

VCU Voice

Virginia Commonwealth University

A Publication for Faculty and Staff on the University's Academic and Medical College of Virginia Campuses

Higher Education Bills on Table for Construction, Salary Increases

By John Sarvay

When the Virginia General Assembly's senate finance and house appropriations committees reported the budget bills to their respective houses on February 16, it was clear that higher education was on the minds of many legislators. According to Donald Gehring, special assistant to the president for legislative affairs, VCU stands to receive substantial benefits from the economically spare 1992-94 biennium.

"The primary legislative issue for us is the budget. The family practice amendment is absolutely critical. The Brain Trauma Center is another important one for us," Gehring said.

But the bills everyone in higher education has been watching are the General Obligation Bond Proposal and a proposal for a 2 percent increase in state employee salaries.

The bond proposal, which has moved forward in two versions, would allow voters the option to approve more than \$400 million in higher education capital outlays. VCU would receive almost \$40 million for construction projects.

At the February State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) meeting, council

members said they were pleased with the bond issue, but reiterated that the long-term construction needs of the state's colleges and universities must still be addressed.

"As generous as these outlays are there are still projects we need to build," said Gordon K. Davies, director of SCHEV.

"We've been working on this capital outlay plan for several years, because there hasn't been much money for higher education recently. Should we not be able to fund this plan, there will be little overall improvement in the physical growth and maintenance on campuses," said Anne Pratt, associate director of legislative and external relations for SCHEV.

Pratt said that the bond would address some of the state's needs, but that a tremendous need for new construction, renovation, and maintenance would still exist.

All of VCU's projects — the medical sciences building, classroom renovations, the fine arts building, west hospital renovation, and expansion of the Tompkins-McCaw Library — are included in the bond issues that have advanced through the budget process. In addition, \$10 million has been allocated in the governor's bill for the Richmond Biomedical Research Park proposed by VCU.

The bond issue is just one of 115 bills introduced in the General Assembly affecting student financial aid, tuition, operating processes, and overall approaches to higher education. Dr. Donald J. Finely, associate director of SCHEV, said all of the bills are important.

"Institutions are asking for the

lowest number of amendment requests in my memory. They are asking for very few things, and only the most essential," he said.

The possibility for salary increases moved forward when both the senate and house committees passed budgets which included a one-time 2 percent salary increase

for state employees and college and university faculty. The governor has indicated that he supports the raise, provided the revenue is available.

"If they commit any additional monies to higher education it will

continued on page 3

Black History Mural



Photo by Mark Harvey

Students unveil a mural in the University Student Commons as part of Black History Month. A calendar of Black History Month events at VCU is on page 7.

Inside This Issue

Assessment and Accreditation, Page 4

Questions and Choices for Black History, Page 5

Undergraduate Research Grants, Page 6

Writing the Book on Dental Informatics

By Judith C. Warrington

I started with the question: "What if?" What if dentistry made full use of computer technology for keeping patient records and for education and research?

Two years later Dr. Louis M. Abbey, professor of oral pathology in the School of Dentistry, filled a book of visions and answers to the timely and important questions.

His new book, *Dental Informatics, Integrating Technology into the Dental Environment*, edited by John Zimmerman, was published in January by Springer-Verlag. It offers an innovative and intriguing look

into the many applications of medical information technology and represents the first book of its kind in the field of dental informatics.

The science of informatics involves the application of various information management technologies to some purpose. In the case of Abbey's new book, what applies specifically to dentistry is applicable to all fields of medicine.

Dental informatics is shaping the future of dentistry, from patient record keeping and electronic claims filing, to the education of students and updating practicing professionals.

In creating their book, editors Abbey

and Zimmerman have brought together works by some of the leading figures in the field of dentistry and computer technology.

And when it comes to the field, Abbey has the zeal of a crusader.

Call him a techno-convert, because he readily admits he was one of those people who didn't see himself ever using a computer. His interest in computers began after reading an early book on personal computing. "Part of a mid-life crisis," he says. Today that interest has led him to the development of a database for diagnostic purposes.

Dentistry and computers are not a new

continued on page 2

HARVIE, L M
MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY
BOX 540

continued from page 1

pairing. Abbey estimates there are currently more than 400 computer systems a dentist can use to handle a number of office functions. Unfortunately, modern information management technology can be both overwhelming and expensive. He hopes *Dental Informatics* will serve as an introduction and guide to this rapidly expanding field.

Like any pioneer, Abbey has a vision of what lies ahead and he likes to talk about the possibilities for using computers in health care.

By using computers, a school such as MCV could develop a database of diagnostic, drug interaction, and educational information that could be accessed by private practitioners. They could use the information to help in decision making, arrive at a diagnosis, or help manage a patient's problem. Physicians would access large databases through the telephone and fiber optic technology to computers in their own offices.

"We even have the capacity to develop complete electronic patient records," Abbey says. One day in the not too distant future, he believes we could carry our complete medical records on a card in our wallet. A variety of information would be contained in an electronic strip, much like the black strip found on the back of many bank cards.

The U.S. military is currently developing a fully electronic medical and dental record system for its own use which will include text and x-rays.

"We have the technology to develop radiographs usable in diagnosis. And, we can digitally enhance them. X-rays can be digitized on computer rather than film and they can be transferred to film," he explains.

Abbey is determined to advance the idea of informatics. "The technology (to integrate electronic systems into medicine) exists," he says, "but not in one place!"

Many people, however, do not seem to be in a hurry to computerize the health care field. He cites two barriers that act as deterrents to its development.

One barrier is a lack of standardization in the medical field. Surprisingly, no acceptable set of standards exists for anatomical locations, diseases, or procedures.

Attempts are being made to overcome this barrier. The Human Performance Informatics Institute is developing standards and language which they are introducing through the World Health Organization.

Abbey is doing his part as well. He belongs to a group of educators, the Consortium for Clinical Information Systems, who are working to develop a proposal for establishing electronic patient records.

But dental informatics involves more than record keeping. Computers can revolutionize the health care curriculum. Abbey's book outlines the way in which an electronic curriculum can be integrated into the educational system.

He envisions the electronic curriculum as the way in which students will be educated in the future. It should be possible to offer a more individualized learning experience geared toward the way a student learns.

"One day potential students will look for schools that are the most 'plugged-in' electronically. Choices will be based on technology," says Abbey.

In addition, computers could present patient-simulation testing for the certification and licensing of health care professionals.

