VCU Medical Resident Coordinates High-Altitude Life-Saving Effort

by Jon Kuttankauser
University News Services

Looking back, Shawn Borich said the scenario was similar to what he sees in the emergency department every day — a critically ill person needing urgent medical attention. The only difference was that Borich's working environment was traveling at roughly 600 miles an hour, 35,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean.

"It was like being in an emergency room in the wilderness," said Borich, M.D., a first-year resident in the VCU Department of Emergency Medicine. "I didn't have access to my usual resources — faculty physicians, an extensive pharmacy, first-class medical equipment."

Borich and his medical-school roommate, Tyler Koski, M.D., now a first-year resident in neurosurgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, were flying home after a week's vacation in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. On their April 15 flight, an overhead page went out requesting medical assistance.

"We didn't give it a second thought when we heard the call; we wanted to see if there was anything we could do," Borich said. When they arrived near the front of the plane, they found a man on the floor thrashing with convulsions.

Several months into his emergency medicine training, Borich had observed and performed many life-saving techniques in the well-equipped, supervised setting of MCV Hospital's Emergency Department. But now, he was faced with a critical situation, with only minimal medical supplies on hand.

"I was focusing on the immediate needs of the patient. I was nervous, yet comfortable — this is what I'm training to do," Borich said.

Borich took the lead in the initial treatment of the patient. Using medication from the airplane's medical-supply kit, Borich injected Valium in an attempt to stop the convulsions.

In our emergency department, we usually use a different drug in this situation, so I wasn't sure of the precise dosage for Valium, but I have an extensive list of medications in my Palm Pilot — so I looked it up. Just as Borich began injecting the Valium, the patient's convulsions gave way to seizures.

By this time, a nurse and cardiac technician had joined Borich and Koski, and the four discussed treatment options each step of the way. They started intravenous fluids and placed a tube down the patient's throat to open his airway. They also hooked up a small heart monitor.

"Everyone was pitching in," Borich said. "Passengers were passing up medications."

Dr. Shawn Borich was back at work in the emergency department the morning after his trans-Atlantic life-saving effort.

VCU Leadership Development Program Discusses Higher Education Issues

In two days of meetings that took participants to the nation's capital and to state and national higher education advocacy organizations. The day's visits included representatives from the American Council on Education and the Kellogg Projects on Institutional Transformation, a group that aims to help institutions increase their flexibility and responsiveness. Participants met at the Board of Higher Education for Virginia in sessions hosted by the Council's director, Phyllis Palmero and her staff. The roles of the Council, the General Assembly, the Higher Education Business Council and the executive branch of state government in setting policies and procedures affecting colleges and universities were the topics of discussion. They also examined the important role that leaders have in managing the changes faced by institutions of higher education in the state and across the nation. For part of the day they were joined by Edward L. Flippin, J.D., the rector of VCU's board of visitors, who discussed the governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education, which he chaired, as well as the function and activities of the VCU Board.

On the session's second day, participants traveled to Washington, D.C., where they met with several prominent leaders in academia and higher education advocacy organizations. The day's visits included representatives from the American Council on Education and the Kellogg Projects on Institutional Transformation, a group that aims to help institutions increase their flexibility and responsiveness to students and faculty. They also met with Congresswoman Robert C. Scott to discuss educational and congressional issues in higher education from a national perspective.

The first class of leadership participants is finding the program
Beginnings and Endings

As we approach the end of the academic year, Virginia Commonwealth University is doing very well in recruiting new freshmen for the fall 2001 semester. Freshman applications are up by 800 from this time last year. To date, VCU has received more than 7,400 freshman applications. By late August, that number should be between 7,800 and 7,900. That would mean a 60 percent increase in freshman applications since fall 1995, when VCU received a total of 4,881 applications.

The quality of the fall 2001 freshman pool also is stronger than last year's pool, with increases in both the average SAT score (1019 versus 1017) and the average high school GPA (3.00 versus 2.90).

The quality of accepted students likewise has increased. Currently, the average SAT score of accepted students is 1957 and the average GPA is 3.18. Last year, the averages were 1049 and 3.13 respectively.

Students planning to attend VCU in the fall — both first-time freshmen and transfer students — are up from this time last year. In terms of freshmen, we are on pace to reach our official projection of 2,900. This enrollment will have increased the size of VCU's freshman class by 72 percent since fall 1995 (from 1,690 to 2,900).

There also is an increase in the number of minority students who plan to attend VCU in fall 2001. The largest increase is among Asian students: 125 students last fall versus 147 students this fall. We also are expecting a greater number of students from Northern Virginia. 247 students this fall compared to 171 students last fall.

During this season, we also celebrate an ending — and a new beginning — for our graduating students. More than 4,200 students will be receiving their undergraduate, graduate, professional and doctoral degrees at VCU's Commencement exercises on May 19. A crowd of approximately 10,000, including families, friends, members of the Board of Visitors and VCU faculty and administrators, will be on hand to congratulate them on their academic achievement and wish them well in their new endeavors.

Mr. David Baldauci, world-renowned author and VCU alumna, is this year's Commencement speaker. It will be my distinct honor to present him and Ms. Helen Thomas, White House correspondent, with Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees in recognition of their significant professional accomplishments and their lifelong dedication to public service and public education.

