Rector Brings Real-World Economics Lessons to VCU Students
Flippen Speaks to Issues of Supply, Demand
by Michael Ford
University News Services

He’s a high-powered attorney, serves as rector of VCU’s board of visitors and was the chair of the governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education — all very demanding positions. But Edward Flippen still keeps the students of VCU — and the commonwealth — at the forefront of his commitment to higher education. That’s why he makes time in his busy schedule to reach out to students by way of the classroom. With a resume that includes MBA and law degrees, work with the Virginia State Corporation Commission and a partnership with the Richmond law firm of McGuire, Woods, Battle and Bohrer, Mr. Flippen also is a frequent visitor to the VCU School of Business. The rector recently was on hand to discuss economics with students, particularly the co-dependent topics of supply and demand.

Sixteen VCU Graduate Programs Rank Nationally
U.S. News & World Report Issues Annual Graduate School Report

Ten graduate programs at VCU are newly ranked among the best in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2002 rankings of “America’s Best Graduate Schools.” In addition to the 10 programs ranked this year, the rankings of six other VCU programs carry forward from last year, bringing the total to 16.

Seven of the VCU programs ranked this year are in the top tier of their respective categories. They are: rehabilitation counseling, seventh; health services administration, eighth; nursing, 10th; social work, 13th; physical therapy, 15th; and occupational therapy, 17th. Also ranked are nursing at 52nd; clinical psychology at 59th; and public affairs at 51st.

In addition to the newly listed rankings, U.S. News & World Report ranked six other VCU graduate programs last year. Those programs were sculpture, fifth; nurse anesthesia, 10th; drug and alcohol abuse, 16th; fine arts, 19th; pharmacy, 19th and creative writing, 50th.

The newsmagazine published its newest graduate school rankings in the new issue. See RANKINGS page 2

Facilities Management Tackles Aesthetic, Safety Challenges of an Urban Campus
Linden Street Closing to be Next Landscaping Project
by Suzanne Horsley
University News Services

Spring has finally arrived in Richmond, and VCU’s groundskeeping crews have been busy for weeks, getting the campus in shape, adding new plants and revamping flower beds.

The weeding and feeding is part of a much larger vision — the campus master site plan. “We market ourselves everyday to potential students, parents and contributors as well as to current students,” said Paul Timmreck, senior vice president for finance and administration, who oversees the facilities management department. “When a prospective student brings his or her family to VCU, first impressions are extremely important. That is why we have an aggressive program for the exteriors of the campus.”

The master site plan, drafted in 1996, calls for more open spaces, consistency in design and considerations for safety and accessibility. Although the total plan requires a tremendous amount of landscaping, paving and planting, the facilities management department is able

Research @ VCU

VCU Surgeons Launch New Surgery Journal Will Examine Technological Surgical Innovations

Molecular Diagnostics Lab isUnique in Central Virginia
Lab Expansion Will Allow for Added Testing in Drug-Resistant HIV and Cancer Genetics

Doctors Apply Molecular Testing to Improve Patient Care

Grants to Date
$89,653,031

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

Harding Biography
Authorised by President Trani
Makes Top of List
by Suzanne Horsley
University News Services

Book: The Magazine for the Reading Life, has named a week by VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., as the standout account of Warren G. Harding's presidential administration.

In compiling the list for the magazine, history scholar Glenn Speer called Dr. Trani's book "the obvious choice."

"The Presidency of Warren G. Harding," which Dr. Trani co-authored with David L. Wilson, Ph.D., documents the time Harding served in the White House. The book was first published by the University Press of Kansas in 1977 as a volume in "The American Presidency Series." It was reprinted in 1985 and again 1989. Dr. Trani also appeared on C-SPAN's 1999 series "American Presidents: Life Portraits" to discuss Harding's legacy.

"The 'American Presidency' books are a very good series," said Speer. "Dr. Trani's book is the most appropriate one that covers the Harding administration. I had to select one book on each president that was of the most interest to readers as a traditional biography. His book is the obvious choice."

The magazine published a list of top biographies for each of the U.S. Presidents, from George Washington to Bill Clinton, in the September/October 2000 issue. Dr. Trani's latest book, "The First Cold War: The Wilson Administration and Russia," will be published by the Ohma-Press Publishing House in Russia. He is currently making final arrangements for the book's U.S. publication.

Dr. Trani, who also is a professor of history, became VCU's fourth president in 1990. Previously, he taught history and

Proverbs 3:6
"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Dr. Eugene P. Trani

One of VCU’s groundskeeping crews works on a plant bed beside Oliver Hall. The staff, including (left to right) Tom Hixon, Mario Bullock and Michael Stan-ley, was recognized as the best customer service team in the facilities management department last year.