Along the same lines, practicing professionals could plug into continuing education programs in their office. Instead of reading the latest medical journals, they could read, critique and deliver submissions to an

electronic publication. *Journal of Science* has begun offering an experimental version of this electronic journal service.

Abbey sees a second barrier to computerizing health care is psychological—the fear of no paper back-up. He believes our use of computers is constrained by the traditional linear thinking of pencil and paper. Today's functions and use of computers look too much like paper on a computer screen.

"The hardware is running us. We have to ask if there is a way to do it. We're not used to asking, 'Where can the computer help us?' We are used to the slower pace of the analog's world. The digital world's pace is multiplied a hundred times." He compares the advantages of electronic education to thinking in three dimensions.

"Every university should have a significant portion of its budget allocated toward a computing think tank—visionaries working with programming geniuses to develop software and hardware," says Abbey.

"What if" should be the biggest question," he says. With the publication of *Dental Informatics*, Abbey is giving dentistry the opportunity to find its own answers. And because technology moves so quickly, he already has plans for another edition.



Photo by Doug Ilerstein

Dr. Abbey envisions the future of informatics in all medical fields.

Judith C. Warrington is a freelance writer in Richmond.

Development Dollars

Dominion Resources Continues Support for School of Business's Real Estate and Urban Land Development Program

Dominion Resources, Inc. has continued its support for education and research programs in the School of Business's Real Estate and Urban Land Development program with a recent \$10,000 gift. The company's contribution to the Alfred L. Blake Endowed Chair in Real Estate will help to enhance student understanding of the real estate industry through service and research programs.

In supporting the Blake Chair, Dominion Resources will also provide funding for the Virginia Real Estate Center, of which Dr. James H. Boykin, the Blake Chair Professor, is director. The center provides current market trend information to educators, real estate professionals, and the public. It also offers graduate students the opportunity to

collaborate with faculty on extensive research projects in land development, real estate marketing and financing, and residential and commercial construction, while seeking innovative ways to improve future real estate markets.

Family Members of School of Dentistry Alumnus Pledge to Initiate Endowment Fund

Family members of Dr. Alexander Kaufman have pledged \$10,000 to the School of Dentistry to initiate an endowment fund in honor of Dr. Kaufman's 80th birthday. Once complete, the fund will be used to support awards for dentistry students.

Dr. Kaufman graduated from the school in 1934 and practiced dentistry in the Richmond area before moving to Florida to be closer to his family. He is currently practicing in Florida with Alan Burch, Ronald

VCU Voice

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The submission deadline for the March 20 issue is March 4, 1992.



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VCU PUBLICATIONS 91-92

Professor of Rehabilitation Finds Spanish Progressive about Social Issues

By Reyn Kinzey

Mallorca glitters, and it's not just sand and sun. It's the gold and diamonds of the European elite on holiday, who make the island their playground. But Mallorca also has a heart.

In December, Mallorca hosted the first international symposium in Spain on supported employment, a concept that has become firmly established in the United States but is only beginning to be accepted in Europe. Generally, supported employment teams people with disabilities, many with IQs below 50, with temporary job coaches until they can successfully work in jobs in the public workplace.

The leaders of the symposium were Dr. Paul Wehman, professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, of VCU's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, and Christy Lynch, an Irish colleague.

"The Mallorca, Spain, opportunity was sort of like entering a time warp for me, like going back ten or 12 years," Wehman comments. "Over the past ten years, we've gotten increasingly sophisticated about supported employment in this country. We've gotten past some of the fundamental issues of philosophy and how we present information. But all this is new to Europe. They tend to be progressive in other fields, but not in this. Ireland has done a lot, and there's some activity in London, but there's nothing being done in France or Germany.

"The Spanish tend to be progressive about social issues—they put a higher

percentage of their national budget into social programs than any other country in Europe. So I might have expected Barcelona or Madrid to be interested, but I was a little startled when I began getting communications from this resort island in the Mediterranean, Palma de Mallorca. But they have a lot of employment on the island, and they decided they wanted to do something about supported employment.

"They started talking to me about doing this symposium. I really hate to travel, so the idea of going to Spain for five or six days was not enthralling, but they were persistent. So I went, expecting maybe 50 people. We got more than 300 from all over Spain. We would begin at nine in the morning and go until two; then eat from two to five; and work again from five until nine at night. We'd have dinner at ten.

"And, of course, everything had to be translated, not only into Spanish, but Catalan. Christy and I were basically the only people there who spoke English. It was very disconcerting. I didn't know if everything was getting through in translation.

"But the amazing thing was, for all the differences, the reception was just like the reception when we presented the same ideas in the U.S. ten years ago—the same kinds of

skepticism and concerns: 'These people need to be with their own kind; 'Employers won't hire them; 'Where will you find the job coaches?' But by the second day, we started breaking down the barriers.

"Basically we showed them a lot of pictures of people working in the U.S. and told them, if we can do it, you can do it. We had some employers from Mallorca who had tried the concept stand up and say, 'We don't care if these people are handicapped, it's okay with us.' We got parents to say, 'If you can do this, we'll support you.' We found that despite the language barriers, people have similar values about helping people.

"On the last day, we asked them to write up action plans for implementing some of the ideas we talked about. The president of the Balearic Islands (Mallorca is Spanish, but it has semi-autonomous status) gave a speech about how important supported employment is. So I think they're on their way," Wehman concludes, and then smiles. "But you should have seen all those people in Mallorca, speaking in Spanish and holding their folders with the VCU logo on them. It was quite a sight such a long way from home."

Reyn Kinzey is a freelance writer in Richmond.

Budget

continued from page 1

be for salaries, and it will be part of an overall salary increase for state employees," said Finely.

Amendments to fund family practice programs have also moved forward in the assembly. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of family practice physicians in rural areas of the state by providing funding to improve existing educational programs and incentives for students to pursue a career in the field. VCU has been working with the University of Virginia and Hampton Roads Medical College to get \$2.2 million in funding for such programs.

In addition, an amendment to fund head injury research at VCU has emerged from committee. The amendment seeks to fulfill SCHEV's commitment for the establishment of nine Commonwealth Centers; seven of which have been funded in previous years.

"SCHEV decided that they wanted to select the most excellent programs we have and make them better," said William L. Dewey, associate provost of research and graduate affairs.