We also will be honoring Ms. Bertha Rollo, a retired faculty member and alumnus of the School of Pharmacy and a dedicated activist on behalf of VCU and the community, with the VCU Alumni Woman of the Year Medal. In recognition of their significant scholarly contributions to VCU and to communities here at home, across the country and around the globe, dental alumnus Dr. Jeffrey Levlin, former VCU art history professor Dr. Regina Perry and Dr. Lauren A. Woods, Vice President Emeritus for Health Sciences and Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology and Toxicology, will receive Presidential Medallions.

Mrs. Tran and I would like to wish all of you, the staff and faculty of VCU and the VCU Health System, a productive — and relaxing — summer!

Eugene P. Tran
President

Leadership

LEADERSHIP

continued from page 1

to be valuable not only for new information on higher education, but also for the opportunity to understand and appreciate the university in its totality. Catherine W. Howard, Ph.D., director of community programs and one of the participants, found that "the opportunities for formal and informal exchange have made us each more aware of the diverse leadership roles and responsibilities of the people who operate a university like VCU." The Leadership Development Program is one of several programs offered through the Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute. Program participants, who were nominated from among both campuses of the university and who reflect VCU's diversity in gender, race and ethnicity, demonstrate the talents and commitment to pursue greater leadership roles at VCU and the VCU Health System.

The institute was established in 1999 by the VCU board of visitors to inspire future generations of leaders and as a legacy of Dr. Harris' 32 years as an accomplished campus leader. The institute is housed in VCU's Center for Public Policy.

PACME Awards

Victor Collins, multicultural student affairs director (back row, second from left), received the Reise-Melton Award at the Presidential Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment (PACME) ceremony last month. The Reise-Melton Award is PACME's capstone award that is given to recognize one recipient's contributions to diversity and cross-cultural relations. Also pictured: (front row, left to right) Veronica Lima, PACME student award winner; Donna Katen-Bahansky, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the VCU Health System; President Eugene P. Tran, Ph.D.; and Ted Batt and Ray Bonis, co-recipients of the PACME staff award. Standing next to Collins in the back row is John Mooser, Ph.D., PACME faculty award winner.

BORICH

continued from page 1

and pillows. I had a passenger sitting nearby, we write down everything we were doing to help the patient. A 15-year-old boy even brought me his portable glucose monitor so I could check the patient's blood sugar.

The seizures eventually stopped, but shortly afterward, so did the patient's heart.

"I just kept thinking about what I've been taught... the ABCs - airway, breathing, circulation... and everything we can do to support the patient."

And in the meantime, Borich began CPR while Koski pushed air into the patient's lungs through a manual ventilator bag. Minutes later, with no pulse or response to CPR, Borich reached for the automated external defibrillator to shock the patient's heart. After two defibrillations, the heartbeat resumed.

Now, with only an irregular heartbeat and no fluid left in the IV bag to push medications into the body, Borich had to treat the heart. Borich began CPR while Koski pushed air into the patient's lungs through a manual ventilator bag. Minutes later, with no pulse or response to CPR, Borich reached for the automated external defibrillator to shock the patient's heart. After two defibrillations, the heartbeat resumed.

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"I made me feel good. People were shaking our hands and offering us candy — the flight attendants moved us to first class." Borich eventually made it to Richmond in time to report for work at 7 the next morning.

"We're very proud of all of our residents, but Shawn has made us especially proud," said Joseph F. Ornato, M.D., chair of emergency medicine in VCU's School of Medicine. "There are very few first-year residents in any specialty from any program in the country that could have run a resuscitation above the North Atlantic as competently as he did."

Borich learned later that despite his efforts, the patient he and many others on Flight 47 had tried to save did not survive. According to news reports, the man was a law professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His death, Borich learned, was not the result of food poisoning or an allergic reaction, but rather a drug overdose, caused when it of 13 cocaine-filled balloons the patient was smuggling burst in his stomach.

"Looking back, with the benefit of the emergency department faculty and my textbooks, I believe that we did all we could for the patient," Borich said. "I wish things could have turned out differently, but I'd gladly respond to that overhead page again. I've chosen to be a doctor, so it's not something that I can just turn off when I go on vacation.

"We used almost all of the equipment in the medical kit. I don't know what we would have done if the patient hadn't responded."
Dental School Class of ‘51 Returns For Reunion Weekend

For many VCU alumni who attended last month’s Reunion Weekend 2001, it was the first time they had seen their classmates in decades. However, this was not the case for the School of Dental Medicine class of 1951. This exceptional group of people, all World War II veterans, has maintained close friendships throughout the 50 years since their graduation, even taking yearly vacations together and creating a newsletter about their lives.

“Think that all of the members of our class had a serious sense of purpose which helped bring us together,” said John Salley, D.D.S. “Because of the War, our education had been delayed and we were never competitive with one another. We have always helped each other, during and after our studies at MCV.”

The Publication of Reunition Weekend 2001, every year since 1952, is a collection of letters and photographs from each of the class members. They rotate serving as editor of the publication and distributing it to the class as their lives change each other have changed over the years, at first detailing new dental careers and marriages, and now relating post-retirement vacations and visits with grandchildren.

