International Conference on African Literatures to Come to Richmond

Co-Sponsored by VCU, University of Richmond and the City of Richmond

by Mary Beth Alford
University News Services

Writers and scholars from around the globe will gather in Richmond April 4-8 for the largest conference on the literatures of Africa ever to be held in North America.

The conference will be the 27th annual meeting of the African Literature Association, an international association of writers and scholars. This year’s theme, “The Creative Circle: Artist, Critic, Translators and Scholars,” will provide an opportunity for many events that will explore African literature and culture.

“For five days, several continents will converge in Richmond to showcase some of the best of Africa.”

Previous ALA conferences have been held in Ghana, Senegal and Morocco, as well as in many of the largest university communities across the U.S.

“If not for the cooperation of the city, VCU and the University of Richmond, this wonderful opportunity would have been missed,” said Friebe, also a past president of the ALA. “This conference will bring recognition to the city and to the universities.”

The conference also will be the back

It’s that time of year again, when thousands of medical students around the country learn where the future will take them. National Match Day brought good news to the fourth-year students at University of Richmond School of Medicine, where 84 percent of the class matched to one of their top three residency sites.

Shahrazad Sharafi, top right, holding letter, celebrates with friends after she learns that she’s been accepted for an internal medicine residency at New York City’s Mount Sinai Hospital. Her classmate Hang Nguyen, center, and Payal Dave look on. Originally from Russia, Leonid Klopouh’s, bottom left, next stop will be Baltimore. He’s matched to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center for his internal medicine residency. Klopouh’s wife videotaped the moment, while his classmate Vlad Shick is also a Russian native — looks over his shoulder.

VCU Adcenter Instructor Serves on United Nations Committee

by Sharon Shaw & Mike Frontiero
University News Services

When corporate giants needed help pitching athletic shoes, soda pop or computer software, they came to Jelly Helm. Now an associate professor at VCU’s award winning Adcenter, the former ad man is urging responsibility in how products are marketed around the world.

Helm is the only American and the only educator on a 12-member United Nations advisory committee studying how advertising can be used to prevent overconsumption of the Earth’s natural resources. The panel held its first meeting last month in Paris.

“My role on the committee is to voice my opinions about how powerfully influential and damaging advertising can be, and to look for opportunities to raise awareness of how our industry may be improved,” said Helm. “The ad industry’s first step is simply to acknowledge that the products we choose to represent do have an impact on the world. We must be willing to take responsibility for the sale of these products.”

Excessive consumption depletes non-renewable metals and fossil fuels; contributes to mismanagement of renewable resources such as forests, water, agricultural land and fisheries; and creates waste disposal problems.

Recent United Nations figures show consumption of virtually all types of goods and services increased enormously
drop for the presentation of the Foulon-Nichols Award, named for Cana­orean literary scholar Bernard Foulon and American journalist Lee Nichols. It is given annually to an outstanding African author whose work has contributed to the struggle for human rights and freedom of expression. This year’s recipient is Nudumah Farah, a Somali novelist who has most recently authored Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Sodali Diopom.

Another aspect of the conference will include a graduate institute in African literature for high school teachers. The institute, "African Literature: Art and Commitment," is designed for English, French and social studies teachers. Attendees have received scholarships and will earn up to three graduate credits upon completion of their work.

CONFERENCE EVENTS INCLUDE:

APRIL 4: The Gambian Griots Papa Susso and Family will perform musical history through poetry at 7 p.m. at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Admission for the event is $5. For museum members, the event is $4 and $4 for students.

APRIL 5: Sudanese novelist Zice Wicomb and former VCU faculty member Paule Marshall will read from their respective novels David's Story and The Fisher King, at 9 p.m. at the Omni Hotel, 100 S. 12th St., Potomac Room.

APRIL 6: Somali novelist Farah will receive the Foulon-Nichols Award at 8 p.m. at the Omni Hotel, James River Room C. This award is given annually to an outstanding African author whose work contributes to the struggle for human rights and freedom of expression. This year’s recipient is Nudumah Farah, a Somali novelist who has most recently authored Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Sodali Diopom. Following the award ceremony, Farah will lecture on the topic "If All Stories!"

APRIL 7: Congolese author Emmanuel Dongala will give a lecture titled, "Living in Four Worlds: English, French, Science, and Letters," at 1:30 p.m. at the Omni Hotel, James River Room C.

APRIL 8: An African art and literature will be offered to high school teachers from 1-5 p.m. at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. For details, visit www.richmond.edu-lang/ala or call Pribee at 829-1331.

President Trani

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President Trani

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President Trani

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maintain our commitment to its continued viability. The VCU board of visitors and the university's administration will offer our utmost support and guidance toward this end.”