As a result, he said VCU's current Commonwealth Center, a program studying drug abuse, has attracted \$3 in federal grants for every \$1 the state has invested. "It's an economic development issue as well."

The council also affirmed its continued support of the state's Outstanding Faculty Awards, which annually honor 11 Virginia faculty members for teaching, research, and public service contributions. The black-tie banquet that accompanies the awards

presentation will be cancelled, but each recipient will receive the customary \$5,000 prize. The council also hopes to raise funds from private sources to award fellowships to 11 outstanding graduate students.

John Sarvay is editorial assistant for VCU Voice.

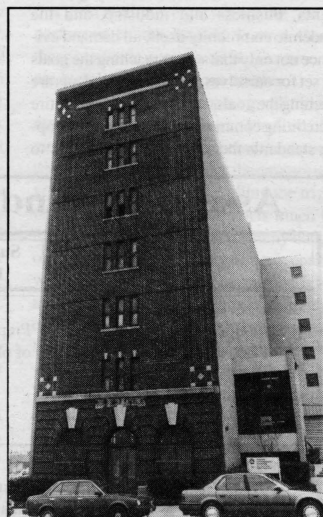


Photo by Doug Burstein

Two separate bond proposals making their way through the Virginia General Assembly would provide VCU with almost \$40 million for construction projects, including the completion of the Fine Arts Center.



The VCU Friends of the Library is a support group of the James Branch Cabell and Tompkins-McCaw Libraries.

Friends are involved with the annual lecture series, an ongoing book sale, volunteering in the libraries, and many other projects.

Membership is open to alumni, faculty, students, and community supporters for a donation of \$20 or more.

Membership dues and proceeds from the book sale support the libraries' collections and other library projects which would not otherwise be possible.

Members receive the following benefits: invitations to lectures and other library events

the libraries' newsletter, Library Online

borrowing privileges (donors of \$50 or more)

lifetime membership (donors of \$1,000 or more)

For information about joining the Friends call (804) 367-1116.

**THE
VCU
FRIENDS
OF THE
LIBRARY**

Appointments

New Development Director Appointed for Nursing and Pharmacy

Edith McRee Whiteman has been appointed director of development for the School of Nursing and the School of Pharmacy on the MCV Campus.

Whiteman will be responsible for fund raising and donor relations for each school. Previously she was director of development and public relations for the Museum of the Confederacy and executive director of the Virginia Association of Museums.

New Board Member Announced

Jay M. Weinberg, an attorney with the firm of Hirschler, Fleischer, Weinberg, Cox, and Allen, has been appointed to serve on the University Board of Visitors. Weinberg replaces Alan Wurtzel, who has resigned to serve on the state Board of Education.

The Marriage of Assessment and Accreditation

Reaffirmation of VCU by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

By Barbara Fuhrmann

Accreditation: SACS and the Commission on Colleges

Over the next two years, VCU faculty, staff, and students will conduct an extensive and comprehensive self study in preparation for review and reaffirmation of accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In this time of growing concern about the quality of education nationwide, the process of self study and accreditation has taken on new significance. As many observers of higher education have noted, we no longer enjoy the luxury of the "sanctuary," but have been challenged to account for the quality of the work that goes on within our institutions. The Ivory Tower, if it ever existed, has crumbled.

Accrediting bodies, both the regional associations that accredit whole institutions and the specialized and professional associations that accredit individual programs, are changing their accreditation standards, guidelines, and procedures to emphasize the outcomes of our work, and are thus encouraging us to become more reflective about what we do and how well we do it. Accreditation is the means by which we regulate ourselves and one another through self study and peer evaluation, and thus it assures our credibility. But the criteria have changed in recent years from an emphasis on meeting minimal standards to an emphasis on demonstration of continual improvement.

VCU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The standards used are contained in the handbook *Criteria for Accreditation*. This document is periodically reviewed and revised by the member institutions and represents the collective judgment of the membership on standards for quality assurance. These standards, along with evidence of our effectiveness in relation to our unique mission and goals, constitute the basis on which we are asked to judge ourselves, and on which our peers will subsequently judge us.

The Self Study

The accreditation process relies on the self study. We are required, once every ten years, to conduct a comprehensive study of our purpose, programs, and services. We are currently establishing committees composed of faculty, administrators, staff, students, and others; these committees will study all aspects of VCU, report their findings, and offer recommendations for improvement. Their work will begin in late spring, continue through academic 1992-93, and culminate with a self study document that evaluates VCU's effectiveness in reaching our stated goals and our compliance with the criteria.

By the time we complete the document,

about 200 members of the VCU community will have been involved in the study. We will submit the study to SACS in December of 1993. In February of 1994, exactly two years from now, the commission will send a visiting committee of our professional peers to the campus to assess the educational strengths of VCU. During their visit they will examine data and conduct interviews to evaluate the accuracy and quality of the self study and to ascertain compliance with the criteria. They will provide a written report designed to help us to improve our programs and to document a decision to reaffirm our accreditation. The visiting committee will make its recommendations to the Committee on Criteria and Reports of the Commission, which will recommend action on accreditation to the Executive Council of the Commission, which in turn will recommend action to the commission itself. The decisions will be announced to the College Delegate Assembly during its annual business meeting in December of 1994.

Institutional Effectiveness: The Key to Accreditation

Since VCU's accreditation was last affirmed in 1984, the criteria and focus of review have changed dramatically. In previous times, accreditation was determined by compliance with standards that related primarily to an institution's resources and reputation (e.g., the number of volumes in the library and the credentials of the faculty). While these resource factors are still important, of much greater importance is the extent to which an institution is meeting its stated goals and objectives. The new, all-encompassing criterion is known as institutional effectiveness, and assessment of outcomes has become the key measure in determining effectiveness.

The federal government, state governments, business and industry, and the academic community itself, all demand evidence not only that we are reaching the goals we set for ourselves, but that our students are reaching the goals we set for them. The entire accrediting community is currently developing standards that encourage institutions to

use assessment practices which insure that sufficient and appropriate learning is taking place. From the emphasis on institutional effectiveness, several principles, included in a draft report from the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation, emerge:

1. The effectiveness of an institution is determined by the extent to which it achieves its mission, goals, and objectives and uses its resources effectively to this end. The self study should engage in processes that provide evidence of the extent of institutional goal attainment.
2. Assessment of educational effectiveness constitutes the primary focus of accreditation and should permeate the entire process, not simply be an element in it.
3. The primary focus of assessment at the institutional level should be on the effectiveness of the institution as a whole. The self study needs to present evidence that educational results aggregated from all programs are consistent with institutional goals.
4. Student learning should be a required focus of assessment of institutional effectiveness.
5. A central concern of accreditation should be with the degree to which the assessment process is directed toward and results in institutional improvement, not just one time demonstration of goal attainment.
6. Assessment requires not only evidence about goal attainment, but also a critical appraisal of the appropriateness of institutional goals themselves.