This extraordinary class includes a number of alumni who have held prominent positions in schools and organizations throughout the country. Class members include a former VCU vice president of research and dean of the University of Maryland Dental School. Other alumni became officers in the Virginia Dental Association and State Board of Dental Examiners, and one class member was selected by former Virginia Gov. Chuck Robb to organize the Virginia Center of Innovative Technology.

In addition to the university-sponsored reunions held every five years, the class of 1951 meets annually for a spring weekend at the Peaks of Otter Lodge on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The tradition, originally organized in the 1950s by class members Lewis Rodgers, D.D.S., William Coleman, D.D.S., and William Artrip, D.D.S., allows them to celebrate their friendships while remembering the classmates they have lost.

During Reunion Weekend 2001, in April, Salley, who served as president of the American Association of Dental Schools, was presented with the Harry Lyons Outstanding Dental Alumni Award. The award recognizes alumni who have shown loyalty and dedication to the school, alumni and students. The class also presented more than $40,000 to the school’s endowment fund for research at the School of Dentistry and donated a complete set of the Publication to the university archives.

“I am very grateful to all my classmates for keeping the publication’s tradition alive,” Salley said. “I believe we all feel that it has been an honor to be part of this class.”

— by LAURA ARBOGAST

Nurse Recognized Among Best in Nation for Critical Care

by Michael Ford

VCU Nurse Receives Excellence in Caring Practice Award

For the tenth straight year, a nurse from VCU Health System’s MCV Hospitals earned the Excellence in Caring Practice Award from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

VCU’s Ray Quintero, R.N., MSN, C.CRN., is among five nurses across the nation recognized by the AACCN, the world’s largest nursing specialty organization, for demonstrating excellence in caring.

Quintero was a clinical nurse in the hospital’s pectate Respiratory Intensive Care Unit when he was nominated. He is currently a nurse assigned to Main Hospital’s 10th floor, West Wing.

With 21 years of nursing experience, Quintero has spent the last 19 years in intensive-care units and periodically continues to staff the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit. He also is an adjunct clinical instructor in adult health nursing.

“I’m flattered and humbled in receiving this award, since there are hundreds of people who apply for it every year,” Quintero said. “I appreciate being recognized for what I do.”

Quintero’s award is in response to a nomination letter detailing his care and interaction with a 19-year-old patient named Karl and his family. Karl’s stay at MCV Hospitals lasted more than six months, after his admission with a serious respiratory infection.

“You not only provide intensive care for your patients, you also provide intensive physical care for the family as a whole,” Quintero says. He was part of a team of dedicated health care providers who helped Karl make a full recovery.

“When you’re caring for a patient in crisis, you really end up caring for the family as a whole,” Quintero said. “You’re not only providing intensive physical care to the patient, you also provide intensive emotional, psychological, supportive, encouraging care to family members as well.”

Quintero developed a plan of care for his patient that also involved the patient’s family. Quintero got to know Karl and his family’s preferences in music and movies and worked out a communications system using hand gestures when Karl was unable to speak because of breathing tubes. This award-winning nurse also briefed the family on medical terms and procedures, taught them to assist with basic nursing care needs for their son and encouraged them to bring their faith into their son’s ICU room.

“During my 16 years at VCU, most of Ray’s patients were critically ill,” said former VCU Professor Emeritus of Nursing and Prince Edward County, Virginia.”

VCU Celebrates Virginia Public Service Week

Virginia Public Service Week is May 7-13. The theme this year is "Proudly Serving Virginians." This new statewide program will recognize faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication through the "Governor’s Awards." VCU submitted nominations from the 2000-01 institutional recognition award recipients. The university plans to establish a task force of faculty and staff representatives, chaired by human resources, to help guide the university’s VPSW activities in 2002. Information about the statewide awards is available at www.dhrm.state.va.us/publicserv.htm.

VCU Libraries Announces New Web Exhibit

VCU Libraries now has a new on-line exhibit, "Separate But Not Equal: Race, Education, and Prince Edward County, Virginia." This exhibit commemorates the 50th anniversary of the African American student strike in Prince Edward County to protest the conditions of their school facilities.

The Web site is comprised of more than 200 items, taken in the early 1960s by Edward H. Peeples, VCU professor emeritus, that document the disparity between the county's black and white schools. These images are supported by documents concerning segregation, a select bibliography and links to relevant Internet sites. The Web-based exhibit, created from VCU’s Special Collections Archives, can be found at www.library.vcu.edu/exhibits/

Nominations Sought for School of Medicine’s Annual Teaching Awards

The School of Medicine is accepting nominations for its third annual Teaching Awards to recognize and reward outstanding medical school faculty. Students, faculty and staff can nominate faculty in the school for the following awards: the Whitby Award in Clinical Teaching; the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award; the Award for Educational Innovation and the Distinction in Mentoring.

In addition, awards which carry cash prizes, will be presented at an October 23 ceremony. The deadline for nominations is June 19. For more details, or to receive nomination forms, call Carol Hampton at 828-6594.

Nominations for Dorris Douglas Budd Award

Nominations are being accepted until Aug. 25 for the 2001 Dorris Douglas Budd Award, which recognizes clinical and secretarial staff who enhance the image and mission of VCU and the VCU Health System. Individuals who have been with VCU or the health system for at least five years as of Sept. 30, 2001, are eligible for nomination.