Perkinson and Weinberg noted that Dr. Trani already spends a significant portion of his time on health-system matters. The formalized link between the top administrative levels of the university and its health system will allow the continued pursuit of the highest quality of teaching, research and patient care.

For example, Perkinson and Weinberg suggest that the strong linkage between the university and the health system should strengthen the organizations’ ability to increase federal funding; advance VCU Life Sciences; and achieve national recognition for both academic and health-sciences programs.

Collins to Discuss Women’s Health Movement at Barnes & Noble

On April 11, at 7:30 p.m., Judith B. Collins, O.C.N.P., will be the featured speaker at Richmond Magazine's monthly salon held at Barnes & Noble Liberty Place, located at 3501 W. Broad St.

Collins, former director of VCU's Women's Healthcare at Stony Point, will discuss the women's health movement in an engaging cover story on the top doctors for women in the metro area. See page 3 for Richmond magazine's Top Specialists in Women's Health.

Chamber Music Society to Perform at VCU

The Mary Anne Rembold Concert series will close its 17th season with the music of Beethoven, Villa Lobos, Debussy, and John Tavener, performed by the Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. April 21 at the Performing Arts Center.

Originating from New York in 1965, the CMS includes violinist Ida Kavalian, flutist Ransom Wilson, harpist Heidi LeVawler, violist Paul Neubauer and soprano Heidi Grant Murphy. David Shifrin is the director.

The concert will be held at 8 p.m. in the Omni Hotel, James River Rooms C. Call 829-1331 for more information.

Gordimer to Offer Keynote Address

Nadine Gordimer, South-African novelist, short-story writer, and winner of the 1960 Nobel Prize for Literature, will present the keynote address titled "The Lion in Literature," at 8 p.m. on April 5 as part of A student literary association conference. A native South African, Gordimer is the author of 12 novels and 15 collections of short stories. Beginning with her first short-story collection, Face to Face, published in 1949, Gordimer has revealed the consequences of a racially separated society. Her first novel, The Lying Days, continued on this theme and was based largely on her own life growing up in Johannesburg. In the novel, Gordimer depicts the life of a white girl with a growing hostility toward the narrow-mindedness of small-town racial lifestyles in South Africa.

Gordimer began writing at age nine. Her first story, "Come Again Tomorrow," was published in the children’s section of the Johannesburg magazine, Forum, when she was 14 years old. Gordimer studied in a convent school and spent a year at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg. By her early 20s, she had published several stories in local magazines, as well as in the New Yorker, where she still publishes today.

In her most recent novel, The House Gun, published in 1998, Gordimer explores the violent post-apartheid society through a murder trial wherein two white, privileged liberals find it hard to face the fact that their architect son has killed his friend. This story may become the first of Gordimer’s work to become a feature film. She recently sold the movie rights to the producers of “My Left Foot,” a 1989 film that explored the life of Irish writer and painter Christy Brown, who was born with cerebral palsy.

Gordimer has written non-fiction books about South-African topics and issues, and has collaborated on several documentaries on South Africa, including a television film with her son, Hugo Cassirer.

Helms, a member of the VCU Performing Arts Center, will host the event.

"The ad industry’s first step is simply to acknowledge that the products we choose to represent do have an impact on the world." Helms has written and published numerous articles on sustainable consumption and advertising's role in runways, businesses and consumers as they explore how consumption patterns affect environmental, economic and social goals of the international community.

"A good way to begin is fully understanding how a product affects the earth — how it is made, from what resources, how the workers are treated, whether the product adds to or detracts from the health of communities," said Helms.

The panel's goal is to raise awareness among consumers and prompt the advertising industry to undertake voluntary initiatives that meet current consumption needs without compromising future generations.

At the panel’s March 28 meeting, Helms suggested developing a nonprofit group to educate advertising agencies about the global benefits of sustainable consumption.

"The academy’s goal is to create desire," Helms said. "That begins by making you unhappy with what you have or don’t have. Wanting to buy something, then, becomes the response to feelings of dissatisfaction, envy and craving. It’s on these emotions that a world economy and a dominant philosophy have been built, encouraging the act of spending as the means to increase personal happiness, well-being, and, ultimately, one’s identity.

