTO) program which combines annual, sick and holiday leave.

The schedule also is available on the VCU human resources Web site at [www.vcu.edu/hr/employeebenefits.html](http://www.vcu.edu/hr/employeebenefits.html).

**VCU Professor Receives Two Literary Honors**

by Laura Arboagot
University News Services

Maria Golden, professor of English and the senior fiction writer in the Creative Writing Program at Virginia Commonwealth University, is the recipient of two prestigious literary honors.

Golden recently was inducted into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent at the 10th annual Gwendolyn Brooks Writers' Conference, sponsored by Chicago State University. The honor is given to writers who have produced work that exemplifies cultural consciousness and literary excellence.

Golden’s memoir magazine also recently recognized Golden with its 2001 Writers for Writers Award, which honors writers who have supported the writing community. Golden is the founder of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation which sponsors an annual award for young African-American fiction writers as well as a summer writers workshop at VCU.

Golden is the author of numerous fiction and nonfiction books including, "Migrations of the Heart," "A Woman's Place, A Miracle Every Day: Triumph and Transformation in the Lives of Single Mothers," and her most recent, "The Edge of Heaven."

Before coming to VCU in 1994, Golden served as writer-in-residence at the University of Illinois, Central Michigan University and the University of Lagos, Nigeria. She also was part of the creative writing faculty at George Mason University.

POLICE CHIEF

continued from page 1

support and role in my development over the past four years."

Fuller has been chief of police at VCU since 1996. Prior to his time at VU, he served in a variety of positions with the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control in Richmond, including deputy director of the Bureau of Law Enforcement Operations. Fuller was a police officer at VCU from 1979-1991.

He earned his bachelor's degree in police science from St. John's University in Springfield, La. Fuller also attended Police Supervisory School at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Academy in Quantico.

He currently is a member of the Virginia Fraternal Order of Police and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and serves as editor for the Virginia Criminal Law Handbook for Police Officers.

**ENVIRONMENT**

continued from page 1

commonwealth," said Greg Garman, Ph.D., director of VCU's Center for Environmental Studies, a sponsor of the forum. "The center is pleased to be able to support this valuable initiative and encourages all interested students and faculty to get involved in the December event."

Edward L. Flippen, rector of VCU's board of visitors, and Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., VCU president and member of the Environmental Education Advisory Committee, will welcome participants to the event.

During the forum, participants will engage in breakout sessions providing opportunities for interaction with members of the governor's Department of Environmental Quality and VCU's Center for Environmental Studies.

**COORDINATED CARE**

continued from page 1

Most of the services will be provided at VCU's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals and clinics. However, 20 percent of services also will be provided by primary-care doctors in the local community.

This year, the VCU Health System expects to provide more than $900 million of health care to indigent patients throughout the Commonwealth.

"Virginia Coordinated Care represents an opportunity to offer a new model of care to the uninsured patients of the VCU Health System," said Shelton M. Ritchin, M.D, executive vice president of the clinical enterprise for the VCU Health System.

"The VCU Health System currently provides a disproportionate amount of care to Virginia's uninsured. Approximately one-third of all care for uninsured patients in Virginia is delivered on VCU's medical campus. While this is a laudable mission for our health system, it is an expensive one.

"VCU requires participants to choose a primary-care physician, or PCP. That PCP will provide all routine preventive care, treat illnesses, prescribe medications and admit patients to the hospital.

"When needed, the primary-care doctor will make referrals and coordinate access to MCV's specialists. VCC members must always contact their PCP before seeking services from another health-care provider, except in emergencies. VCC will cover only inpatient care provided at MCV Hospitals.

"In the past, many of our uninsured patients have used the emergency room as a primary-care site, and they've used specialty-care physicians as primary-care doctors. We believe VCC will improve the health status of our indigent patients and provide more efficient use of the health-care system.

"To qualify for coverage, enrollees must complete a financial statement and provide proof of all income.

"VCC members cannot have any other health insurance and must not be eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Medical Services Insurance Program, known as CMSIP.

"VCC applicants may undergo a financial screening at several locations: MCV Hospitals Main Hospital Cashier's Office, Richmond, MCV Hospital Admissions Office, Randolph- Minor Hall Room 103, Hayes E. Willis Health Center of South Rich- mond and the 10th Street Clinic.