For nomination forms, visit www.vcu.edu/hr/divrec/index.htm or from VCU’s Human Resources offices. For details, call 828-1534.

Social Work Student Lands Legislative Internship

by Lamar Gary

VCU News Services

A social work graduate student, dreamed of making a difference in people’s lives, has the opportunity to do just that, as she rubs elbows with the state’s top lawmakers.

This year, Giglio is interning for Richmond Delegate Frank Hall (D-Richmond). She is the first M.S.W. student at VCU to have an internship with a state legislator.

Giglio’s internship connects her with many of Hall’s constituents. She serves as a resource for constituents and helps answer their policy questions. She often refers people to government agencies that can assist them.

Giglio is impressed by how dedicated General Assembly members are to their districts and how much they try to be available to the people. She stresses the fact that the legislators are easier to listen to their constituents and would like to hear even more from them.

"When the delegates and senators are very accessible," she said. "People don’t use that to their advantage enough. They are willing to talk and want to hear what their constituents have to say.

Giglio attends seminars and town meetings on issues such as health care and urban sprawl. Afterward, she researches how other states have addressed problems and offers possible solutions to similar issues in Virginia.

"What I enjoy most about the internship is meeting new people," said Giglio.

"I went to the leadership breakfast when Jesse Jackson came through," she said. "I thought that was pretty special."
Dental Graduate Thankful for Family’s Sacrifice

by Laura Arbogast
University News Services

Each spring parents fill with pride as they watch their children graduate from college. For the family of Trang Salzberg, a senior graduating from VCU’s School of Dentistry, this year’s ceremony has even greater meaning. For them, it symbolizes the reason they gave up 13 years with their daughter. Originally from Saigon, Trang’s parents planned a secret boat escape in 1980 for their then eight-year-old daughter in the hope that she would have the opportunities and freedoms unavailable to her in North Vietnam.

When Trang arrived in the United States and went on to graduate from the University of Virginia in Arlington. During those eight years, she tried to communicate with her family by letter. She later learned that most of the correspondence never made it to them.

“My parents really wanted to get all of their children away from the corrupt government and bad economic conditions; they wanted us to have a better future,” Trang said.

Trang began the fourth grade when she arrived in the United States and went on to graduate from the University of Virginia in Arlington. During those eight years, she tried to communicate with her family by letter. She later learned that most of the correspondence never made it to them.

“My parents really wanted to get all of their children away from the corrupt government and bad economic conditions; they wanted us to have a better future,” Trang said.

Before Trang entered high school, her parents had divorced years earlier and her mother was not initially allowed to come, but later the family was able to bring her over.

“Trang decided to settle her family in her boyhood hometown of Richmond. His mother and father, a pediatric surgeon at MCV Hospitals, helped secure housing and jobs for Trang’s parents.

Dr. and Mrs. Salzberg were wonderful, I did not know them very well at the time but they jumped right in and did all they could to help my parents,” Trang said.

While Trang helped her parents adjust to their new life, she worked on a master's degree in biochemistry from VCU, planning eventually to become a medical surgeon. However, during a dental procedure in 1996 she met VCU’s Joe Rebellato, D.D.S., who suggested she become an oral surgeon. Trang pursued the idea and was accepted into VCU’s oral surgery program.

During her last four years of school, Trang managed to juggle schoolwork, a wedding, and, recently, a new baby. After the May 19 graduation ceremony, Trang will move to California to join her husband, David Salzberg, M.D., a doctor and president at Stanford University.

Salzberg’s siblings also have realized their dreams since moving to Richmond. Two are VCU graduates: one sister received a bachelor’s degree in information systems, and a brother earned a master’s degree in computer science.
Mission of Mercy Dentistry Project Sets U.S. Record

by Laura Arbogast
University News Services

Students and faculty from VCU's School of Dentistry played a large role in the recent success of the Virginia Dental Association's second "Mission of Mercy" (M.O.M.) project. Conducted in cooperation with Virginia's Eastern Shore Rural Health System, this dental outreach program offers free dental care to underserved populations in chair clinic at a director of advanced education.

"We regularly conduct dental outreach programs in other countries, and I am very glad we also are making a difference here at home," said Carol Brooks, D.D.S., VCU's director of advanced education in general dentistry. "These patients are not able to afford this care, so they are very appreciative. It is a very rewarding experience for us."

On March 31 and April 1, the volunteer operated a 20-chair clinic at Nandua High School in Onley. Portable equipment was supplied by the Department of Health's Dental Division and the Remote Area Medical Group in Knoxville, Tenn. The VCU mobile dental van also made the trip to Onley, serving as an oral surgery suite.

Patients learned about the project through local advertising in stores and churches and showed up willing to wait for hours for a chance to be seen by a dentist. The dental volunteers performed 609 tooth extractions, 256 restorations, and 82 exams. The services were provided at $130,000.

VCU volunteers plan on returning for the third M.O.M. project in July, which will be held at Lonesome Pine Airport in Wise County. Due to the success of VDU's M.O.M. projects, a number of states, including Texas and Missouri, are now basing similar outreach programs on Virginia's model.

"I am very proud of our faculty and students who participated in this year's mission with the Virginia Dental Association," said Ron Hunt, D.D.S., M.S., dean of Dentistry. "It is an excellent example of our mission to make caring visible."