Before joining the VCU Adcenter as a full-time faculty member in 1999, Helms was group creative director at The Martin Agency in Richmond. Prior to that, he spent a number of years at Wieden + Kennedy advertising offices in Portland, Ore. and Amsterdam as an art director and creative director, respectively. His work on Nike, Coke, Microsoft and Timberland has garnered dozens of national and international awards. Currently, Helms teaches art direction and portfolio development to first- and second-year students enrolled in the VCU Adcenter’s master’s degree program in advertising.
VCU Faculty Named Top Specialists in Women's Health

by Laura Arbogast
University News Services

Thirty-six physicians from VCU's MCV Hospitals have been named on a list of Richmond's Top Specialists in Women's Health. Richmond magazine compiled the list by surveying more than 500 doctors and nurses in the Richmond area about the top doctors working in women's health. The list includes experts in all areas including cardiology, obstetrics, cosmetic surgery and cancer. The following are the VCU specialists named to the list and their areas of expertise:

- LINDA BUCKLEY, Arthritis/Rheumatology
- AUTOIMMUNE, Fibromyalgia, Osteoporosis
- CHRISTOPHER H. WISE, Autoimmune, Fibromyalgia
- ANDREA L. POZEE, Breast Augmentation/Reduction, Breast Reconstruction, Cosmetic Surgery
- BARRY D. BEAR, Breast Cancer, Breast Health
- THOMAS J. SMITH, Breast Cancer, Breast Health
- MARY HELEN HACKNEY, Breast Health
- ELLEN SHAW DE PAEDRES, Mammo grams
- GEORGE W. VETROY, Cardiology
- MICHAEL S. GOOIN, Blainau protein
- JULIA R. NUNKLEY, Dermatology
- CYNTHIA M. BULK, Eating Disorders
- JOAN H. BOURNE, Genetic Counseling
- DAVE W. STOWALL, Endodontics, Infertility
- PETER A. BOLING, Gastroenteric Medicine
- ELLEN L. BUCK, General Gynecology, Obstetrics
- AMANDA RICHARDS, General Gynecology
- EILEEN M. SEGRET, Gynecologic Oncology, Gynecologic Surgery, Ovarian Cancer
- STEVEN A. COHEN, Gynecologic Surgery
- WENDY S. KLEIN, Internal Medicine/Primary Care, Menopause
- JOY P. BOWE, Internal Medicine/Primary Care
- ALAN R. TOWNE, Migraine Headaches
- ELIZABETH L. WATERHOUSE, Migraine Headaches, Neurology
- DONALD F. KIRBY, Nutrition
- MARY JO SAWYER, Nutrition
- BRIAN J. KAPLAN, Breast Health, Oncologic Surgery
- ROBERT W. DOWNS JR., Osteoporosis
- SCOTT W. KAUMA, Infertility
- DAVE W. STOWALL, Infertility
- LESLIE A. FEHAN, Nurse Midwives
- THOMAS C. PENG, Obstetrics, Pregnancy (High Risk and Overall), Pregnancy-Osteo Diabetes
- SUSAN G. KORNSTEIN, Psychiatry
- BAKESH K. SADH, Sleep Disorders
- THOMAS P. LOUGHMAN, Sports Medicine
- WILHELM ZUELMER, Sports Medicine
- EDWARD J. BILL, Urogynecology/Pelvic Floor Disorders
- DAVID F. GARDNER, Thyroid/Endocrinology
- W. GLENN HUNT, Urogynecology/Pelvic Floor Disorders

Infineon Hires Computer Science, Information Systems Students

by Mike Frontier
University News Services

If final semester at VCU had not even started when senior Michael Separ accepted a job as an automation engineer at Infineon Technologies Richmond.

"It feels great to already have a job lined up before I graduate," said Separ, who signed the contract one week before the spring semester started. "I certainly don't have to worry."

The Bristol, Tenn., native is one of 16 VCU students Infineon hired before they graduate in May. Thirteen of the students are from VCU's School of Engineering, Separ and Jian Chen are computer science students in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, and Dominic Nicolosi is an Information Systems major in the School of Business.

"For a company like Infineon to hire two of our computer science students speaks to the quality of all our programs," said James E. Ames IV, Ph.D., chairman of the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Separ said Infineon officials told him they were impressed by what he had learned through VCU's rigorous computer science curriculum. "VCU has been a good experience all around," Separ said.

Infineon, formerly known as White Oak Semicon ductor, recently launched a major expansion of its semiconductor facility in Henrico County. The company plans to hire at least 500 people this year and has said it will employ more students from VCU than any other school in the nation.

Separ has been working at the facility part-time while finishing his degree. The experience allows him to see the company's work environment first hand.

"They treat their employees really well, everybody seems to like their job and the work seems really interesting, so I'm looking forward to working there."

Infineon's location also appealed to Separ, who was looking to stay in the Richmond area after he graduates.

Separ and the other 15 students were offered salaries exceeding $55,000.

PACME Ceremony Set for April 12

The annual ceremony for the Presidential Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment will be held at 11 a.m. on April 12, in the University Student Commons ballrooms A&B.

President Eugene F. Trani, Ph.D., and Rodney McDavis, Ph.D., provost and dean, will present the awards to recognize five VCU community members for their contributions to the university's commitment to diversity and cross-cultural relations.