See LANDSCAPING page 2

"At Several Recent Board Meetings, Editors At The NEJM Have Been Struggling, As Editors Of Other Journals Have, With What To Do With The E-Version Of The Journal," Said Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., VCU Chair Of Internal Medicine And NEJM Editorial Board Member For The Past Eight Years. "Should They Charge? What Should They Give Out? And How Will The Online Version Be Used?"

Wenzel Proposed That VCU's MCV Campus Be Used As A Beta-Testing Site For A Period Of One Year. In Exchange For Free Access, NEJM Will Monitor VCU's Usage To Learn What Parts Of The Journal Are Accessed The Most, What Time Of Day They Are Accessed And Other Usage Information.


RECTOR (continued from page 1)

In March, He Addressed An Overflow Crowd Of Business and Economics Majors At The George Jennings Seminar, An Annual Breakfast Lecture Sponsored By The Business School's Economics Department. As The Featured Speaker, Mr. Flippen Met 150 Students Engaged In The Discussion.

"Mr. Flippen Knows How To Establish A Rapport With Students," Said Dennis O'Toole, Ph.D., Associate Professor Of Economics And Seminar Organizer. "I Was Impressed With His Natural Ability To Communicate With Students And Draw Them Into The Discussion."

Just A Few Days Later, Mr. Flippen Was In Yet Another Class, Drawing Graphs To Illustrate Examples Of Price, Supply And Demand To 100 Students In "Principles Of Economics." In Both Cases, The Rector Talked To Students About The Usefulness Of Economics, Assuring Them That Their Coursework Would Be Valuable To Them For The Rest Of Their Lives.

"I Know The Struggle They Are Having With Economics," Said Mr. Flippen. "I Had The Very Same Struggle, But I Know How Valuable Understanding These Concepts Will Be To Their Futures."

Mr. Flippen Has Successfully Combined His Experience As A Student, A Faculty Member And A Professional As He Attempts To Bridge His Ties To The Board And To The Commonwealth For The Browser Setting On-Campus Access.

LANDSCAPING (continued from page 3)

"It Would Be Difficult To Find A More Committed Person Than Our Rector," Said President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D. "The Fact That Mr. Flippen Has Taken The Time To Be In The Classroom — In Addition To His Leadership Responsibilities To The Board And To The Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission — Is A Testament To His Tremendous Energy And His Dedication Not Only To VCU Students, But To The Students Of The Commonwealth.


Four Programs Ranked This Year — Rehabilitation Counseling, Health Services Administration, Occupational Therapy And Physical Therapy — Are Offered Through VCU's School Of Allied Health Professions.

"The Quality Of The Programs Has Always Been There," Said Cecil Drain, Ph.D., Dean Of The School Of Allied Health Professions. "We Just Had To Let People Know About Us. Credit Goes To The Chairmen And The Faculty Of These Departments Because They Have Done Outstanding Work."
Specialty Surgical Center at Stony Point to Open in 2002

With construction under way, a new specialty ambulatory surgical center for ophthalmology and otolaryngology is scheduled to open in spring 2002. Representing a joint venture between Richmond Eye & Ear Hospital and the VCU Health System, the center will be housed at Stony Point, where the VCU Health System operates a multispecialty outpatient practice.

The new 25,000-square-foot Surgical Specialty Center at Stony Point, 9105 Stony Point Parkway, will offer six operating rooms, four of which will be dedicated to ophthalmology and otolaryngology procedures to create the region's largest facility of its kind. The center also will offer services that may include orthopedic and general surgical procedures. Attached to the surgical center is a 45,000-square-foot medical office building.

"The VCU Health System has offered specialty health care at Stony Point for eight years," said VCU Health System President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D. "We have established a secure presence in the marketplace and fully expect this joint venture to be as successful as our current patient services.

"The result of this joint venture will be a new state-of-the-art facility that will expand the resources available in Central Virginia and beyond," said James W. Worrall, chief executive officer of Richmond Eye & Ear Hospital.

A board of directors — made up of six Richmond Eye & Ear Hospital representatives and four VCU Health System representatives — has been named to lead the center. "We are very excited that this building project is underway. In the new ambulatory surgery center, we will continue to provide quality surgical care to the community," said Raymond L. Spence Jr., M.D., president of the newly formed board and a member of the board of Richmond Eye and Ear Hospital.

Henrico County-based Taylor & Farrish Inc. is constructing the center. Richmond-based Odell Associates Inc. is project architect, and Brinkman MDC, a health-care facilities developer based in Charlottesville, is spearheading project development and leasing of the medical office building.

The VCU Health System's Stony Point outpatient facility includes an on-site laboratory and 12 medical specialties, including internal medicine, radiology and women's health care. VCU's Massey Cancer Center at Stony Point opened as a 20,000-square-foot, $6.6 million addition, six months ago.