ACS, VCU Offer "I Can Cope" Cancer Education Program

by Erin Lucero
University News Services

The American Cancer Society and the Massey Cancer Center will co-sponsor the "I Can Cope" cancer education program, a series of classes for people with cancer and their families and friends.

Classes will be held at the Hanover Medical Park, 8222 Meadowbridge Rd. in Mechanicsville.

• MAY 7 — 1-3 p.m. in the Community Education Room, Medical Office Building 1.
  "Learning About Cancer and Cancer Treatment."

• MAY 11 — 1-3 p.m. in the Community Education Room, Medical Office Building 1.
  "Keeping Well in Mind and Body."

• MAY 21—1-3 p.m. in the Community Education Room, Bon Secours Regional Medical Center.
  "Understanding Feelings and Relationships."

• MAY 23 — Noon-2 p.m. in the Community Education Room, Bon Secours Regional Medical Center.
  "Discovering Resources and Celebrating Life."

The American Cancer Society's "I Can Cope" program provides participants with information about cancer diagnosis, treatment, side-effects, nutrition, exercise and stress management.

It also teaches ways to cope with the challenges that arise from a cancer diagnosis. Speakers will include nurses and staff from the Massey Cancer Center.

As part of the Annual Graduate Faculty meeting held last month, Mark Sanders, an M.F.A. student in communication arts and design, points out design techniques he used to create postage stamps and a series of postcards. The event gave graduate students from several disciplines the opportunity to showcase their research and talents prior to the faculty meeting. Sanders' work also will be on display during the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, Round 2, at the Anderson Gallery May 11-20. The M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition is the final requirement for students earning a master's degree in fine arts. Each participating artist will exhibit a group of works from one of the following categories: painting, printmaking, sculpture, communication arts and design, crafts, photography or interior design.

Graduate Showcase

Partnership Prepares Mentors to Help Youth

by Lamar Gary
University News Services

School violence, poverty and high dropout rates are all serious issues facing youth today. Research has suggested that strong role models, mentors and tutors can be part of the solution to ending violence in our nation's schools.

To address these issues, VCU formed a partnership in 1993 with Virginia One to One: The Mentoring Partnership, a volunteer mentor training organization, to successfully launch the Mentor Development Program, the first centralized mentor training program of its kind in the U.S.

The goal of Virginia One to One is to increase the number of trained mentors and tutors in Richmond and throughout Virginia that will provide children and teenagers with the positive relationships that they need to succeed in school and in life.

Nanette Bailey, executive director of the Carver Promise, is familiar with the need to train good mentors.

"Each year Carver Promise children benefit from the expert mentor training provided by One to One," said Bailey. "Their training is critical, because an untrained mentor can do more harm to a child than if the child did not have a mentor. Virginia One to One's training sessions are an important community resource."

Through the efforts of Virginia One to One and VCU's partnership, more than 250 mentoring agencies and organizations received support in the past six years. Since 1995, the program has trained more than 5,200 people.

"Virginia One to One is extremely fortunate to be housed in VCU's Office of Community Programs because it gives us a strong base from which to operate and provide these educational services to existing and developing mentor and tutor programs across the state," said Jennifer Smith-Slabbaugh, the organization's executive director. "We also draw from the excellent pool of VCU graduate students when hiring experienced trainers, many of whom are currently in or have graduated from VCU's adult education and psychology graduate programs."

For more information on Virginia One to One, or to volunteer to be a mentor, contact Smith-Slabbaugh at 829-1336.
Clark Receives ACP-ASIM's Young Internist Award

Ron Clark, M.D., chief medical officer of the VCU Health System, was honored with the Young Internist Award by the Virginia Chapter of the American College of Physicians—American Society of Internal Medicine. He received the award at the chapter's 52nd annual meeting held April 27-28 in McLean.

Clark was chosen for the award in part for his work with the chapter's Associates Abstract Competition, which he helped establish in 1997 and has directed every year since. According to Jefrey P. Harris, M.D., FACP, ACP-ASIM governor for the Virginia chapter, the program has been an outstanding educational experience for physicians in training in Virginia.

More than 250 internal medicine residents have participated in the program since its inception. This year, 77 abstracts were submitted by residents from the state's five residency programs: the VCU Health System, the University of Virginia Health System, University of Virginia Roanoke-Salem, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Portsmouth Naval Hospital.

Clark, a graduate of the University of Virginia's medical school who served on the Virginia chapter's Governing Council since 1988, in addition to his administrative duties with the VCU Health System, maintains an active internal medicine practice.

Anthropology Student Receives Regional Award

Kasey Quinn Dolin, a VCU anthropology student, recently won the Juan Espadas Prize for best student paper at the 23rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference of the Latin American Studies conference held at American and Howard universities in Washington, D.C., from March 29-31. David Sheinin, Ph.D., associate professor of political science at Trent University in Ontario, Canada, presented the award to Dolin.

Dolin, a junior who minors in international studies, was encouraged to submit her paper, "Yoruba Religious Survival in Brazil," by her professor, Christine B. Turner, Ph.D.

The paper was accepted and checked for $300. Earlier this year, she also won two awards at the College of Humanities and Sciences awards ceremony, including the Outstanding Anthropology Undergraduate Student Award and the Outstanding International Studies Student Award.