Awards will be presented to a faculty member, administrator, student and two staff members who have excelled as role models in multicultural issues.

- TED BATT, arts coordinator for MCV Hospitals' Arts in the Hospital Program, and WAY BONIS, library specialist at Cabell Library, are co-recipients of this year's staff award.

Batt was nominated for his efforts in "reaching out to minority artists and lifting up their work for others to appreciate ."

As chief curator of VCU Library's Virginia Black History Archives, Bonis has worked since 1996 to build a substantial collection of documents and items chronicling the history of Virginia's African-American community.

- This year's faculty award goes to VICTOR COLLINS, Multicultural Students Affairs director, who was nominated for his role in establishing the university's Office of Minority Student Affairs and the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, in addition to his coordination of several other minority programs and activities.

- JOHN MOESE, professor of urban studies and planning, will receive this year's faculty award for his work in exposing students to different cultures.

- This year's student award winner is VERONICA SIKKA, a medical student, who was chosen for her dedicated studies and volunteer efforts dealing with multicultural issues.

The Rice-Melon Award, the PACME capstone award, will be awarded to one of these individuals during the ceremony.

The Black Awakening Choir will provide entertainment at the event. A reception will follow. Those who wish to attend are asked to RSVP to 828-3836.

Nearly 500 students and faculty gathered to hear a panel of experts who spoke at the VCU Seventh Annual International Business Forum. The event, co-sponsored by the School of Business and the VCU SportsCenter, focused on global sports marketing. Panelists included sports agent Mark Steinberg, left, of International Marketing Group, the world's largest sports-marketing firm, who represents Tiger Woods and Toronto Raptors basketball star Vince Carter; Tracy Schoenadel, executive director of ESPN Sports Poll and vice president of THE INTER­ search; Mike产, president of The Goodwill Games and current board member of the VCU SportsCenter; Don Rice, director of the Brooks Institute of Sports Science at Clemson University. The event was broadcast live on the Internet."
**In Brief**

**Media General Magnate to Share Experiences with Management Students**

School of Business students will learn the challenges of running a national media conglomerate this week when J. Stewart Bryan III, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Media General Inc., lectures several management classes on April 4 and 5. Bryan will spend two days in management classrooms after being named the School of Business Charles C. Thallhimer Executive-in-Residence.

He will also discuss "Media General: Yesterday and Tomorrow" at 9:30 a.m. on April 4 in the University Student Commons Capital Ballroom.

For more information, call 828-1749.

**VCU to Participate in National Alcohol Screening Day**

During National Alcohol Screening Day on April 5, students will have the opportunity to fill out a brief self-assessment form asking about their drinking habits and if their behaviors have changed as a result of their drinking.

In addition to the anonymous, written self-test, students will hear an educational presentation on alcohol problems and have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with a health professional. If appropriate, they will be directed to services on campus or in the community for further evaluation.

The screenings will be held at University Counseling Services from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in room 225 of the Student Commons on the Academic Campus and Noon to 2 p.m. in Hunton Hall, room 306, on the MCV campus.

For more details, call 828-6200.

**MCV Women's Health to Hold Weight-Control Seminar**

MCV Women's Health will hold a series of "Food and Fitness" seminars, designed to show participants how to lose weight and keep it off.

Seminar topics will include how to lose weight without feeling deprived, how to read a food label, how to cook healthier foods and how to choose the best exercise.

A variety of times and dates will be offered. Each seminar costs $35 per person. To register or for more information, call 560-5655.

**Author Speaks**

**Virginia Partnership For Nursing Focuses On Future Workforce**

_Facing declining numbers among active nurses and projected shortages among students, nursing professionals from across the region recently gathered in Richmond to address the future of their profession._

Focusing on the current supply of nurses, employment opportunities and education programs, the '2001 Nursing Summit: Planning Nursing's Future' was sponsored by the Virginia Partnership for Nursing, the Virginia Area Health Education Centers Program and the Virginia League for Nursing.

The VCU School of Nursing houses the administrative offices of the Virginia Partnership for Nursing, which was created in 1999 to plan the future of nursing in the state.

A recent study by the Virginia Joint Commission on Health Care found admissions to education programs for registered nurses in the state have decreased 25 percent since 1993 and graduations have declined 20 percent since 1997. That same study projects a 19 percent growth in employment opportunities for registered nurses and a 25 percent growth in opportunities for licensed practical nurses between 1996 and 2006.

"The nursing shortage that we talk about today is just the tip of the iceberg," said JoAnne Kirk Henry, Ed.D., VPN co-chair and VCU associate professor of maternal child nursing. "We expect to hit the peak of the shortage from 2005-10."