Conflict Resolution Institute Facilitates Confederate Resolution

It was a challenge just getting African Americans and ancestors of Confederate soldiers together in the same room to discuss a resolution designating April 2001 as Confederate Heritage and History Month in Chesterfield County. Getting them to agree on how the resolution should be worded was "huge," according to VCU Conflict Resolution Institute director Jim Phillips, J.D., Ph.D., who guided three months of tense dialogue between the groups.

The Chesterfield Board of Supervisors wanted to prevent a repeat of the controversy that erupted last year when the board adopted a similar resolution without allowing public discussion. Last year's decision resulted in an economic boycott by African Americans and a visit from former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke who invited Caucasians to shop at Chesterfield stores with him. So, earlier this year, the county asked Phillips to assemble a committee of civil rights leaders, Confederate heritage groups and churchers for an open discussion and resolution of their differences.

"This was among the most difficult public policy disputes I've worked on in my 10 years as a conflict resolution facilitator," said Phillips. "There was anger and frustration at the beginning."

Reunion Weekend 2001 Celebrates Class of '51

Hundreds of alumni from VCU's academic and medical campuses will return to Richmond this month for Reunion Weekend 2001.

This year's activities will be held during two weekends and will celebrate the 50th graduation anniversary of the class of 1951.

Alumni from the schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and the department of physical therapy will reunite on April 27-29, while graduates from the African-American Alumni Council and the Richmond Professional Institute will celebrate April 20-22.

Highlights from the weekends include:
- The Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibitions at the Anderson Gallery. Other reunion weekend events include:
  - African-American Alumni Council golf outing at the Highland Springs Golf Course and MCV Campus alumni golf tournament at The Crossings Golf Club.
  - Concert by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at the VCU Performing Arts Center with a reception following.
  - Continuing education presentation by VCU alum Steven Offenberg. D.D.S., Ph.D., world-renowned expert in periodontal medicine.
  - "MCV at War," a historical review of the medical campus' involvement with war efforts.
  - Memorial service honoring deceased MCV Campus alumni from the Class of 1951.

For more information about Reunion Weekend 2001 events on the academic campus, call Larry Powell at 829-2586. For events on VCU's MCV Campus, call Barbara Paton at 829-2800.

VCU School of Nursing Professor Receives $100,000 Scholarship

One of 17 National Awards to Geriatric Nursing Scholars

by Michael Ford

University News Services

Washington, D.C. foundation has awarded $1.7 million in scholarships to 17 nurse scholars, including $100,000 to a VCU faculty member in the School of Nursing.

Rita Jablonksi, clinical assistant professor of adult health nursing, is one of 10 pre-doctoral nursing scholars in the nation to receive the scholarship from the John A. Hartford Foundation Geriatric Nursing Scholarship program. The award is part of a new Hartford Foundation initiative, aimed at increasing the number of nurses specializing in gerontology.

Jablonksi's area of clinical expertise is the primary care of adults with chronic diseases. She focuses her research on strategies to improve nursing education.

"I'm excited and very humbled that the Hartford Foundation recognizes I have something to offer," Jablonksi said. "I feel driven to fulfill their expectations and feel honored to help promote and enhance VCU's reputation."

The trustees of the John A. Hartford Foundation began the initiative to address the critical shortage of nurses, particularly geriatric nurses. Objectives of the foundation's geriatric nursing scholarship programs include building a nationwide network of nurse educators specializing in gerontology, expanding and enhancing the gerontology curricula taught at nursing schools and creating additional interest in gerontology research among nursing scholars.

"The proportion of nursing research awards to study geriatric issues is less than one-fifth of funded research," Jablonksi said. "The Hartford Foundation is planting seeds for the future. They want to produce expert nurses academicians, practitioners and researchers who will specialize in gerontology."
Berry Named Thalheimer Scholar-in-Residence

Dr. Leonard L. Berry has been named the Thalheimer Scholar-in-Residence at the VCU School of Business. Berry will discuss his new book, "Discovering the Soul of Service: The Nine Drivers of Sustainable Business Success," at the Thalheimer Family Scholar-in-Residence Forum on Thursday, April 19, at 9:30 a.m. in the University Student Commons ballroom. He also will visit classrooms on April 18-19.

Berry holds the M.B. Zale Chair in Retailing and Marketing Leadership and is Distinguished Professor of Marketing at Texas A&M University. He is also the founder of the university's Center for Retailing Studies in the Lowry Mays College of Business Administration. Berry has been identified as the most frequent contributor of services marketing literature in the United States.

Berry's earlier works include "On Great Service: A Framework for Action" and "Marketing Services: Competing through Quality," both published by the Free Press.

Bladder Cancer Symposium to Honor Former Chair of VCU Hospitals' Division of Urology

MCV Hospital's Division of Urology will sponsor the First Annual Warren W. Koontz, Jr. Urology Update entitled Bladder Cancer: Issues and Controversies in the New Millennium. The two-day symposium is named in honor of Koontz, who was the chairman of MCV Hospitals' Division of Urology from 1979-1993.