"For more information about the Virginia Coordinated Care program, call the VCC Financial Counseling Office at 828-0666 with questions about eligibility.
Community Play Explores Struggles of Urban Neighborhoods

Living Newspaper Tackles Effects of Desegregation, Urbanization on Carver Community

by Lissette Linares
University News Services

From World War II and Vietnam to desegregation and the construction of Interstate 95, true-life events have created increasing challenges for survival of Richmond’s inner-city Carver community. To both celebrate and share its legacy, the community teamed up with Virginia Commonwealth University to produce “Sheep Hill Memories — Carver Dreams,” a play drawing on residents’ personal experiences during neighborhood transformations over seven decades.

Designed as a living newspaper linking vignettes that capture the day’s events, the play was offered at VCU’s Shafer Street Playhouse earlier this month. Panel discussions featuring Richmond public officials, members of the community and VCU faculty followed each performance.

This local project revitalizes an art form first developed in the Soviet Union in the 1920s and popularized in the United States by the Works Progress Administration Federal Theatre Project in the 1930s. The Carver Living Newspaper documents the history of the community, once known as “Sheep Hill,” by focusing on key events that had significant impacts. A voice over a loudspeaker serves as narrator, reading the day’s “headlines.” The scenes then flash to the central characters’ memories of life in Carver during those times.

Barbara Abernathy, president of the Carver Area Civic Improvement League and co-chair of the CarverVCU Partnership, first presented the idea for the project. “A lot of our seniors and elderly persons were passing on, and I felt that we were losing the history and identity of the community with their passing,” said the lifelong Carver resident. “You hear so many negative things about Carver in the media — about the crime and poverty. And while those things exist to some degree, there are some truly wonderful things that have been accomplished and are being accomplished in Carver.”

Through the flashback scenes, the play features the actual memories of more than 30 Carver residents interviewed for the project. Laura Brower, Ph.D., English professor, drew on these interviews and on “A History of Carver,” a report produced by VCU’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning, to write the script. Marguerita Austin, who founded the Richmond Community Theatre Guild in Carver in the 1970s, served as a consultant.

“We chose this format for the play because it provides a lot of flexibility in that it can be produced on a shoe-string or on an elaborate budget and community members or groups can adapt it by adding their own slots to certain vignettes or by producing selected segments,” Brower said. “It’s really a foundation for what could become an annual or regular production.”

“The hope is that beyond sharing this community’s history, the play sparks an ongoing dialogue with other residents and with public officials about what we can do to ensure the survival of Richmond’s urban neighborhoods.”

More than 36,750 middle- and high-school students from across Virginia voted in this year’s election — the Youth Mock Election, that is. The polls opened Oct. 23 and closed Nov. 2 for what was the largest on-line mock election in the nation. Jessica Page, 23, of Charlottesville proudly displayed an “I Voted” sticker during a reception at the General Assembly Building to announce the results of the Youth Mock Election. And the results are in — Gov. George W. Bush defeats Vice President Al Gore 52 percent to 40 percent, in the Virginia U.S. Senate race, Allen defeat Robb 57 percent to 43 percent.

The Youth Mock Election was created to encourage young people to participate in the political process. The event was sponsored by the Youth Leadership Initiative of the University of Virginia’s Center for Governmental Studies, the Virginia Student/Parent Mock Election, The Governor’s School for Government and International Studies and VCU’s School of Education.
VCU Celebrates the Holidays

The holidays are fast approaching and to celebrate this festive time and the diverse population of students, faculty and staff at VCU, the university once again will offer "VCU Celebrates the Holidays." The event highlights the many holidays celebrated around the world, with food, displays, and performances by VCU’s student organizations and more.

Offered from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Dec. 6 in the lobby of the Student Commons, this year’s event also will feature performances by Walter Bell and the Latin Jazz Unit. Holidays represented include the more familiar Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas, as well as a variety of New Year’s celebrations of both Asian and European tradition.

Enrique Granados, Federico Mompou, Manuel de Falla and more.

Virginia Commonwealth University’s Guitar Ensemble and Community Guitar Ensemble will host "An Afternoon of Classical Guitar" at 4 p.m. Dec. 3. The free concert, directed by John Patykula, VCU associate professor of music, features music by Michael Praetorius, J.S. Bach, Niccolo Paganini.