Held in Richmond, the summit drew 190 nursing professionals from across Virginia, representing two dozen hospitals and health-care organizations statewide and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Speakers included Nancy Langston, Ph.D., dean of VCU's School of Nursing and president of the National League for Nursing; Carol M. Crosby, vice president of patient care services for the VCU Health System; and Henry, director of VCU's Community Nursing Organization and director of the VCU Office of Health and Policy Research.

"I think the summit was a really good initial start to take a strategic look at the nursing workforce shortages and proactively prepare to meet those shortages so we can continue to provide excellent patient care at the VCU Health System and at all health-care institutions in the state," said Crosby, a member of the VPC steering committee.

The conference explored strategies to address nursing workforce needs in Virginia, such as developing a statewide plan for educational growth, building nursing retention, increasing racial, ethnic and cultural diversity in the nursing profession and creating a data center to track employment trends.

A second summit is planned for October.

**Virginia Communications Hall of Fame to Honor Five 2001 Inductees**

Five new members will be added to the list of inductees in the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame on April 4. For 15 years, the Hall of Fame has recognized some of the most accomplished media professionals in Virginia. The event will be held at 7 p.m. in Virginia Commonwealth University's Student Commons Commonwealth Ballroom.

Hosted by VCU, the event is the highlight of Communications Education Week in Virginia.

The Communications Hall of Fame, established by VCU's School of Mass Communications in 1986, recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional achievement in print journalism, broadcasting, public relations, advertising and interactive media, including cable and the Internet.

Inductees are nominated and selected by their peers.

This year's inductees are **ARTHUR W. ARUNDEL**, veteran broadcaster and publisher at ArCom Publishing Company; **DOUGLAS BRICKFORD RIDER**, AFR, communications and public relations specialist at Reynolds Metals; the late **ABC-TV news correspondent MAXWELL ROBINSON**; **MARTHA W. STEGER**, APR, director of public relations for the Virginia Tourism Corp.; and **ULRICH FREUTZER**, writer, journalist and poet.

For more information or to attend the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame, call VCU's School of Mass Communications at 828-2660.
Spring Concert Tour to Head to New York
by Suzanne Horsley
University News Services

Three VCU music ensembles will travel to New York in April for the Spring Concert Tour, making stops along the way to perform at high schools. The purpose of the trip is two-fold — to promote VCU and the music department to potential students, and to give music students the opportunity to perform in new venues.

"Performing is the lifeblood of musicians," said John Guthmiller, D.M.A., acting chair of the music department. "Traveling and performing for new audiences has an important educational value and adds to the students' excitement level about their program. For the school, we hope to carry an image of VCU as a vital place that has produced excellence in music. Traveling allows us to be a tool for admissions, but also, it's what we love to do."

The Commonwealth Singers, conducted by Guthmiller, the Jazz Orchestra I, directed by John Winn, and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, conducted by Terry Austin, Ph.D., will have a rigorous schedule of four performances in three days at schools in Alexandria, Va., Caldwell, N.J. and Ocean-side, N.Y. An evening performance was added in New York to allow parents and students who have expressed an interest in VCU's School of the Arts to attend the concert.

The concert locations were carefully selected to find audiences that would benefit the most from VCU academic and performance opportunities.

"Previously, we concentrated on short trips to let Virginians know about us, but this time we looked out of state to tell more people about VCU," said Austin. "We selected New Jersey because they do not have a big state university music program. Our out-of-state tuition is still reasonable for New Jersey residents, and it's not that far to travel."

Austin explained that the benefits of the tour go beyond advertising the school.

"We wanted to take our best groups as a means of introducing our music program to prospective students," he said, "but it's also a good experience for the students to travel, play the program several times and be ambassadors for VCU.

Trips like this build community within the department because the students and faculty are spending more time together."

A total of 105 students and five faculty and staff members will embark on the bus tour April 1. The tour was organized by Guthmiller, Ross Walter, DMA, and Linda Johnston, department secretary.

VU to Give Students a Digital Toolkit

SCU Requirement to be Implemented This Fall

In August, freshmen will be lugging more than their suitcases and personal belongings into their residence halls and apartments — they will also be bringing their own computers. The Student Computer Initiative (SCI) requirement that all incoming freshmen and transfer students have a personal computer will be fully implemented this fall.

However, the initiative goes far beyond the hardware requirement. The members of the SCI workgroup have spent the last year upgrading the campus network infrastructure, holding faculty development classes and refurbishing centrally controlled classrooms with state-of-the-art multimedia equipment. The latest SCI development is a CD-ROM full of computer resources for incoming freshmen.