Conference topics will include bladder cancer management options, alternative therapies for bladder cancer and discussion of advances in molecular biology and immunology in the treatment of bladder cancer.

The symposium will be held at the Richmond Marriott on April 27-28. For more information, call 828-3640.

VCU Libraries Offers JSTOR Ecology and Botany Collection

The VCU Libraries now provides access to the Ecology and Botany Collection, covering 29 journals with more than 1 million pages. These new materials are provided via Journal Storage (JSTOR), which has recently released its third archival collection of online journals as part of its ongoing mission to provide access to a reliable archive of scholarly literature.

The collection provides critical support to the university's Life Sciences Initiative.

MCV Hospitals Presents Osteoporosis Seminar

MCV Hospitals will hold a free seminar on osteoporosis prevention on April 17 at 6 p.m., 9000 Stony Point Parkway. Presenters will include, Robert Downs, M.D., professor of internal medicine-endocrinology, and co-director of the Program for Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment, physical therapists Anne Dunbar and Linda Nolte-Smith; and Mary-Jo Sawyer, registered dietitian. Discussion topics will include prevention, risks, exercising, posture training and food choices.

Following the seminar, calcium-rich refreshments will be served. Health screenings and educational material will be available. Health care professionals will also be on hand to answer participants' questions.

For more details or to register, call 560-3640.

Phi Kappa Phi to Hold Initiation Ceremony

Phi Kappa Phi, an honor society, will conduct its 2001 Initiation Ceremony on April 25 at 6 p.m. in the Student Commons Ballroom. The ceremony recognizes the outstanding achievements of junior and senior students with their induction into Phi Kappa Phi.

In addition, in recognition of their outstanding professional and personal achievements, a small number of qualified alumni and faculty will also be inducted into the organization.

Author David Baldacci, a VCU Alumnus and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, will be the featured speaker at the ceremony.

Prior to the ceremony, there will be at reception honoring the members of Phi Kappa Phi at 5 p.m.

Annual Louis Harris Exhibition to Feature Selected Artwork

The VCU community is invited to the annual Louis Harris Exhibition and Purchase Awards in Fine Arts as well as a special reception.

Louis S. Harris, associate Vice-President for health sciences, is the originator and founder of this exhibition of works by students of VCU's nationally ranked School of the Arts. The exhibition features works selected by Harris from among hundreds of submissions from VCU art students. Four of the artworks will be on display April 24-28.

The event and reception will take place on April 27 from 4-6 p.m. on the ground floor of the Medical Sciences Building.
Molecular Diagnostics Lab is Unique in Central Virginia

Lab Expansion Will Allow for Added Testing in Drug-Resistant HIV and Cancer Genetics

by Erin Lucero
University News Services

A new journal devoted to futuristic surgical innovations promises to offer surgeons insight into these and other questions. New Surgery, launched by two VCU surgeons, will feature articles pertaining to new technology, distance learning and international medicine.

Telemedicine pioneer and VCU Chief of Surgery Ronald C. Merrell, M.D., is the journal's editor-in-chief. Known for his affinity for technological innovations and their creative application in the operating room, Merrell also serves as director of the NASA Commercial Space Center based at VCU's MCW Hospitals.

In the lead article of the inaugural March/April issue, Merrell challenges his readers with the idea: "Old and current surgery techniques are not good enough and the new surgery we need is not yet ready."

He envisions operating rooms where teledoc­tine makes real-time consulting and intervention commonplace and where voice-activated machines, artificial intelli­gence and robotics supplement surgeons' expertise.

He believes that these technological advances hold the promise for changing the way that health-care is provided around the globe.

"Distance has long been a determining factor in the outcome of patient care," he wrote. "Distance in the 21st century will not be an absolute determinant of patient outcome. If we had only gotten here in time," health-care is provided around the globe. "If we had only gotten here in time, health-care is provided around the globe."

Merrell notes that even futuristic tools are useless in an information vacuum. He sees the journal New Surgery as the vehicle that can fill the current need for information and instruction on surgical technologies and innovations.

"Imagine an 18th century surgeon just given a laparoscope but no update on worldview and human biology," Merrell wrote. The journal's editor is Rifat Latifi, M.D., a VCU trauma surgeon who also serves as director of Education and Distance Learning for VCU's NASA commercial space center. Along with Merrell, Latifi travels around the globe to introduce teledoc­tine and provide a link to medical and surgical expertise. A native of Kosovo, Latifi returns to the country frequently and has seen firsthand the tremendous impact that access to advanced technology has had on the war-torn region.