These principles represent a major transformation in the way society thinks about higher education. Assessment, which in Virginia has until now been focused on undergraduate student outcomes, must now permeate our thinking about all units and activities of the University. Our self study offers us the challenge of expanding our thinking about

assessment to include our graduate education, student development, service, research, patient care, and performing arts goals as well as those pertaining to undergraduate student learning. Assessment is relevant to all aspects of the University and should be adapted to the specific goals of each program and unit as well as to the common goals of the University. As we analyze every aspect of our University, we must ask ourselves *what* the unit or service is designed to do (its purposes), *how well* it does them (evidence of its outcomes), and *what it needs to do differently to improve* (the link between outcomes and planning).

The self study affords us the opportunity to be truly self-regarding and to focus on continuous improvement. In a time of severe fiscal restraint, such self reflection is even more important than it is in a time of relative wealth. Evidence of results must inform planning and decision making.

Integration of Self Study, Strategic Planning, and Student Outcomes Assessment at VCU

Parallel with the self study for SACS reaffirmation of accreditation, Dr. Michael Brooks is directing a University-wide strategic planning effort. We also are mandated by SCHEV to continue our development of student outcomes assessment activities. It is our intention to coordinate these efforts to the greatest extent possible. Though different in focus, these several activities will rely on unit analyses, specialized and professional accreditation studies, and University-wide data collection that will be used for all three purposes. We will have to ask academic departments and other units to conduct analyses of their programs' purposes and intended and actual outcomes, but we are committed to the principle that they will not be burdened with duplicative or redundant requests. Our intent is to make all requests and analyses meaningful.

Barbara Fuhrmann is director of assessment.

Assessment and Accreditation Planning Activities

	Spring 1992	Summer 1992	Fall 1992	Spring 1993	Summer 1993	Fall 1993	Spring 1994
Strategic Plan	Organization External Scan Internal Assessment, including unit analyses	Prepare draft of plan	Review of plan with all relevant constituent groups	Completion of plan			
SACS Self-Study	Organization Committee assignments Procedures Unit mission and outcomes	Plan for data collection	Self study	Analysis Draft reports	Write report	Review and submit report	Committee visit

An Essay for Black History Month: Things That Make You Go Hmm...

By L. Victor Collins

Often during Black History Month I will notice that some civic, church, or educational institution has sponsored an essay contest, inviting African-American students to write about the importance of black history or perhaps "What Black History Means To Me." These contests are laudatory, in that they usually require young black students to do some rudimentary research about their heritage. With any luck, this will become one of the first steps of a lifelong journey of self discovery.

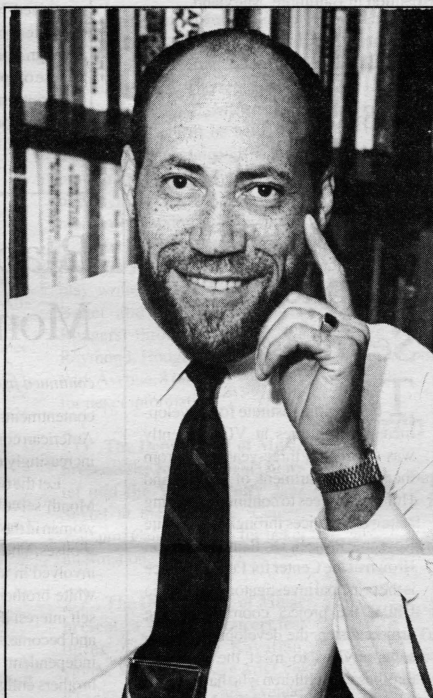
In my mind, this is cause for both joyous celebration and painful realization. Not a few sage educational philosophers have suggested that one of the most important developments of a well-rounded, liberal education is a deeper understanding of self. If that is the case, then certainly this investigation into one's historical roots can be powerfully satisfying. On the other hand, the fact that these types of contests are usually associated with a specific month tends to suggest that they are peripheral to the primary academic schedule.

Further, when they are more commonly sponsored by religious and civic groups than as part of the regular curriculum at our public and private secondary schools, the indelible impression is that this kind of study is insignificant; more to be tolerated than celebrated. This, in my mind, is further evidence of the tragedy of the continuing American legacy of indifference and benign neglect.

The truly astounding part of this scenario is that so few of the academic administrators at our elementary, secondary, and even, in many cases, our colleges and universities seem to possess an enlightened understanding of the uplifting effect that can be produced by a more profound understanding of one's history. It is usually about here that the predictable voices will chime in about the inappropriateness of using an academic discipline for "ethnic cheerleading."

This, to me, seems rather odd. I cannot help but think back to my early school days. I certainly did not learn about old George Washington and his mythological cherry tree at home. During my elementary school years, I was taught to look up to all sorts of European-American heroes—from Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln to Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy. Even

though Jefferson was a slave holder (and please take note that I used the term slave holder as opposed to slave owner; no individual truly ever "owns" another human being; slavery is a temporary and situational



condition), I still count him as a legitimate American hero. However, at my elementary school, no one mentioned DuBois, Garvey, Dorie Miller, or the Tuskegee Airmen. My intention here is not to cast any aspersion on these great Americans of yesterday, but rather to question those critics of my right to pick and choose whom I seek to glorify. Why is it so hard to understand that many African-Americans are acting to place themselves and their own unique culture and experience at the center of their intellectual curiosity and scrutiny? Not only is this approach important to the academic community but, in my view, it is absolutely crucial to the black community.