"Enabling students to take advantage of the rich electronic information resources available at VCU is essential to enhancing the learning environment and the life experiences of our students," said Phyllis Sell, Ph.D., vice provost for Academic Technology. "Students and their parents need to know and understand the importance of information technology and expect it to be integrated into the curriculum as well as the day-to-day activities of student life."

Academic Technology is working with Student Affairs, Athletics and University Outreach to create a digital toolkit that will provide both information and resources to get freshmen excited about and prepared for the start of their college career. The CD will initially be distributed at the June STAR program for incoming freshmen. The contents include the following software: Netscape Communicator, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Host Explorer, Norton Anti-Virus, and FTP and telnet software for both Windows and Macintosh platforms. In addition, the CD also will contain calendars of upcoming events sponsored by Student Affairs, such as the new student orientation and athletic events. Students will be able to access university publications and Web sites directly from the CD.

"This is another example of how we can use telemedicine technology to overcome the obstacles of distance and travel."

Surgery Grand Rounds Offered Via Teleconference from Jamaica

Erin Lucero
University News Services

It appeared to be business as usual when faculty, medical students and surgery residents filed into the George Ben Johnston Auditorium last month for an early morning Department of Surgery Grand Rounds lecture. But this time, the lecturer was thousands of miles away in Jamaica.

For the first time, the department was offering its weekly lecture via teleconference.

"This is another example of how we can use telemedicine technology to overcome the obstacles of distance and travel," said Charles Doarn, M.B.A., assistant professor and executive director of the Medical Informatics and Technology Applications Consortium based at VCU. MITAC is a NASA Commercial Space Center focused on using information systems and telecommunications technologies to support health-care delivery in space and commercial settings.

"With computers and phone lines, we can import medical knowledge and expertise from anywhere in the world," said Doarn.

During the lecture, George Briggs, M.D., permanent secretary of Jamaica's Ministry of Health and this year's Templeton Lecturer in Pediatric Surgery, spoke on "Building a Health Care Plan for a Developing Country" and focused on international issues relative to children's health.

VCU's ongoing relationship with Jamaica's health ministry is an outgrowth of relief trips pediatric surgeon Charles Bagwell, M.D., has made to that country. In a trip last fall, Bagwell and his relief team established a telemedicine link at Cornwall Regional Hospital in Western Jamaica, which was used to transmit the March teleconference via a portable satellite system. The telemedicine connection also will be used to facilitate patient consultations between Jamaican and MCV Hospitals' physicians.

The Templeton Lectureship in Pediatric Surgery began in 1992 with a donation from Jack Templeton, an internationally known pediatric surgeon who completed general surgical training at MCV Hospitals. He served as the inaugural Templeton lecturer in 1992, and since that time, a number of distinguished pediatric surgeons have used the forum to address a wide range of topics relative to children's health-care needs.

VCU's Department of Surgery holds Grand Rounds lectures weekly. All lectures are available for viewing online at www.medfac.org under the link for "education."
VCU Dedicates the Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall

by Suzanne Horsley
University News Services

Just days before the dedication of the Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall in VCU's Performing Arts Center, Sonia Vlahcevic, Ph.D., was feeling very overwhelmed. This VCU music professor was preparing a special piano recital for the ceremony, which celebrated the legacy her late husband, Z. Reno Vlahcevic, M.D., created for her.

"This is an outstanding honor," she said, "and that my husband's doing it for me makes it even greater." The wife of the man who was at one time the University of Michigan Press poet in its creative writing program at the time of his death in 1996. "He's one of the greatest [pianists] in the world," she said, adding that it was a once in a lifetime opportunity for her to perform on stage with a musician of his caliber.

"The goal of Child VIP is to provide immediate help for child trauma patients and children who have been exposed to violence," wrote Laura Arbogast, University News Services.

"Children who are involved in car accidents, shootings or violence at home do not always have physical injuries, but can have severe emotional reactions," Dolan said. "Left untreated, this can develop into symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder and studies have revealed that actual physical changes to the brain can occur. We want to provide the resources needed to identify and minimize the negative impact of the trauma."

Project to Treat Child Witnesses of Violence

by Laura Arbogast
University News Services

Each year in the United States, millions of children witness acts of violence. Often, this exposure goes untreated, leading to long-term psychological problems for the child.

However, thanks to a new pilot program being launched by VCU's Department of Pediatrics, families arriving at the MCV Hospitals' emergency department will have the opportunity to obtain emergency mental health services for their child.

ChildVIP, which stands for Violence Intervention Project, is a collaborative effort between MCV Hospitals and Richmond's East District community, where 40 percent of the city's total homicides occur.

The program will provide training for MCV Hospitals' emergency department staff, social workers, police and first responders in critical incident stress management for children.