Landes Bioscience Publications will publish New Surgery every two months. The peer-reviewed journal is available by subscription, on newstands and online. New Surgery is the first of eight new journals on bioscience and biomedical topics that Landes Bioscience will introduce over the next year. The journals — ranging in focus from organ transplant to the molecular mechanisms of cancer biology and therapy — will provide direction and definition to the evolving knowledge, research and fields that grow out of conventional medical disciplines.

Researchers have benefited from one such collaboration. "Following a transplant, patients are at risk for becoming seriously ill as a result of a Cytomegalovirus infection," said Robert A. Fisher, M.D., transplant surgeon and director of Transplant Research. "But when we catch it early and treat the virus appropriately, we can save the patient's life."

Cytomegalovirus is a herpes virus that is common worldwide. At some point in their lives, about 85 percent of people in the U.S. will become infected, but often go unnoticed because the symptoms can be mild. However, CMV infection can be life-threatening for patients with weakened immune systems, such as those undergoing chemotherapy or taking immunosuppressing medications after an organ transplant. And, correctly diagnosing CMV can be a challenge.

Ferreira-Gonzalez worked with Fisher to apply a technology called polymerase chain reaction to quickly diagnose CMV in post-transplant patients. In 1999, they published in Transplantation the first case report use­fulness in detecting the presence of CMV.

Since then, they've used the tech­nology to determine which patients required treatment to prevent CMV and have monitored patients' progress so that treatment can be continued where appropriate.

Fisher has seen a significant reduction in complications related to CMV infection and has seen no recurrence of disease in patients who have received treatment. "One benefit of having this type of lab available at a medical center like MCW Hospitals is that we in the lab can partner with the physicians to develop treatment approaches for their most challenging diagnoses," said Ferreira-Gonzalez. "It's not like sending a specimen off to a commercial lab. To get the maximum benefit from this type of testing, you need a dialogue between the testor and the physician."
Dance, Choreography to Present Spring Senior Concert

VCU's Department of Dance and Choreography will present "Study in Motion: the Spring Senior Project Dance Concert," April 26-28 at 9 p.m. at the Grace Street Theater. "Study in Motion" will feature new work by members of the graduating class of 2001, showcasing a culmination of their years of study. The works range from social commentaries to celebrations of movement.

The following student-choreographed performances will be featured:

- **Stephanie Atkins'** "Taking Notes" is a study of Mozart's complicated 40th Symphony. The dancers represent the individual notes to create a visual collage of the music.
- **Megan Coyle's** "Haiku Landscape" depicts a series of poems. The dance is superimposed with a giant lyra frame that acts as a malleable surface, creating a multi-dimensional environment.
- **Choreography by Kelly Eudaily** is inspired by the bittersweet melodies of The Black Room. A cast of six performers takes the stage in this quirky and lighthearted dance.
- **Melissa Glassow** works collaboratively with five dancers to create a kinesthetic slideshow of movement and color. Vibrant costumes complement this sensitive and physical work.
- **Shawn Johnson** uses music ranging from the rich sounds of Miles Davis to the urban lyrics of hip hop artist Wyclef Jean to communicate the responsibility of raising 12 children as a jobless, single mother. She has collaborated with her dancers to create a family album that inspires viewers to appreciate the many blessings in their lives.
- **Frances Katz** borrows the mystical concepts found in the Kabbalah, a collection of Jewish philosophy, for her choreography. Throughout her work, four dancers react to each other and unseen elements while pulling the audience into their nonlinear journey.
- **Blake Pearson's** "Two or More for Tango" explores the candid, experimental stages of intimate relationships. The work is a collage of colorful dance and theater vignettes featuring original text.
- **In collaboration with four dancers, Tameka Sims offers a study** of femininity and power. Combining sensual and rhythmic movement, the work portrays the strength and unity of four female friends.

Tickets for "Study in Motion" are $5 and free to VCU students with a valid ID. For details or ticket reservations, call 804-289-2020.