The City of Richmond, like most other urban centers in our country, continues to experience chronic growth in violent homicides, drug traffic, unemployment, and homelessness. Most of these social conditions are so complex and seemingly overwhelming that the increasingly common reaction has become apathy and hopelessness. Another bizarre response has become even more popular. There is a strong tendency to blame the very people who are most affected by the conditions in which they find themselves. This kind of nonsense must

be opposed. Certainly, I agree that the people who are most afflicted by any threatening conditions must be held responsible for striving mightily to change those conditions, but how can African-Americans be blamed for creating the economic conditions with which they struggle? What are the roots of homelessness and unemployment? What is the genesis of violence? From what source are the behaviors that act to disrupt our social order derived? Noted African-American poet Langston Hughes asked the same question in far more eloquent terms when he queried, "What becomes of a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or does it fester and run? Or does it explode?" In order to better focus, I would like to consider only one particularly disturbing problem which disproportionately affects the African-American community in far more immediate and deadly serious terms than the other aforementioned conditions; namely black on black violence.

Our young men have internalized violence so extensively that it has become inextricably intertwined with the basic way that "manhood" is defined. We need only consider the statistics:

- In 1991, 116 people were murdered in Richmond—101 (87 percent) of these 116 were African-American.
- Richmond has the sixth highest homicide rate in America, down from the fifth highest rate the previous year.
- Nationally, black males are nearly nine times more likely to be murdered and seven times more likely to commit murder than our white counterparts.

A Richmond police officer recently said that, hidden behind the impersonal statistics, was this grim reality: were it not for the "magic" performed by the MCVH Trauma Center, these homicide rates would be far worse. We are literally destroying one another.

I know that some people are still trying to make the connection between black on black violence and black history being taught in our schools. I am convinced that the ease so many young brothers find with pulling the trigger on someone who looks and acts much like they do can be found in the mortally dangerous mix of diminished life chances, coupled with diminished self worth. If you love, honor, and respect yourself, it becomes more difficult to treat others with a total lack of respect. If you contemplate your future and, in the vernacular of our young people today, you "got it going on," you are more likely to be restrained or governed in your response to conflict. A young man with nothing to lose and no place particular to go is, indeed, a potential time bomb waiting for the right opportunity to detonate. The Father of Black History Month, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, in his definitive work, *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, said it best back in 1933: "To handicap a student by teaching him that his black face is a curse and that his struggle to

change his condition is hopeless is the worst sort of lynching. It kills one's aspirations and dooms him to vagabondage and crime. It is strange, then, that the friends of truth and the promoters of freedom have not risen up against the present propaganda in the schools and crushed it. This crusade is much more important than the anti-lynching movement, because there would be no lynching if it did not start in the schoolroom. Why not exploit, enslave, or exterminate a class that everybody is taught to regard as inferior?"

Dr. Woodson clearly understood the importance and relevance of education nearly 60 years ago. He points out that thought precedes behavior. Any progress in the dismal scenario confronting black America today will surely have a strong educational component.

But here, I must caution against thinking that education, of and by itself, will suffice. If the knowledge that the educated man or woman possesses does not inculcate an enhanced sense of self esteem and act to further validate one's own persona, then its overall value should be questioned. Does your education serve to liberate your potential or act to further inhibit your development? The difference is crucial. Again, Dr. Woodson (1933) tells us that "the so-called modern education, with all its defects, however, does others so much more good than it does the Negro, because it has been worked out in conformity to the needs of those who have enslaved and oppressed weaker peoples. For example, the philosophy and ethics resulting from our educational system have justified slavery, peonage, segregation, and lynching. The oppressor has the right to exploit, to handicap, and to kill the oppressed. Negroes daily educated in the tenets of such a religion of the strong have accepted the status of the weak as divinely ordained, and during the last three generations of their nominal freedom they have done practically nothing to change it....No systematic effort toward change has been possible, for taught the same economics, history, philosophy, literature and religion which have established the present code of morals, the Negro's mind has been brought under the control of his oppressor. The problem of holding the Negro down, therefore, is easily solved. When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him to stand here or go yonder. He will find his proper place and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary."

The young black man who would point a pistol at his fellow man or turn to criminal pursuits for his "special benefits" has accepted a diminished definition of his possibility; but certainly not with any

continued on page 6

Newsmakers

Dr. John Berglund, director of the VCU Honors Program, recently gave a talk on "Geometry and Reality" to faculty and students in mathematics at Ohio Wesleyan University. Berglund was invited to the university as a distinguished alumnus of the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Dr. Barbara Brant, assistant professor of community/psychiatric nursing, has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association on Aging.

Dr. Beth Collins, assistant professor of maternal-child nursing, received Best Research Poster Award with three School of Nursing students at the District IV NAACOG Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. The title of the poster presentation was "A Comparison of How Perinatal Substance-Users and Non-Users Define and Describe Comfort in the Postpartum Period."

Dr. David Patrick Geary, associate professor of justice and risk administration, has been appointed to the Emergency Services Advisory Council of Chesterfield County. The council works with the county to evaluate and increase response time of emergency services and to enhance the partnership between career personnel and volunteer emergency medical service providers.

Richard S. John, director of financial information systems, and **R. Scott Davis**, information services manager, recently spoke on "On-line Department Purchasing in a Decentralized Environment" at the 1991 International FRS Users Conference.

Dr. Roger M. Loria, professor of microbiology and immunology, and **Dr. William Regelson**, professor of internal medicine, were issued U.S. Patent Number 5,077,284 titled "Use of Dehydroepiandrosterone to Improve Immune Response."

Dr. George Munro, associate professor and chairperson of the Department of History and Geography, has been awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities to direct a six-week summer institute for college teachers in St. Petersburg, Russia, on "Russian History and Culture Through Art and Artifact."

Dr. Rita Pickler, assistant professor of maternal-child nursing, was one of 20 participants at the Mead Johnson Nutritional Perinatal Nursing Research Conference held in January in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Dr. Philip J. Schwarz, professor of history and geography, delivered a paper on "The Wolf by the Ear: Thomas Jefferson and the Law of Slavery," at the Institute of Early American History and Culture in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Dr. Jean Turner, assistant professor of nursing, chaired the Third Fall Conference of the Association of Black Nursing Faculty in Higher Education. Turner also presented a paper on "The Effect of Community Characteristics on Hospital Readmission of Chronically Mentally Ill Clients" at the 31st Biennial Convention of Sigma Theta Tau.

Dr. Melvin Urofsky, professor of history and geography, was elected to the board of the Virginia Historical Society. Urofsky also has given talks recently on the Bill of Rights in Richmond, Fredricksburg, Philadelphia, and at Emory and Henry College. He also was selected as a curator of the exhibit, "Louis D. Brandeis: An American Zionist," at the Greater Washington Jewish Historical Society.