Guitar Ensemble
Second Phase of VCU Student Computer Initiative Underway

Virginia Commonwealth University has begun its second phase of the implementation of the Student Computer Initiative, which will require that all freshmen and transfer students enrolling at VCU in fall 2001 have a personal computer. Since spring 2000, nine workgroups composed of faculty, staff and students from across the university have identified about 80 issues that need to be addressed in order to implement the SCI.

Many of these issues already have been or are being addressed, including:
- SCI information was made available to students, faculty and staff in a series of open forums in the spring of 2000, through the AT News newsletter and other brochures and letters, as well as at a prospective students' Block Party in April 2000. This information also was made available to the Student Government Association in several spring and fall semester meetings.
- Basic computer specifications have been developed for incoming freshmen for fall 2000 and were made available through Getting Connected @ VCU, a publication distributed to students during the summer STAR program, as well as online at www.vcu.edu/SCI. This information also will be added to the "VCU 101" textbook.
- Incoming freshmen were surveyed to determine their current computing skills during the summer STAR program. One fact to emerge from the survey was that only 1.4 percent of about 2,000 respondents indicated that they did not have access to a computer at home or at work. The survey information will be used to help develop computer literacy training programs for the fall 2001 semester.
- The Division of Academic Technology (AT) assisted Business Services in negotiations with Voice, Data & Communications Inc. to provide computer repair services to the VCU community through an arrangement with Online@ VCU. AT also is conducting ongoing discussions with multiple computer vendors to establish favorable pricing opportunities for students.
- A six-year plan was created to upgrade networking and audiovisual capabilities of medium and large centrally controlled classrooms, as well as selected public areas identified by the deans and the Office of Student Affairs. Multi-media technology standards were developed for centrally controlled classrooms.
- AT upgraded open-use computer labs located in Room 1121 of the Business Building and in the basement of the Student Commons. The division also completed a face-lift of the Cabell B-5 open-use computer lab and purchased tutorial and other software.
- The AT Instructional Development Center conducted a special faculty development workshop during the summer break: "Preparing Faculty for 2001: Survival in the Electronic Classroom" was designed for faculty interested in using technology in their coursework.
- A University Information Technology Advisory Committee was established. AT, Administrative Information Technology, University Library Services and Student Services are discussing areas where laptop ports might be installed for students who want to take advantage of this service. Some areas under review are the Student Commons, the Larrick Center, the Siegel Center and the libraries of the libraries.
- "We made considerable progress in the implementation of the SCI," said Jim Fajohn, director of the initiative. "The timely dissemination of information and a continued dialogue with the VCU community, however, will be necessary to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible for students and for faculty."

VCU to Offer Graduate Institute on Africa for High-School Teachers

B y exploring African literature and arts with many of the globe's top scholars, Virginia high-school teachers will have a rare opportunity next spring to develop new strategies for presenting African life and culture back in their classrooms. The Institute for High School Teachers in African Literature — sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy — will link participating teachers with international writers and scholars who will gather in Richmond for the 27th annual African Literature Association conference in April.

Designed for English, French and social studies teachers, the institute, which will explore "African Literature: Art and Commitment," will help teachers prepare students to meet Standards of Learning in world literature, social studies and history. As English and French are the most important literary languages in Africa today, participants will have the option of earning up to three graduate credits in one of these areas.

Through the study of seven texts including novels, a play and an epic, teachers will learn about ethnic, cultural and geographical diversities on the African continent and ways to better teach Africa and related topics to their students.

"The significance of this institute and its connection with the ALA conference is to expose teachers to rich African literature that has been neglected in our secondary schools and has only recently been taught in colleges and universities."

Virginia, however, will be necessary to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible for students and for faculty."

Interaction 17' Offered by VCU Student Art Space

Exhibition to Feature Works by VCU Seniors

Contributed by Student Art Space

The VCU Student Art Space now is offering an exhibition of works by 25 graduating seniors from the Department of Painting and Printmaking "Interaction 17" will run through Dec. 1 in the downstairs gallery of the University Student Commons.

The exhibition consists of works on paper representing diverse ideas, from social commentary to personal iconography in a variety of media, lithography, etching, silkscreen, oil, charcoal and computer-generated imagery.