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People in the News

- **As a result of his dedication to community service and to building bridges between the races, Francis Merrill Foster Sr., D.D.S., assistant professor in the School of Dentistry, has been selected as a distinguished alumnus of a historically black college or university.**
- **Foster was nominated by Virginia Union University, where he received his undergraduate degree in Biology in 1945. The honor was conferred in Washington on March 23 at the 26th National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education.**
- **Gary N. Hetteur, D.D.S., M.S., chairman of the department of endodontics and director of the advanced Education Program in endodontics in the School of Dentistry, was re-elected to the board of directors of the American Board of Endodontics during the 56th Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontics (AAE) from March 25-April 1 in New Orleans. The ABE is the certifying board for the dental specialty of endodontics that is recognized by the American Dental Association and the AAE.**
- **John Hetteur, M.D., Ph.D., has been awarded a Young Investigator Grant by the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression. Hetteur will receive $60,000 for a study to identify genetic and environmental risk factors for major depression and anxiety disorders.**
- **The article, "Quest for the West," by Betty Anne Johnson, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine, has been published in the winter issue of the Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin.**
- **The article details the origins of public health on a federal reclamation project in northern Wyoming in the early 1900s.**
- **Insider Trading in Self-IPOs," by Gabriel G. Ramirez, Ph.D., professor of finance, insurance and real estate, has been accepted for publication by the Quarterly Journal of Business and Economics.**
- **Jeff South, associate professor in the School of Mass Communications, had an article published recently in the medical journal Toxicology. It discussed how to use the Internet to find environmental news and how to evaluate online information.**
- **Gary Wnek, Ph.D., chair of chemical engineering, is serving on a Functional Organic and Hybrid Materials panel, which is part of a National Research Council/National Materials Advisory Board study on materials research for Defense After Next. The panel's overall mission is to help define long-term material needs for the Department of Defense.**
- **The 2001 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will include the names of 16 undergraduate students and five graduate students from VCU who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders. The students also will be honored at this year's Leadership and Service Awards Ceremony to be held on April 22 at 2 p.m. in the Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballroom.**
- **The undergraduate honorees are Michael A. Araj, Steven A. Bowen, Lindy Brown, Jennifer H. Clarke, Tanya B. Daniel, Marisa H. Ferrera, Daniel Gross, Nicole Lodhner, Shelly L. Mccormas, Daniel D. Moseley, Olahrewaju Omo­jokum, Jay Parade, Nihal Patel, Mark A. Smith, Elizabeth A. Varghese and Melissa M. Wilson. The graduate honorees include Celene A. Amabile, Steven C. Jones, Kelly A. Peters, Rebecca L. Pierce and Tamara B. Pringle.**

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VCU Seminar to Focus on Cancers That Affect Women

VCU will present a series of free luncheon seminars with a focus on cancers that affect women. The series will be offered 12:15 - 1 p.m. on each of the five Wednesdays in May, in the Atrium of the James Center, 1021 E. Cary St.

The series will feature physicians from the VCU Health System who will discuss how to detect potential health problems early, advancements in treatment options, including clinical trials and the latest research findings.

- **May 2:** Talking to the Doctor About Breast Cancer. Mary Helen Hackney, M.D., breast cancer specialist at VCU's Massey Cancer Center.
- **May 9:** Common Skin Cancers and Their Cures. Algin B. Garrett, M.D., dermatology chief with VCU's MCV Hospitals.
- **May 16:** Are Pap Smears Still Important? Eileen Segretti, M.D., gynecological oncologist with VCU's Women's Health Services and the Massey Cancer Center.

- **May 23:** Cancer of the Uterus: The Curable Cancer. John B. Wheelock, M.D., gynecological oncology chief with VCU's Women's Health Services and the Massey Cancer Center.
- **May 30:** Ovarian Cancer: It Whispered, So Listen. Cecelia Boardman, M.D., gynecological oncologist with VCU's Women's Health Services and the Massey Cancer Center. Made possible by Women's Health Services of the VCU Health System, VCU's Massey Cancer Center and the James Center, the series is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. Dessert will be served, and door prizes will be awarded. For details, call Jennifer Cummings at 804-289-4563.

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Carver-VCU Partnership Plans Health Fair

by Donna Gregory
University News Services

The Fourth Annual Carver-VCU Partnership Community Health Fair will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Commonwealth Cancer Institute.

The fair will offer free dental, vision, blood pressure, breast cancer and prostate cancer health screenings. Children's activities, and information on health, career, youth and programs crime prevention will also be available.

The public is invited to learn about the many valuable health and social service programs available in the Richmond community by attending the health fair.

In case of rain, the health fair will be held at Carver Elementary School, at the intersection of Harrison and West Leigh Streets.

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Street Level

"Street Level," an exhibition of street photography from Russia and the United States, will be featured at the 1708 Gallery until April 28. Photographer Nancy Lensen-Tomasson, professor emeritus in VCU's photography and film department, collected photos from trips she made to Russia over the past seven years. Robin Herstadt of Brooklyn, NY, captured her photographs on the streets of New York. The exhibition was curated by Matthew Phillips, a senior photographer for VCU's Media Production Services and an artist member of 1708 Gallery. The Gallery is located at 1021 E. Broad St.
Social Work Students Devote Their Spring Break to Service Project

Ten students from the School of Social Work spent their Spring Break in the sun of the Caribbean, but relaxation was not their goal. For nine days last month, they, along with five of the school’s faculty members, helped build a school in the poverty-stricken community of Hato Viejo Batey, a small town outside of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. For many of the town’s children, a finished school will allow them their first opportunity at receiving a formal education.

The two countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the island of Hispaniola, and since the 1500s, thousands of Dominican Republic residents have had to cross the border daily, often illegally, to work as sugar cane cutters in neighboring Haiti. The workers live in migrant labor camps that have become established communities.