VCU is a member of the Joint Undergraduate Conference, which also submitted papers at the conference. Graduating anthropology student Robert Fournier, the second recipient of this year's Outstanding Anthropology Undergraduate Student Award, presented "A Linguistic Survey of South America." Fournier has been accepted to graduate school at Stanford University with a full scholarship and a research assistantship. Eva Bocca Turner, an undergraduate student in independent studies, presented "Healing the Rupture: Jungian Perspectives on African Religion/Mythologies in the New World."

Summer Institute to Offer Software Training for Faculty

The Instructional Development Center will offer training on three software programs during the Summer Institute 2001 Faculty Workshops. The following classes will be offered:

- **Blackboard** is a course-management tool for the Web. It is designed to allow instructors to place course content, syllabi, announcements, discussions forums and online templates on the Web. It also allows instructors to control access with logins and passwords. This class does not require "Web Course in a Box" experience, but similarities and differences will be covered.

- **Dreamweaver Levels 1 and 2 workshops** will provide hands-on training for individuals who might wish to use this tool to construct Web pages. Dreamweaver uses advanced HTML tables and makes it easy to use Dynamic HTML features such as animated layers and behaviors, without writing a line of code. Each class registrant will receive a free copy.

- **Macromedia Flash** is an authoring tool that enables users to create interactive and fast-loading Web content, combining vector and bitmap graphics. This hands-on workshop will provide an overview of the Flash interface and focus on basic animation techniques.

To register, visit www.vcu.edu/idc/.

**Course Schedule:** All workshops are held in the Lyons Dental Building, Room 425, on the MCV Campus.

- **May 16—** Blackboard 5, 9 a.m.-noon
  - Flash, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
- **May 17—** Dreamweaver Level 1, 9 a.m.-noon
  - Dreamweaver Level 2, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
- **May 18—** Blackboard 5, 9 a.m.-noon
- **June 25—** Blackboard 5, 9 a.m.-noon
  - Flash, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
- **June 26—** Dreamweaver Level 1, 9 a.m.-noon
  - Dreamweaver Level 2, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
  - June 27—Blackboard 5, 9 a.m.-noon
- **July 23—** Blackboard 5, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- **July 24—** Dreamweaver Level 2, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- **July 25—** Blackboard 5, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Topaz Publishes in American Journal of Cardiology

A n important study led by cardiologist Dr. On Topaz, M.D., recently was published in the American Journal of Cardiology. Topaz, an associate professor of internal medicine, has been studying the effectiveness of excimer laser coronary angioplasty (ELCA) to treat certain patients with acute coronary syndromes.

Excimer lasers, or cool lasers, generate ultraviolet pulses that destroy the plaque that can build up inside arteries. These obstructions can slow or even stop the flow of blood to the heart.

During the study, 59 patients suffering from coronary obstructions were treated with ELCA followed by balloon angioplasty, a procedure where a balloon is inflated within the artery to flatten the obstruction. The success rate for the procedure was 99 percent, with 95 percent of patients between 97 and 100 percent.

"The findings in the study support the application of excimer laser angioplasty in selected patients with acute coronary syndromes," said Topaz. "It also suggests that ultraviolet laser therapy can result in a high success rate with minimal complications, however further study will be necessary to compare the laser to other approaches."


VCU Hosts Problem-Solving Challenge For K-12 Students

by Mary Beth Alford
University News Services

More than 2,500 students, parents and teachers from around the state gathered at VCU on April 28 for the state finals of the annual Destination Imagination competition. The contest, sponsored by VCU Alumni Activities for the past five years, was part of a national program that teaches life skills and expands imagination. Through team-based effort, the competition promoted creative problem solving in students from kindergarten through college age.

Each year, Destination Imagination, a global non-profit corporation, organizes tournaments that allow participants to demonstrate their problem-solving skills. Teams of seven students each from 44 states and 11 countries including Canada, the United Kingdom and Brazil participated in this year's competitions.

The daylong program, held at several locations on VCU's Academic Campus, offered two components: instant challenges and team challenges.

Instant challenges encouraged imagination, risk-taking, time-awareness and cooperation by requiring team members to solve a challenge in less than five minutes, using random materials and verbal responses.

The team challenge required each group to solve one of five challenges, using art, technology, performance and real-world experiences. This challenge was given to the team in the fall and took weeks to develop.

"The competition taught teamwork, self-confidence and creativity, while fostering problem-solving skills in all types of students, including those with learning disabilities," said Susan Numenaker, M.Ed., association director of Virginia Destination Imagination and guidance director at Dinwiddie Middle School. "Although many students excel creatively, few education systems focus on teaching creative thinking. In this challenge, all children can succeed."

Several Richmond-area schools competed in the state competition, including The Governor's School for Government and International Studies in Richmond, Peabody Middle School in Petersburg and several from both Colonial Heights and Henrico County.

"The tournament offered students throughout Virginia a wonderful opportunity to meet participants of all ages while learning skills that will help them throughout their lives," said Diane Stout-Brown, associate director of VCU Alumni Activities. "Through sponsorship of this activity, VCU hoped to encourage overall college attendance by showing students the range of opportunities available."

Freshman Engineers Praise Hands-On Class

by Mike Frontier
University News Services

The educational philosophy made popular by the U.S. Army — "you don't read it in a book, you live it" — is sparking enthusiasm among aspiring engineers at VCU.