Student Artists Featured at Gallery Through Dec. 1

- Brandon Tolbert
- June E. Vess
- Amanda Blackmon
- James Busby
- William Davis
- Stephanie Green
- Anne Huchter
- Ryan Leman
- Esther Motz
- Gregory Patterson
- Dennis Pickeral
- Christopher Rose
- Elizabeth Thacker
- Scott Vadas
**Professor Receives Honorary Degree**

by Laura Arbogast  
**University News Services**

In recognition of his contributions to science, Virginia Commonwealth University Professor Lindon Eaves, Ph.D., was presented with an honorary doctoral degree from Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. The presentation was made at the university's 120th anniversary celebration this fall.

Eaves has been involved in twin research for more than 25 years and is recognized as a world leader in the development of genetic models and statistical methodology. Since 1981, he has served as a Distinguished Professor in VCU's departments of Human Genetics and psychiatry. Eaves has received numerous awards including the James Shields Award for contributions to twin research, as well as the Dobzhansky Award from the Behavior Genetics Association.

Eaves received a doctorate from the University of Birmingham, England and served for two years in the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford. He also served as president of the Behavior Genetics Association in 1991 and president of the International Society for Twin Studies from 1993-1995.

---

**People in the News**

by Laura Arbogast  
**University News Services**

- The Virginia Commission for the Arts granted LAURA BROWN and, Ph.D., associate professor of English, an Individual Artist Fellowships in fiction for the year 2001. NATHAN LONG, M.F.A., DAVE MCCORMACK, M.F.A., and DARREN MORRIS, M.F.A., all alumni of VCU's M.F.A. in Creative Writing Program, also received the awards.

- ANN DIXON, Ph.D., assistant professor of developmental disabilities, was recently inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing at its annual meeting in San Diego. Dixon is also the director of interdisciplinary preparation of personnel for the Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities.

- The Virginia Section of the American College of Dentists presented to FRANCIS FOSTER, D.D.S., assistant professor of general dentistry, the Outstanding Faculty Award. The award, which recognizes contributions made in the education of dental professionals, was given at the Virginia Dental Associations annual meeting in Williamsburg.

- The American Counseling Association Foundation recently selected QUINCY MOORE, Ph.D., executive director of the Academic Success Center, to serve as a trustee on its board.

- FRED BRELOVE, Ph.D., professor of developmental disabilities, presented "Cultural and Educational Diversity: Teaching Students and Not Stereotypes" at the fall conference of the Virginia Council of Administrators in Special Education. Brelove also is the executive director of the Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities.

- "A Literacy Journey: English as a First Reading and Second Language Experience," by JUDY RICHARDSON, Ph.D., professor of teacher education, is included in the volume, Literacy Challenges for the New Millennium. The volume is a collection of selected papers of the 11th European Conference on Reading in Stavanger, Norway.

---

**Community School of Performing Arts to Present ‘Oliver With a Twist’**

by Laura Arbogast  
**University News Services**

Virginia Commonwealth University's Community School of Performing Arts will present some of Charles Dickens' classic characters in a musical adaptation of "Oliver Twist." This family production will run Dec. 13-19 at the VCU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall. Written and directed by Una Harrison, artistic and teaching director at VCU-CSPA, the children's play blends mystery, adventure and comedy. Oliver, played by Reid Monahan, runs away from the orphanage and the heartless Mr. Bumble only to get wrapped up in a gang of thieves at Fagan's den. A number of adventures ensue as the audience follows Oliver on his pursuit of happiness and his true identity.

Tickets are $3.50 for general admission and $2.50 for youth, college students, and seniors. "Oliver with a Twist" will run through Dec. 19 at the VCU Performing Arts Center.

---

**VCU Senior Recognized for Leadership, Dedication to University**

by Matthew Delap and Lissette Linanes  
**University News Services**

Virginia Commonwealth University senior Mary Katherine Crouch recently was selected this year's recipient of the Covington International Travel Scholarship Award. Given by Joseph Covington, president and CEO of Covington International Travel Co., the award recognizes students for outstanding leadership and dedication to their respective VCU department and field.

"The award really came as a surprise to me," Crouch said. "I had been recommended by the department but didn't know it until I'd won." Buite Harwood, chair of the Department of Interior Design, said Crouch's qualifications extend beyond talent and academic ability. She has made many efforts to strengthen the interior design department through her service as president of the student chapter of the American Society of Interior Design.

"Her willingness to contribute her time, talent and expertise for the common good of her organization, department and peers made her the leading candidate for the award," Harwood said.