"Children in the labor camps, although legally Dominican citizens by birth, are viewed as Haitian because they work in Haiti and are denied access to the Dominican Republic’s public school system," said Randi Baerlein, M.S.W., director of student services in the School of Social Work and faculty member who joined the students on their trip. "In order to receive any education from their own country of Haiti, children need to show some type of birth certificate; which few have, because they were born without medical or governmental assistance.” Baerlein described the trip to an audience of more than 200 during the fifth annual Social Justice Day events last month.

More than 200 students, faculty and residents from across Virginia visited VCU on March 29 for the School of Social Work’s Fifth Annual Social Justice Day, a day set aside to probe past challenges and celebrate cultural differences while focusing on creating a society that provides all residents with economic and social justice.

"The trip was a tremendous experience for everyone involved," said Baerlein. "The community welcomed us and the children became our friends. They worked right along with us, teaching us the value of community and that amazing friendships can develop even when people don’t speak the same language.”

This year’s trip marks the third year that social work students have donated their Spring Break to building a school. For the two previous years, student groups visited Belize to work on similar projects.

Social Justice

VCU Announces Winner of Annual Distinguished Clinician Award

by Joe Kuttenkuler

Known nationally for his study of the heart’s electrical system, Kenneth Ellenbogen, M.D., professor and chief of electrophysiology at VCU, has been awarded the Distinguished Clinician Award for 2001 by the VCU Health System.

Ellenbogen was one of 10 physicians nominated for the award that was established to recognize special contributions of faculty clinicians within the university. Nominees are judged on a number of criteria including clinical effectiveness, compassion, comprehensiveness, efficiency and responsiveness to patients and referrals.

"Dr. Ellenbogen is truly a triple-threat for us through his many accomplishments in teaching, research and patient care," said Sheldon B. Berlin, M.D., senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of the VCU Health System. "He is a valued mentor for his junior faculty and fellows and is well deserving of the award."

By participating in numerous research studies evaluating new drugs and devices to treat various forms of irregular heartbeats, Ellenbogen and his team have achieved national prominence for VCU’s electrophysiology department. In addition, Ellenbogen has authored more than one hundred articles and served as the senior editor for “Cardiac Pacemic Pacing and Defibrillation” — one of the major clinical textbooks in the electrophysiology field.

“I am incredibly humbled,” said Ellenbogen. "This is quite an honor, considering how many tremendous physicians we have here at VCU."

Ellenbogen began his medical career at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, earning his medical degree in 1980 and completing his internal medicine training in 1983. He completed his cardiology training at Duke University Medical Center 1986, after which he joined VCU as a faculty member.

Music Festival to Bring Allan Blank's Works to Richmond

Allan Blank, professor emeritus, music department, will be back on campus May 9 as the Virginia Chamber Players perform his work. Blank is the composer-in-residence for the Virginia Chamber Players, members of the Virginia Symphony. The concert is part of the Virginia International Arts Festival and is hosted by the Old Dominion University Libraries Diehn Composers Room.

An exhibit at the ODU Libraries traces the development of the four pieces that Blank selected for the concert. The exhibit is also available online at lib.odu.edu/about/odu/specialmusic/allanblank.

Two new collections of Blank’s works, performed by VCU faculty, were recently released: Bruce Hammel, D.M. and associate professor of music, is the featured performer on a CD titled “Allan Blank: Music for Bassoon” on the Centaur label (CRC 2485). Hammel also appears on “Chamber Works of Allan Blank,” along with Charles West, D.M.A., and the Murray Lohuis Duo (Robert Murray Lohuis, D.M. and Ardyth Lohuis, D.M.A.) on the Arizona University Recordings label (AUR 3103). Both CDs will be available at the Allan Blank concert.

A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m., with the performance following at 7:30 p.m. in the Sonia Vlahovicz Concert Hall. For more details or to attend the reception, call (757) 683-4186.
Campus Calendar

SEMINARS

April 18 — "Mini Medical School: Mast Cells from Bench to Bedside." Sponsored by the Department of Pharmacology/Toxicology and the Science Museum of Virginia. For details, call 804-1400. 7 p.m. Science Museum of Virginia, Eddy IMAX Dome.