"The goal of Child VIP is to provide immediate help for child trauma patients and children who have been exposed to violence," said Janet Delorne, project coordinator for Child VIP. "By providing appropriate intervention, we hope to increase the child's ability to recover from such an experience."

People in the News

- ROBERT L. LAMM, Ph.D., former chairman of the Department of Physical Therapy, School of Allied Health Professions, has been named Emeritus Professor of Physical Therapy.
- JOHN VERGHESE, Ph.D., professor of educational studies, has been asked by the Council of Regional Accreditation Commissions to direct a two-year study involving the reformation of accreditation procedures nationwide. The project is funded by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trust.
- The Greater Virginia, a posthumous collection of essays, reviews and interviews by Larry Levis, Ph.D., was due for release on April 1 by the University of Michigan Press. Levis was a professor of English at VCU and the senior poet in its creative writing program at the time of his death in 1996.
- With his project proposal, "A Twin Study of the Genetics of Fear Conditioning," JOHN M. NETTER, M.D., psychiatrist resident, has been awarded a junior faculty research grant by the Anxiety Disorders Association of America. The purpose of the grant is to provide junior-level faculty with the financial means to make the transition to independent researcher.
- JOEY WALLACE, Ph.D., policy analyst for the Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities, was recently interviewed during the radio show "On a Roll Radio" on current issues in assistive technology loan programs.
- CLIFF EDWARDS, Ph.D., director of religious studies, recently delivered a series of lectures in St. Louis, to commemorate the opening at the St. Louis Museum of Art exhibition, "Van Gogh and the Painters of the Petit Boulevard." The three lectures dealt with the influence of Japanese prints on Van Gogh's paintings, the painter's religious background and the relationship between religion and the arts.
- PAUL J. GERBER, Ph.D., professor of education, presented the invited paper, "Adults with Learning Disabilities: Implications for Transition and the Adult Years" at the Bridge to Practice Symposium. The event was sponsored by the National Institute for Literacy and the United States Department of Education in Alexandria.

Portraits created by Robert Meganck, M.A., a Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Communication Arts and Design professor, and Sterling Hundley, a VCU alumnus, were recently featured during the 43rd Annual Grammy Awards. Meganck designed a digital portrait of Paul Simon while Hundley chose to use pastels for his portrait of the alternative band Radiohead. All of the nominee portraits are available for viewing at www.grammy.com.

At the Grammys


VCU Researchers Head National Study of Drug-Resistant Bacteria

VCU researchers are heading a national epidemiological study of potentially fatal bloodstream infections caused by a drug-resistant organism known as Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcus, or VRE. Vancomycin is considered an antibiotic of last resort against these hard-to-treat bacterial infections.

"The data from this study should give us a much better picture of the patient populations in whom VRE bloodstream infections occur," said Michael B. Edmond, M.D., M.P.H., hospital epidemiologist at VCU's MCV Hospitals and chairman of the ongoing VRE study.

The study is the largest to ever examine the characteristics of patients who experienced VRE bloodstream infection and to look at the institutions in which these infections occurred. While it is known that roughly half of all VRE bloodstream infections occur in intensive-care units, additional information about infected patients is scarce. With more complete information, physicians could better target infection control efforts and researchers could identify patient populations for further observational and intervention trials. Such information also could guide health-care policies and directives.

"The study will look in depth at the patients who developed VRE bloodstream infections to characterize their conditions, course of treatment and the units in which they were cared for," said Edmond. "Hopefully these results will provide information to help us begin to decrease the incidence of VRE bloodstream infections and the spread of this drug-resistant microbe."

VCU is becoming an increasing concern in the United States. According to researchers, vancomycin resistance in enterococci — a bacteria commonly found in the intestines — has increased more than 50-fold since 1989 when vancomycin resistance was first identified in the United States. The drug-resistant bacteria is a particular danger for patients in intensive care units or who otherwise have compromised immune systems, such as those undergoing organ transplants or cancer therapies.

New International Management Studies Certificate Launches This Fall

by Donna C. Gregory
University News Services

For the first time, VCU's School of Business and the College of Humanities and Sciences are collaborating to offer a new International Management Studies certificate to students this fall. The new program, which focuses on the three components of foreign language, European studies and international management, is a joint venture between the Department of Management and the College's International Studies Program and the Department of Foreign Languages. It is designed to prepare students for careers in international business.

The certificate includes both interdisciplinary and international dimensions, which have been encouraged in the university's strategic plan.

"International studies, by definition, is interdisciplinary in its approach, so its strength and value are in the links it builds between different departments and colleges," said R. McKenna Brown, Ph.D., director of the International Studies program.

VCU's MCV Hospital's Culture and Disease Laboratory Director Sonia Scarlatti, a Wonderful School at Which to Teach, "The marketplace is increasingly global, so familiarity with the world outside of the United States and the ability to navigate that world is very important."