Covington International Travel is headquartered in Richmond and serves people traveling on business or vacation around the world. The company frequently makes charitable contributions to the arts and education.

---

**Finnish Educators Study Physical Activity of Children, Elderly**

by Pamela Lippincott  
**University News Services**

This semester, two Finnish Fulbright scholars have been collaborating with faculty from Virginia Commonwealth University's Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation to learn the cultural differences or similarities on how to teach physical education.

Heikki Parkatti, a principal at the Niossi School for Teacher Training in Jyvaskyla, specializes in pedagogy. He has been focusing on the cultural differences in teaching physical education through VCU's Teacher Education Program.

Teri Parkatti, Ph.D., is an associate professor at the University of Jyvaskyla. Her research on physical activity and biological aging has convinced her of the benefits of an "active lifestyle" for senior citizens. More recently, she has focused on evaluating leisure and occupational wellness programs for seniors in Finland and other countries.

The Parkattis, both who have given guest lectures during their stay at VCU, have a vested interest in their work. Finland claims one of the highest per capita rates of coronary heart disease in the world.

The North Karelia Project, a government sponsored epidemiological research for the study of lifestyle and disease in East Finland, was a model for similar programs in the United States and other countries.

Later this month, the Parkattis will deliver collaborative presentations with VCU professors Barney Groves and Jack Schlitz at the annual conference of the Virginia Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The Parkattis can be reached at the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at 828-1948.
Annual Urology Lecture
Renamed in Honor of Retired VCU Professor

by Michael Ford
University News Services

Virginia Commonwealth University's R. Carl Bunts Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Division of Urology, has a new name that honors a retired VCU professor and former intern chairman of the Department of Surgery.

The annual program now will be known as the Bunts-Hackler Lecture.

Hackler was a chief of urology at the U.S. Air Force Hospital in Orlando, Florida, from 1965-68. In 1970, he became an assistant professor of urology at VCU Medical College of Virginia Hospitals and staff urologist at McGuire.

When Bunts retired in 1973, Hackler became McGuire's chief of urology. In 1976, he became associate professor of urology at MCV Hospitals and served an interim division chair from 1988-1999. Hackler has published more than 60 research papers.

The Bunts-Hackler Visiting Professor this year is Howard M. Snyder III, M.D., professor of urology and surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and chief of pediatric urology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The daylong program is scheduled for Dec. 8, in the Medical Sciences Building, 1217 E. Marshall St., starting at 7:30 a.m. Snyder's lecture begins at 1:00 p.m.

November 20, 2000 | University Today 7

VCU Dance Artist-in-Residence Extends Limits of Body

Students Receive a Lesson in Improvisational Dance

by Lisnette Linares
University News Services

One of the nation's premier improvisational choreographers is helping Virginia Commonwealth University dance students explore the limits of the body through improvisational dance. Patric Widrig, co-artistic director of Pearson/Widrig & Co., completed a seven-week residency with VCU's Department of Dance and Choreography this month.

"When I came to audition students several months ago, I was blown away by the range that was here," Widrig said. "I've been able to start off with the students at a level that I usually end with."

For the first four weeks of his residency, Widrig taught and directed dancers, mostly VCU Dance graduates, in the performance of "Ordinary Festivals," a ritual-inspired work featuring 16 dancers, 200 oranges and two knives. He also worked with VCU students on the high-energy dance movement. "'Splat,'" presented earlier this month. "Ordinary Festivals," choreographed by Widrig and his partner Sara Pearson, draws on life rituals and every day from big celebrations to funerals. The work transforms the dancer into a village square and the event itself, into a lively family festival.

"The idea is that the piece creates a picture. It supports the idea of what is happening -- community coming together in different ways," Widrig said. Sara Pearson and the dance company came to VCU to work with dancers before the performance.

Choreographed by Widrig and Pearson, "Splat," in contrast, is a 13-minute performance featuring solos and duets against a backdrop of large group movement. Fourteen VCU dance students were directed on how to blend splashes of choreographed movement with improvisational movement and dance. Martha Curtis, VCU chair of dance and choreography, said she's been amazed by the effect on the students. "I see them moving with a kind of freedom and individuality that gives me chills."

The students themselves describe Widrig as refreshing and exciting. "Patrik opened a lot of doors for us in terms of movement and the generation of movement," sophomore Matt Rodgers said.