April 19 — "Thalhimer Scholar in Residence: Dr. Leonard L. Barry, Texas A&M Retailing Expert." Sponsored by the School of Business. For details, call 828-1245. 9:30 a.m./Student Commons, Commonwealth A, B

April 19 — "Physiology Seminar: Cytokine Regulation of Mast Cell Function: A Model of Immunoregulatory Interactions." Sponsored by Physiology. For details, call 828-0756. 4 p.m./Sanger Hall, Room 3-016

April 19 — "Building a Legislative-Centered Public Administration: Congress and the Administrative State." Sponsored by Public Administration. For details, call 828-1046. 7 p.m./Siegel Center, Founder's Room

April 23 — "The Beat That Cannot Be: Evolutionary Genetics of the Ovary Known Self-Fertilizing Vertebrate." Sponsored by Biology. For details, call 828-1552. 4 p.m./Life Sciences Building, Room 201

April 23 — "Food & Fitness: Health for a Lifetime." Sponsored by MCV Women's Health Care. For details, call 500-8900. Est. 7177. 6:30 a.m./9000 Stony Point Parkway

April 24 — "Clinical Pharmacokinetics of Thalidomide." Sponsored by Pharmacy. For details, call 828-4328. Noon/Smith Building, Room 216

April 24 — "Complexes of Large Metal Ions with Symmetrically Dis-Substituted Macrocyclic Ligands: Synthesis, Characterization, Isomerization, Structural Studies." Sponsored by Chemistry. For details, call 828-1298. 4 p.m./Oliver Hall, Kapp Lecture Hall


April 25 — "Massey Cancer Center Research Seidman Seminar." Sponsored by Massey Cancer Center. For details, call 828-1890. Noon/Massey Cancer Center

April 26 — "Conjugated Polymers and their Application in Optoelectronics, Chemical Sensors and Photovoltaic Devices." Sponsored by the Department of Chemistry. For details, call 828-1298. 4 p.m./Oliver Hall, Kapp Lecture Hall

April 27 — "Master of Public Health Research Day." Sponsored by Preventive Medicine and Community Health. For details, call 828-0785. 8:30 a.m./Grant House, 1009 E. Clay St.


April 28 — "First Annual Warren W. Koontz Jr. Urology Update: Bladder Cancer — Issues and Controversies in the New Millennium." Sponsored by the Division of Urology. For details, call 828-3640. 8 a.m./Richmond Marriott, 500 East Broad Street

May 1 — "Enhancement of Sensitivity in Electrophoresis and Atmospheric Pressure Chemical Ionization LC/MS using Mobile Phase Additives and Derivatization." Sponsored by the School of Pharmacy. For details, call 828-4328. Noon/Smith Building, Room 216

May 1 — "Hydrodynamics in Nanoporous Materials." Sponsored by the Department of Chemistry. For details, call 828-1298. 4 p.m./Oliver Hall, Kapp Lecture Hall

WORKSHOPS

April 18 — "Performance Management for VCU Managers." Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. Cost is $45. For details, call 828-0179. 9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

April 24 — "Behavioral Interviewing" Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. Cost is $60. For details, call 828-0179. 9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20


April 25 — "Appreciating Differences" Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. Cost is $60. For details, call 828-0179.

April 25 — "HTML Intermediate" Sponsored by Web Support Services. For details, call 828-6650. 1 p.m./Cabell Library, Room 320

April 25 — "Career Connections Orientation." Sponsored by the Career Center. For details, call 828-1645. 3 p.m./Student Commons, Career Center

April 26 — "PRISM: Creating a Customer Service Environment for your Staff." Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. For details, call 828-0179. 9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

April 28 — "Access 2000 Security." Sponsored by University Computing Services on the Academic Campus. For details, call 828-6650. 1 p.m./Cabell Library, Room 320

May 2 — "Developing Super Vision: An Overview for Managers and Supervisors." Sponsored by Training and Development. Cost is $75. For details, call 828-0179. 9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 3 — "Access: Additional Topics" Sponsored by University Computing Services on the MCV Campus. Pre-registration via the web is required. For online registration, visit www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/training/it. 8:30 a.m./Sanger Hall, Room 3-045

May 3 — "LICHT: Customer Service in the New VCU Health System." Sponsored by Training and Development. For details, call 828-0179. 9 a.m./3 p.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 17 — "Access: Beginner." Sponsored by University Computing Services on the Medical Campus. Pre-registration via the web is required. For online registration, visit www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/training/it. 8:30 a.m./Sanger Hall, Room 3-045

EVENTS

April 18 — "OMSA Achievement Award Ceremony." Sponsored by the Office of Minority Student Affairs. For details, call 828-6672.

April 19 — "Sculture 2001, Senior Exhibitions." Sponsored by the School of the Arts. For details, call 828-1511

April 21 — "Tompkins-McCaw Library Tour and Orientation." Sponsored by VCU Libraries. For details, call 828-0638. 3 p.m./Tomkins-McCaw Library

May 4 — "Story in Reverse Fashion Show." Sponsored by Fashion Design and Merchandising. Tickets are $20 and $30. For details and tickets, call 828-1699.


SPORTS

Baseball
April 20 — VCU vs. College of William & Mary 7 p.m./The Diamond

April 21 — VCU vs. College of William & Mary 4 p.m./The Diamond

April 22 — VCU vs. College of William & Mary 2 p.m./The Diamond

April 24 — VCU vs. Liberty University 7 p.m./The Diamond