This year, 45 freshmen are participating in an innovative materials science course that allows them to perform experiments and use the clean rooms inside the Virginia Microelectronics Center up to one year earlier than they would in traditional learning programs. The clean room experience was created by Robert E. Pearson, Ph.D., chair of Chemical Engineering.

Currently, 45 students are taking the course, which is funded through a $39,000 grant from the National Science Foundation Course Curriculum Laboratory Improvement Program.

Wnek developed the course in response to a declining interest in engineering nationwide. A 1996 study by the National Science Foundation found many freshmen engineers dropped out in their second semester because of math, physics and chemistry courses that dominated the curriculum. Students also complained that their classes were mainly one-way lectures, which compared unfavorably to the considerable dialogue they received in high school.

"Rather than lead the students on for two years and hurt their grade point average, our students can identify for themselves whether engineering is the right major for them," said mechanical engineering professor Mark A. Palmer, Ph.D., who supervises the course.

More engineering courses were offered to freshmen before World War II, Palmer explained, but many engineering-related failures during the war prompted colleges and universities to emphasize math and science in the first and second semesters.

"Starting in the 1970s we noticed the tinkers were leaving engineering," said Palmer. "So in response to that we had to retool our curriculum."

Results of the new course have been positive. Students taking the course say they're learning more and look forward to entering their sophomore year.

"This course is a lot of fun," said Leah Lovel, 18, a mechanical engineering major from Richmond. "Sometimes I struggle, but the professors keep my interest because it's not just reading, reading and reading. I get to see how a process takes place versus reading how it happens."

"The course takes a lot of patience, admits Palmer. "But once you see the students' eyes light up, that's when you know it's worth it."

VCU to Host Live National Satellite Videoconference

Focus is on Early-Detection Breast Cancer Strategies for Older Women

by Michael Ford
University News Services

VCU's Virginia Geriatric Education Center, in partnership with the Virginia Health Quality Center and the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service, will host a live, national satellite videoconference focusing on effective breast cancer early-detection strategies for older women.

More than 75 percent of breast cancers are diagnosed in women aged 50 and older. Breast cancer remains the leading form of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death among women. This program, aimed at physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, radiologists and other health care providers, will address common barriers to breast cancer screening, particularly among older women, and offer strategies and resources to overcome these barriers.

So often, health-care professionals neglect discussing breast cancer issues with older women, and that is one reason we're focusing on that population," said Angela Rothrock, senior project coordinator at the VGC. "Most breast cancer conferences focus on the middle-aged woman. There is a lack of research about older women and breast cancer.

Set for June 26 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the conference will originate from the studios of PBS-affiliate WCVE-TV-23, and will feature seven specialists from VCU and several federal agencies. Sixty-one sites in 30 states, including four locations in Richmond and 17 others across the state, are expected to download the program. A toll-free telephone number will enable conference attendees at the remote sites to make comments or ask questions.

"This videoconference is being broadcast nationally to enable us to provide health-care professionals and community service providers with the most current information on early detection strategies," Rothrock said.

The Virginia Geriatric Education Center was established in October 1985 as part of an interdisciplinary effort involving all health-related professional schools, including the schools of Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Social Work, the School of Education and the College of Humanities and Sciences. The center's major focus is promoting education in geriatrics and gerontological health care.

The registration fee is $5 before May 20. After that date, the fee will be $15. Additional charges for continuing education credits range from $10 to $20. Call (888) 794-0804 for registration information or visit vcu.vcu.edu/ahhp/gerontology/gpbc/breastcancer.

Award Winners

Sally Hunningcutt, Ph.D., left) and Marilyn Covington were recognized for their courtesy and willingness to help others at the Academic Affairs Customer Service Awards program on April 26. Hunningcutt, assistant chair and associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, and Covington, administrative staff assistant in the College of Humanities and Sciences, each received a framed certificate, a $100 VCU bookstore gift certificate and free parking for one year. Provost Roderick McDavid, Ph.D., said that all of the nominees "displayed exemplary customer service skills beyond their normal job responsibilities."
Campus Calendar

SEMINARS

May 7—“Internal Medicine Residency: How to Get In.” Sponsored by the Department of Internal Medicine. For details, call 254-7247. Noon/Alumni House, MCV Campus, Room 217

May 8—“Pharmacology and Toxicology Seminar: TGF-Beta Signaling in Epithelial Cells.” Sponsored by Pharmacology and Toxicology. For details, call 828-2073.

Noon/Sanger Hall, Room 1-044

May 14—“Food & Fitness: Health for a Lifetime.” Sponsored by MCV Hospital’s Women’s Healthcare. Cost is $35. For details, call 900-8055. 6:30 p.m./MCV Hospitals Women’s Healthcare, 9000 Stony Point Parkway

May 15—“Pharmacology and Toxicology Seminar: Structure-Function Studies on Morphine and Cocaine Receptors.” Sponsored by Pharmacology and Toxicology. For details, call 828-2073.