"You could take your body to a further limit," said Leslie Kraus, another sophomore. Kraus was excited to work with an artist known for improvisational dance, the area she plans to pursue after graduation.

During his remaining time here, Widrig will instruct students in improvisational dance techniques, as well as teach dance to youths in programs at Richmond Parks and Recreation, St. Christopher's School and St. Christopher's School and St. Christopher's School.

VCU Medical Students Learn the Basics of Their Profession in Honduras

Medical Students Offer Relief to Impoverished Post Hurricane Mitch Community

by Laura Arbogast
University News Services

In Honduras, a country where access to health care is an ongoing concern, local health care workers have been overwhelmed with the added responsibility of caring for those devastated by Hurricane Mitch. Working mainly with Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos, an organization that operates an orphanage and several clinics in Honduras, students assisted local physicians by performing more than 400 physical examinations and administering 200 vaccinations in community clinics.

During their 15-day mission the students worked long days at the clinics and saw more than 2,000 people suffering from problems such as malnutrition, parasites, depression and post-traumatic stress from the hurricane.

"The trip was phenomenal," said VCU second-year student Deb Kocho. "I cannot express how much of a privilege it was to be able to practice medicine in Honduras. The people were so open and willing to let us into the most personal aspects of their lives."

Thomas Kerkering, M.D., VCU professor of medicine, led the mission along with several physicians from California, Duke University and the University of Alabama. "It really was a cultural learning experience for the students," said Kerkering. "They learned that without the high-tech equipment we have here in the United States, they must rely on physical exams and their own skills to make deductive decisions."

Kerkering, who makes several trips a year to South America as a health advocate for the Christian Children's Fund, began preparing the students two months prior to the trip. Students were taught basic Spanish medical terms and discussed what supplies they would need to take as well as what they could expect in one of the poorest countries in Central America. The students paid for their travel expenses for the trip and also raised more than $7,000 toward the purchase of medical supplies. Donations came primarily from VCU faculty.

Kerkering admits to having some initial reservations about taking students who were so early in their medical studies to practice in a foreign country. However, with the success of the Honduras trip, he now is working to make these trips part of the formal training of first- and second-year medical students. Plans already are being made for a trip to Kenya next year.

"Students have now seen actual cases which will be taught in the classroom," said Kerkering. "I'm sure that the average grades of this group will be higher as they now understand what it is they are studying for."
SEMINARS

Nov. 20 — "Blackboard CourseInfo Intro-duction." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center. For details, call 828-4353. Registration is required.
9 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 420

Nov. 21 — "Massey Cancer Center Research Seminar: Matrilineas—a New Serum Protein in Breast Cancer." Sponsored by Massey Cancer Center. For details, call 828-8686.
Noon/Massey Cancer Center, Room G-120

Nov. 21 — "Research Seminars in Drug Development: Clinical Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of COL-3 Administered to Patients with Refractory Solid Tumors." Sponsored by School of Pharmacy. For details, call 828-4328.
RoomSmith Building, Room 216

3:30 p.m./Student Commons, Capital B

Nov. 20 — "Diversity in the Workplace." Sponsored by the Career Center. For details, call 828-1645.
3 p.m./Student Commons, Capital D

1 p.m./Student Commons, Capital B

RoomSmith Building, Room 210

7:30 a.m./Main Hospital, Room 422, 423

Nov. 28 — "Physiology Seminar: The Effect of Opioids on Developing Cholinergic Neurons." Sponsored by Physiology. For details, call 828-0756.
4 p.m./Sauger Hall, Room 3-016

WORKSHOPS

Nov. 20 — "Blackboard CourseInfo Intro-duction." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center. For details, call 828-4353. Registration is required.
9 a.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 420

Nov. 21 — "Academic Success Prepard for Finals." Sponsored by University Counseling Services of the Division of Student Affairs. For details, call 828-6200.
Noon/Student Commons Forum Room

Nov. 22 — "Blackboard CourseInfo Intro-duction." Sponsored by Information Technology. For details, call 828-4353. Registration is required.
1:30 p.m./Lyons Dental Building, Room 420

Nov. 20 — "Compensation Reform for VCU Managers (Phase I)." Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development.
For details, call 828-0179.
9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B-20

Nov. 20 — "Weight Watchers at Work." Sponsored by Employee Health Services and WorkLife Resources. For details, call 828-9502, or at JHROWELL@vcu.edu.