The program's international management component requires a period of foreign language or cultural immersion, which can be satisfied by study abroad. An 18-day European study tour is planned for July that will allow students to earn up to six academic credits that can be applied toward the certificate.

"The purposes of the tour is twofold," said Michael Pitts, D.B.A., associate professor of management. "First, to learn about the historical and cultural characteristics of the European Union, and second to study the business practices in selected countries of the European Union. In the game of international business, Europe is an important region for U.S. trade and investment."

The tour will visit several European countries, including Belgium, France, Austria and Germany.

The International Management Studies certificate program was made possible through Title VI grant funding from the United States Department of Education.

According to Byles, plans are underway to later expand the program to include Latin America.

Students are currently being recruited to participate in the 33-36 credit hour program, which will appear for the first time in VCU's catalogue this fall.

For more information, please call Byles at 828-7125 or Brown at 827-1671.

VLACHEVIC

continued from page 6

VCU School of the Arts Dean Richard Toscan, Ph.D., officially dedicated the Sonia VLACHEVIC Concert Hall in the Performing Arts Center on March 25. Sonia performed Chopin's "Mazurka," guest pianist John Browning performed selections from Bach and Scarlatti, and together they performed the complete sonatas of Haydn.

Sonia completed her Ph.D. in music theory at the Catholic University of America. She and Reno juggled careers and school while raising their two sons, Andrej and Sasha. Reno joined the faculty at MCV and became the chief of gastroenterology there as well as at the McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center in Richmond. VCU hired Sonia as a music instructor in 1967, and by 1981 she had advanced to full professor. She serves as graduate program coordinator and teaches piano, analysis, theory, pedagogy and music history.

"It's a wonderful school at which to teach," she said of VCU's School of the Arts. "We have academic freedom here, and the colleagues are terrific. VCU and MCV have been very good to us."

Acting Chair of the Music Department John Guthmiller, Ph.D., described Sonia as "a passionate musician and lover of music. She is someone clearly fulfilled by what she does. How we all love being around her."
Campus Calendar

Board of Visitors
The next meeting of the VCU board of visitors will be on May 18 at 9 a.m. in the University Meeting Center.

April 5--"Physiology Seminar: RNA Trafficking in Neurons." Sponsored by the Department of Physiology. For details, call 829-9756.
April 6--"Graduate Research Symposium & Exhibition." Sponsored by the Graduate Student Association. For details, call 827-2003.
April 10--"Politics in North American and Southeast Asian Fireflies." Sponsored by the Department of Biology. For details, call 829-1502.
April 14--"The Career Center," noon; Student Commons, Center for Student Affairs. For details, call 829-0072.
April 27--"Access Advanced." Sponsored by University Computing Services on the Medical Campus. Pre-registration via the web is required. For details and online registration, visit: www.vcu.edu/registration/it.

April 15--"PACE to the Future." Sponsored by the Department of Pharmacology and the Science Museum of Virginia. For details, call 864-1400.
April 18--"Science Museum of Virginia Statistics." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center. For details, call 829-7717.

April 3--"Influence of Water Content in Pressurized Metered Dose Inhalers." Sponsored by the School of Pharmacy. For details, call 828-5428.
April 3--"Toward Evidence-Based Practice: Closing the Gap Between Theory and Reality." Sponsored by the Division of Quality Health Care and the Outcome Research Institute. For details, call 829-6059.
April 4--"Diabetic Dieting Made Easy." Sponsored by MCV Women's Health Care. For details and registration, call 828-2800.
April 4--"Access 2000 Special Topics." Sponsored by University Computing Services on the Academic Campus. For details, call 829-6650.
April 5--"Academic Success: Health Professions Programs, Get Accepted and be Successful." Sponsored by University Counseling Services, the Division of Student Affairs. For details, call 829-6200.
April 10--"Introducing Blackboard 5." Sponsored by the Instructional Development Center and Web Support Services. For details, call 829-7713.
April 12--"Pressurized Metered Dose Inhalers." Sponsored by the Department of Pharmacology. For details, call 828-4328.
April 14--"The Role of Antioxidants in Human Health." Sponsored by the Department of Pharmacology and the Science Museum of Virginia. For details, call 864-1400.

April 2--"A Personal Bag Discussion Series: Racial Reconciliation." Sponsored by the Division of Health Care and the Outcome Research Institute. For details, call 828-6650.
April 7--"Access 2000 Special Topics," April 12--"IVORKSHOPS THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VCU board of visitors will be on May 18 at 9 a.m. in the University Meeting Center.
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WORKSHOPS
April 3--"Computation in Basic Practice of..."