Dr. Jean Wyman, associate professor of community/psychiatric nursing, has been appointed a member of the Advisory Group for the Study of Characteristics, Distribution, and Employment of Certified Nurse Practi-

tioners and Clinical Specialists. The study is being conducted by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Dr. Janet Younger, associate professor of maternal-child nursing, presented a research paper, "The Development of the Mastery of Stress Instrument," at the 31st Biennial Convention of Sigma Theta Tau. Younger also presented a paper, "The Effect of Nursing Interventions in Patients with End Stage Renal Disease," at the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition in Baltimore, Maryland.

Institute Receives Grant to Continue Respite Services

The Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities at VCU recently was awarded a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to continue providing statewide services through the Respite Resource Project. Dr. Patricia Johnson Brown of the Center for Public Service is the principal investigator and Monica Uhl is the project coordinator. The project fosters the development of respite services to meet the needs of families with children who have developmental disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Newsmakers Policy

Entries submitted to Newsmakers should be typed in the style as it appears in the section (name, title, accomplishment, date). Those submissions in the correct style are given first priority. Entries that follow guidelines are published as soon as space permits in the chronological order in which they are received. Newsmakers includes the categories of presentations, awards, recognitions, and elected offices. Because of space limitations, we are unable to print listings of publications and articles. For further information call 367-1457.

Black History Month Essay

continued from page 5

contentment. The task before the African-American community looms quite large, but increasingly clear.

Let the observance of this Black History Month serve as a time that every man and woman in the VCU family, including alumni, spouses, and friends pledge to be actively involved in making a difference. It is in my white brothers and sisters own enlightened self interest if I learn more about "who I am" and become ever more self determining and independent. It is in my black sisters and brothers enlightened self interest to continue to extend the hand of brotherhood to all peoples, regardless of our country's painful history.

As Reverend Jesse Jackson has stated, "We may have come over here in different boats, but we are now all in the same boat together." There are clear and definite choices facing the occupants of the U.S.S. America. The boat can continue to struggle with the forces of the tides, stranded and immobilized by the disputes and indecisiveness of the crew. Or it can sink. Personally, I think that the awesome promise of a diverse, multicultural, and fair society can be an exportable commodity. Much of the strife in the world today is related to the inability of different ethnic and racial groups who share the same geographic space to effectively resolve conflict and share resources. America, the most diverse nation on the planet, is in a unique position to truly lead the way. This should be the real "new world order."

But, it cannot happen without cooperation and teamwork. Being both a passenger and crew member of the good ship America, I choose to grab an oar, ask for help from those who still believe that we can control our own destiny, and row like hell! What will you choose?

L. Victor Collins is director of minority student affairs.

Undergraduate Research Grants Announced

Eighteen undergraduate students will be receiving the University's 1992 Undergraduate Research Grants. The program, begun in 1988 through the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, makes funds available for research and creative projects by undergraduates.

The grants, limited to a maximum of \$300, will be used for materials not normally available to undergraduates—expenses such as photocopying, postage, transportation, and other costs directly related to the research. The research will be done during the current semester.

This year's recipients represent 12 departments ranging from communication arts and design to clinical radiation sciences. The students each work with a faculty sponsor. The recipients, their departments, and their research topics are Matt Balara, Native Realities, Department of Communication Arts

and Design; Raymond Banks, Wright's Vsonians-Transferrable Solutions, Department of Interior Design; Jennifer Burrus, Screenprinting Paper Study, Department of Painting and Printmaking; Lynette Cram, Costume History—Collecting Fashion Plates of the Nineteenth Century, Department of Theatre; Christy Doggett, Special Creations, Department of Fashion; Erin Easton, The Effects Between Catholic Versus Public School Education and Drug Use in High School Students, Department of Psychology; Mary Beth Hanifer, The Effects of Pain Perception and Physiological Reactivity in Monitors and Blunters in the Cold Pressor Task, Department of Psychology; Kalia Hansen, Stitched Pattern Color Transfer Dye Process, Department of Crafts; Valerie Heskett, Establishment of Normal Standard Values for Solid Meal Gastric Emptying at MCV, Department of Clinical Radiation

Sciences; and Charles King, Sexual Dimorphism in Relation to Sound Production, Opsanus Tau, Department of Biology; Sean Malone, The Effects of Age and Parity on the Distribution and Concentration of IgG in the Murine Reproductive Tract, Department of Biology; Suzanne Nece, You Made This Bed, Now Lie In It, Department of Dance and Choreography; Linda Neher, The Relationship Between Regular Exercise and College Adjustment in Freshmen, Department of Psychology; Grace Renn, The Unseen Children, Department of Dance and Choreography; Timothy Smith, Scene From "Billy and the Magic Whistle," Department of Communication Arts and Design; Stacy Stitche, Multi-Media Student Art Show, Department of Sculpture; Gloria Thomas, Violence Prevention Through Public Policy, Department of Political Science; Laura Zwilling, Effect of Personality on Marital Satisfaction, Department of Psychology.

Calendar

February

21 "Alfredo Ceibal: Morir Sonando/To Die Dreaming" and "The Nearest Edge of the World: Art and Cuba Now" remain on display at the Anderson Gallery through March 1. Also, work by graduate student Lisa James will be on display through March 1. Anderson Gallery, 907 1/2 West Franklin Street. Call 367-1522 for hours and information.

Registration continues for a caving expedition to Warm River Cave on March 1. A mandatory meeting will be held at 5 pm on February 25 for all trip participants. Call the Outdoor Adventure Program at 367-6043 for more information.

The Department of Theatre presents *John Brown's Body*, a play written by Stephen Vincent Benet and directed by Janet Rodgers, through February 22. Additional performances will be held February 25-29, with a matinee production on February 23. Raymond Hodges Theatre, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm. Call 367-6026 for ticket information.

22 VCU's men's basketball team hosts the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Richmond Coliseum, 1 pm.

The Department of Music presents a graduate recital by David Harnsberger, percussion. VCU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, 922 Park Avenue, 3 pm.

VCU's women's basketball team hosts Louisville. Franklin Street Gymnasium, 819 West Franklin Street, 7:30 pm.

23 The Department of Theatre presents a matinee of *John*

Brown's Body, a play written by Stephen Vincent Benet and directed by Janet Rodgers. Raymond Hodges Theatre, 922 Park Avenue, 2:30 pm. Call 367-6026 for ticket information.