Noon/Sanger Hall, Room 1-044

May 22—“Food & Fitness: Health for a Lifetime.” Sponsored by MCV Hospital’s Women’s Healthcare. Cost is $35. For details, call 900-8055. 9:30 a.m./MCV Hospitals Women’s Healthcare, 9000 Stony Point Parkway

May 23—“The Critical Effect That Nutrition Has on HIV/AIDS.” Sponsored by the Department of Infectious Disease and the Richmond AIDS Consortium. For details, call 828-0135.

6 p.m./The Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St.

WORKSHOPS

May 9—“Leading in Times of Change.” Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. Cost is $60. For details, call 828-0170.

9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 9—“EEO/Sexual Harassment for MCV Staff.” Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. For details, call 828-0179.

9 a.m. and 2 p.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 10—“Standards of Conduct at MCV Hospitals.” Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. For details, call 828-0179.

8:30 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 10—“Weight Watchers at Work.” Sponsored by Employee Health Services and Work/Life Resources. Fee; new members welcome. For details, contact Janet Howell at 828-0902 or jrhocoll@vcu.edu. Noon/Student Commons

May 16—“Pay for Performance at MCV Hospitals.” Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. For details, call 828-0179.

9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 17—“Developing Supervision: An Overview for Managers and Supervisors.” Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. Cost is $75. For details, call 828-0179.

9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 17—“Weight Watchers at Work.” Sponsored by Employee Health Services and Work/Life Resources. Fee; new members welcome. For details, contact Janet Howell at 828-0902 or jrhocoll@vcu.edu. Noon/Student Commons

May 24—“Performance Management Overview for MCV Managers and Supervisors.” Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. For details, call 828-0179.

9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 24—“Weight Watchers at Work.” Sponsored by Employee Health Services and Work/Life Resources. Fee; new members welcome. For details, contact Janet Howell at 828-0902 or jrhocoll@vcu.edu. Noon/Student Commons

May 25—“Employee Open Forum.” Sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. For details, call 828-0179.

9 a.m./McGuire Hall Annex, Room B20

May 25—“Weight Watchers at Work.” Sponsored by Employee Health Services and Work/Life Resources. Fee; new members welcome. For details, contact Janet Howell at 828-0902 or jrhocoll@vcu.edu. Noon/Student Commons

Events

May 9—“Employee Open Forum.” The view more about the VCU Health System’s financial status, employee opinion survey results and more. 9 a.m./Main Hospital, Cafeteria

May 10—“Employee Open Forum.” 3:30 p.m./Main Hospital, Cafeteria

9 p.m/senior leadership will talk around taking questions from employees


May 12—Student Commons

May 11—“Employee Open Forum.” 9:30 a.m./Main Hospital, Cafeteria

May 11—“Multicultural Ceremony.” Sponsored by Multicultural Student Affairs. For details, call 828-6672. 6:30 p.m./Business Building Auditorium

May 12—“MFA Thesis Exhibition, Round 2.” Sponsored by the School of the Arts. For details, call 828-1522.

Anderson Gallery

May 12—“VCU Commencement,” Keynote Speaker: David Baldacci. 10 a.m./Richmond Coliseum

May 24—“Tomkins-McCaw Library Tour and Orientation.” Sponsored by VCU Libraries. For details, call 828-0638. 11 a.m./Tomkins-McCaw Library, First Floor

Performances

May 9—“Allan Blank Concert.” Sponsored by Old Dominion University Libraries. For details, call (757) 683-1431.

7:30 p.m./Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall

June 3—“VCU-CSPA a Greater Richmond Children’s Choir in Concert.” Sponsored by the Department of Music. For details, call 828-1166.

4 p.m./Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall

Sports

Baseball

May 7—VCU vs. University of Richmond 7 p.m./The Diamond

May 8—VCU vs. Radford University 6 p.m./The Diamond

Young Artists to Help Raise Money for Playground

by Suzanne Horlsey

University News Services

The VCU Child Development Center is sponsoring a Silent Auction of Masterworks on May 11 at the School of the Arts, 1000 E. Broad St. Each of the 52 children enrolled at the center will have a piece of art in the sale. The auction begins at 6 p.m. with silent bidding from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

The auction will kick off a major fundraising campaign for the creation of a natural environment playground for the children at the center. The playground, which will be developed in three phases, will be located beside the CDC at 1128 Floyd Ave. VCU-CDC is a diverse environment providing quality, developmentally appropriate education, for all children ages 16 months to six years. The center serves children of all abilities, including those with special needs.

The musical group “The Two Huge Guitars” will perform, and there will also be refreshments, raffles and prizes. Admission to the event is free. For more information on the auction or the fundraising campaign, contact Mary Lynn White, VCU-CDC, at 828-7377, or Gabriel Ramirez, Ph.D., School of Business, at 828-7164.

Nobel Prize Winner

Last month, Nobel Prize winner Robert M. Solow, Ph.D., spoke to business and economics students at the VCU School of Business. He reviewed with them his latest project, discovering what was responsible for the five-year U.S. economic boom in the late 1990s and if it can occur again. Solow then put the lecture in the hands of the students, challenging them to offer intellectual, economics questions, which ranged from President George W. Bush’s proposed tax cuts to international financial affairs. Solow is professor emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He won the 1987 Nobel Prize in Economics for his work on economic growth theory and has served on the President’s Council of Economic Advisers.

Callie Fleet works on her masterpiece with both hands at the VCU Child Development Center. Artwork by Callie and her classmates will be for sale at the Silent Auction of Masterworks.