Nov. 20 — "Compensation Reform for VCU Managers (Phase I)." Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development.
For details, call 828-0179.
2 p.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B-20

Nov. 20 — "Academic Success: Preparing for Finals." Sponsored by University Counseling Services of the Division of Student Affairs. For details, call 828-6200.
3:30 p.m./Student Commons Forum Room

5 p.m./Student Commons, Capital C-D

Dec. 1 — "We are VCU: Workshop on Customer Service." Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. For details, call 828-0179. Cost is $45.
9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B-20

CONFERENCE


SPORTS

Men's Basketball
Nov. 25 — VCU vs. The University of Mississippi

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's Basketball
Nov. 21 — VCU vs. Seton Hall University
7 p.m./Siegel Center

Nov. 25 — VCU vs. Coppin State College
2 p.m./Siegel Center

Nov. 29 — VCU vs. Loyola College
7 p.m./Siegel Center

2000-01 VCU Men's Basketball Schedule

The following is the 2000-01 Virginia Commonwealth University Men's Basketball Schedule. All home games will be played at the Atlantic Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center. Home games are shown below in all CAPS. The CAA Tournament will be held at the Richmond Coliseum.

* Nov. 20 Mon. at Tulane 8:00 P.M.
* Nov. 20 Tue. at East Tennessee State 7:30 P.M.
* Nov. 25 Sat. at MISSISSIPPI 7:30 P.M.
* Nov. 26 Tue. at NORTH CAROLINA A&T 7:30 P.M.
* Dec. 2 Sat. at Texas Christian 7:00 P.M.
* Dec. 5 Sat. at FLORIDA ATLANTIC 7:30 P.M.
* Dec. 7 Wed. at PITTSBURGH 7:30 P.M.
* Dec. 7 Wed. vs. San Juan Shootout (Wed.-Fri.) 7:00 P.M.
* Dec. 8 Thu. vs. Evansville 8:30 P.M.
* Dec. 10 Sat. at Alabama Birmingam 7:00 P.M.
* Jan. 14 Sat. at East Carolina 7:00 P.M.
* Jan. 14 Sat. at GEORGE MASON 7:30 P.M.
* Jan. 21 Sat. at William and Mary 7:00 P.M.
* Jan. 21 Sat. at JAMES MADISON 7:30 P.M.
* Jan. 21 Sat. at Old Dominion 7:35 P.M.
* Jan. 22 Mon. at Texas Christian 8:00 P.M.
* Jan. 27 Sat. at West Virginia 7:30 P.M.
* Jan. 30 Sat. at George Mason 7:00 P.M.
* Feb. 12 Sat. at Old Dominion 7:00 P.M.
* Feb. 19 Sat. at Richmond 7:30 P.M.
* Mar. 3 Sat. vs. Times 7:00 P.M.

N.C.-WILMINGTON
* Jan. 22 Mon. at East Carolina 8:00 P.M.
* Jan. 27 Sat. at James Madison 7:30 P.M.
* Feb. 12 Sat. at George Mason 7:00 P.M.
* Feb. 19 Sat. at Richmond 7:30 P.M.
* Mar. 3 Sat. vs. Times 7:00 P.M.

AMERICAN
* Jan. 22 Mon. at Mississippi 8:00 P.M.
* Jan. 27 Sat. at James Madison 7:30 P.M.
* Feb. 12 Sat. at William and Mary 7:00 P.M.
* Feb. 19 Sat. at Old Dominion 7:00 P.M.

THE-TV
* Jan. 22 Mon. at Old Dominion 7:00 P.M.
* Jan. 27 Sat. at Virginia 7:30 P.M.
* Feb. 12 Sat. at Old Dominion 7:00 P.M.
* Feb. 19 Sat. at Richmond 7:30 P.M.
* Mar. 3 Sat. vs. Times 7:00 P.M.

RICHMOND
* Jan. 22 Mon. at Old Dominion 7:00 P.M.
* Jan. 27 Sat. at James Madison 7:30 P.M.
* Feb. 12 Sat. at George Mason 7:00 P.M.
* Feb. 19 Sat. at Richmond 7:30 P.M.
* Mar. 3 Sat. vs. Times 7:00 P.M.

CAA Conference Tournament