The Department of Music presents a faculty recital with Charles West, clarinet, and Landon Bilyeu, piano. VCU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm.

25 Registration begins for a rock climbing clinic sponsored by the Outdoor Adventure Program on March 28-29. The registration deadline is March 17, when a mandatory meeting will be held at 7 pm. A second meeting will be held prior to the two-day climbing trip on March 28-29. Call 367-6043 for more information.

The Department of Theatre presents *John Brown's Body*, a play written by Stephen Vincent Benet and directed by Janet Rodgers, through February 29. Raymond Hodges Theatre, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm. Call 367-6026 for ticket information.

26 The Department of Music presents the John Scofield Quartet and the VCU Faculty Jazz Sextet at the Carpenter Center, 7:30 pm. Call 367-6046 for ticket information.

27 The Department of Music presents a Terrace Concert featuring Ani and Ida Kavafian, violins. VCU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm. Call 367-6046 for ticket information.

28 The VCU Funds for Excellence project presents a faculty

colloquium, "Diversity and Community: Right Objectives and Wrong Arguments," with Dr. Frank F. Wong, vice president for academic affairs at the University of Redlands, California. Dr. Alvin Schexneider, Dr. Charles Byles, Dr. Timothy Elliot, and Dr. Diana Scully will serve on the faculty panel at the colloquium. New Academic Building, room 1165, 1:30-3 pm.

The Department of Music presents the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, conducted by Terry Austin. VCU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm.

29 VCU's women's basketball team hosts Southern Mississippi. Franklin Street Gymnasium, 819 West Franklin Street, 7:30 pm.

The Department of Music presents a faculty recital with Joanne Kong, Paul Hanson, and Neil Wilson. VCU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm.

March

1 The Department of Music presents a junior recital with Michael Bowyer, flute. VCU Recital Hall, 1015 Grove Avenue, 3 pm.

2 VCU's women's basketball team hosts Tulane. Franklin Street Gymnasium, 819 West Franklin Street, 7:30 pm.

VCU's men's basketball team hosts Western Kentucky. Richmond Coliseum, 7:30 pm.

The Department of Music presents the VCU Jazz Orchestra I, directed by Doug Richards.

VCU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm.

4 The Nutritional Sciences Center Seminar Series presents Stacey Bell of New England Deaconess Hospital. Bell will speak on "Lipids and Immunology." Sanger Hall, room 1-044, 4 pm.

The Department of Music presents a guest recital by Meejung Yoo, piano. Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm.

The University Library Services' lecture series and the School of Community and Public Affairs presents the Richmond Area Development Archives Lecture featuring Vernon George, Virginia Ritchie, Charles Peters, and Clarence Townes of Downtown Development. Cabell Library, fourth floor, 5 pm.

VCU's women's basketball team hosts Liberty University. Franklin Street Gymnasium, 819 West Franklin Street, 7:30 pm.

5 The Department of Dance and Choreography presents Greg Lizenbery. VCU Dance Center, 10 North Brunswick Avenue, 8 pm. Call 367-1842 for ticket information.

6 The Richmond Sinfonia, conducted by George Manahan, will perform works by McKinley, Vivaldi, De Lalande, and Hindemith. VCU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm. Call 788-1212 for ticket information.

Calendar Note

Entries submitted to *Calendar* should be typed in the style as it appears in the section (event, sponsor, location, date, time, cost). Submissions should be made three weeks prior to the date of the event and should include the name and number of a contact person. Graphics and photographs that are available for publication should also be included. Because of space limitations first priority is given to academic-related activities, and faculty and staff functions.

Department of Dance Presents "Men Dancing"

The Department of Dance and Choreography presents Greg Lizenbery performing in a lecture demonstration on Thursday, March 5 at 8 pm at the VCU Dance Center, 10 North Brunswick Avenue.

"Men Dancing," the focal point of the lecture demonstration, features the work of leading male artists in American modern dance.

Tickets are \$6, free for VCU students with ID. For ticket information call 367-1842.

Black History Month at VCU

February

21 Films. "Roots (Part I)" and "Mahogany." University Student Commons Theatre, 6 pm.

Films. "God's Stepchildren," "Emperor Jones," and "Listen Up, The Lives of Quincy Jones." Business Building Auditorium, 7 pm.

The Richmond Public Schools' Harp Ensemble will perform at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 8 pm.

22 Films. "Roots (Part II)" and "The Wiz." University Student Commons Theatre, 6 pm.

Films. "Dutchman" and "Cooley High." Business Building Auditorium, 7 pm.

23 Films. "Sweet Sweetback's Badass Song" and "Daughters of

the Dust." Business Building Auditorium, 6 pm.

25 "African-American Women in Music," a lecture sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha. University Student Commons Theatre, 7 pm.

26 Atallah Shabazz, the oldest daughter of the late Malcolm X, will speak at the Business Building Auditorium, 7:30 pm.

28 Black History Month at VCU Closing Ceremony. Business Building Auditorium, 12:30 pm.

Films. "Ricochet" and "Sparkle." University Student Commons Theatre, 7 pm.

29 Films. "Malcolm X" and "Ricochet." University Student Commons Theatre, 7 pm.

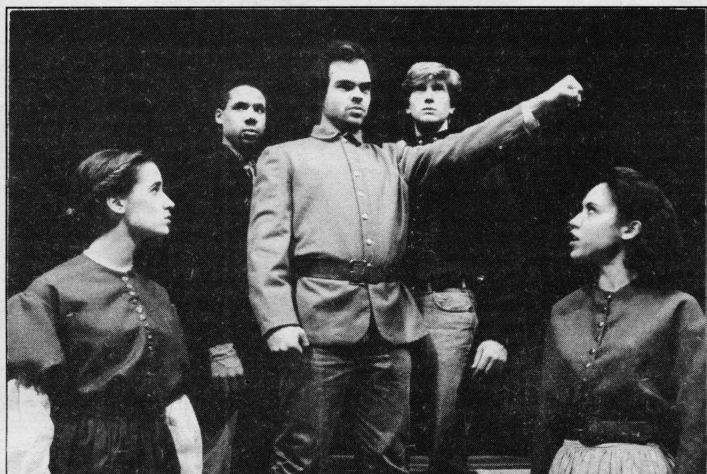


Photo by Jay Paul

Theatre VCU's first production of the spring 1992 season is Stephen Vincent Benet's play, *John Brown's Body*, directed by Janet Rodgers. The cast, pictured here from left to right, includes Molley Harvey, Ben Hershey, Matt Mitchell, David Gerhman, and Crystal Wright. The play will be presented through February 29 at the Raymond Hodges Theatre in the Performing Arts Center, 922 Park Avenue.

Reunion '92

Weekend Events

Registration Deadline: April 2, 1992.

University-Sponsored Events

Friday, May 1

3 pm Academic and MCV Campuses Bus Tour
Here's your chance to see how both campuses have grown and changed over the years. Your tour guide will point out campus highlights in the air conditioned comfort of a van. The van leaves from Reunion '92 headquarters, 310 North Shafer Street.

Saturday, May 2

10:45-11:30 am Reunion Weekend Interest Lectures Lecture #1: "Public Policy: Its Influence on Personal and Professional Values," Dr. Mabel Wells, Room 221. Lecture #2: "Environmental Ethics," Dr. Margot Garcia, Room 222. Lecture #3: "Can We Prevent Heart Disease," Dr. Carolyn Burns, Room 223. All lectures are in the New Academic Building, 901 West Main Street.

1-5 pm Reunion Weekend Faculty-Alumni SportsFest Whether you challenge a former professor in a competitive sport, or pit yourself against the James River's white water, fun is the name of the game no matter what you choose: a) **Basketball** at the Franklin Street gym, featuring a challenge match between School of Business faculty and alumni. b) **Golf** (location to be announced). c) **White water rafting** on the James River. \$10/person includes outfitting, transportation to and from campus, introductory instruction. Beginners welcome. All participants must come prepared to paddle. d) **Round Robin double tennis** matches at the Thalheimer Tennis Courts, Cary and Cherry Streets.

2 pm Academic and MCV Campuses Bus Tour
(See previous description.)

7-9:30 pm Reunion Weekend Dinner Cruise
Dine and dance beneath the stars as the Annabel Lee river boat glides along the banks of the James River. Space is limited, so make your reservations early. \$30/person includes dinner, special river boat show, and dancing.

Sunday, May 3

9:30-10:30 am Alumni Memorial Service and Farewell Reception Join VCU Alumni Association President Nick Orsi at the VCU Performing Arts Center to honor the memory of classmates who have passed away during this past year.

Farewell Reception The weekend comes to a close with a farewell reception in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center, giving you one last chance to collect addresses and phone numbers from your friends. VCU Performing Arts Center, 922 Park Avenue.

RPI Events

Friday, May 1

6:30-8:30 pm RPI "Classes of the '50s" Cocktail Dinner Buffet VCU President Eugene P. Trani and Mrs. Trani welcome RPI alumni from 1950-1961 to their home for a Reunion celebration. (Confirmation and directions to their off-campus residence will be mailed to you upon receipt of your reservation.) \$20/person.

Saturday, May 2

9-11 am 50-Year Alumni Club Breakfast VCUAA President Nick Orsi inducts RPI graduates from the classes of 1942 or earlier into this prestigious club. (Only alumni returning for Reunion weekend will be inducted into the club.) VCU Meeting Center, 101 North Harrison Street. No charge for inductees; \$5/guest.

3-5 pm Franklin Street Open House Ritter Hickok, Ginter House, Founders Hall, Franklin Street Gym—Journey through a different decade of RPI's and VCU's history in each of these four buildings. Music from your days on campus, refreshments in the "Stop Shop", displays, and costumes. (Reunion '92 Headquarters will have a list of any other buildings to which alumni may have access during Reunion Weekend.)

Nontraditional Studies Event

Friday, May 1

7-9 pm Nontraditional Studies Reception The Nontraditional Studies Alumni Board of Directors welcomes its alumni back to celebrate its 15th anniversary. Valentine Museum, 1015 East Clay Street. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, guided museum tours.

School of Social Work Events

Friday, May 1

7:30-9:30 pm School of Social Work Open House & Reception VCU's first Academic Campus program celebrates its 75th anniversary by welcoming back alumni and former deans at the Raleigh Building at the corner of Franklin and Harrison Streets.

Saturday, May 2

9:30-10:30 am School of Social Work Session Dr. Thomas O. Carlton, professor and associate dean, looks at "The VCU School of Social Work Yesterday and Today." Dr. Lawrence E. Gary, Samuel S. Wurtzel Professor, examines "Challenges Facing American Families," Student Commons.

12 noon-1:30 pm School of Social Work Dean's Luncheon Meet the new Dean of the School of Social Work, Dr. Frank Baskind, at a special luncheon in his honor. Ballroom, Student Commons. \$10/person.

School of Business Event

Friday, May 1

7-11 pm School of Business 55th Anniversary Cocktail Buffet and Dance School of Business alumni and their friends celebrate, dance, and recognize the achievements of fellow alumni. Visit the Business Alumni Entrepreneurs Row at 7 pm, where you can view and purchase works of art and various products from outstanding Business School entrepreneurs. Mingle with old friends in locations designating the 1960s, '70s, and '80s, and the accounting department. Then the popular and nostalgic sounds of the Rhondels will kick off the dance at 8 pm with favorites like "May I," "What Kind of Fool Do You Think I Am," "I've Been Hurt," and other favorites. School of Business Building, 1015 Floyd Avenue. \$25/person, \$40/couple.

African-American Alumni Council Events

Friday, May 1

8-10 pm African-American Alumni Council Networking Reception Bring your business cards. Co-sponsored by the African-American Alumni Council and the Office of Minority Student Affairs. VCU Meeting Center, 101 North Harrison Street.

Saturday, May 2

10 pm-2 am African-American Alumni Council Dance The AAAC invites all alumni to dance in the elegant Capital Club at the James Center. \$10/person in advance, \$15/person at the door. (Confirmation and directions will be sent upon receipt of your reservations.)

School of Mass Communications Event

Friday, May 1

7-9 pm School of Mass Communications Reception Open House Stop by and visit with retired and current faculty and fellow alumni. Tour the school's state-of-the-art facilities and the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame at the New Academic Building, 901 West Main Street. Live music.

Honors Events

Saturday, May 2

9 am-12 noon Honors Mini-Module (Open to all alumni—attend one or both.) **SOVIET DISUNION:** Join professors George Munro and Ted Smith as they discuss Soviet state of affairs.

12:15-1:30 pm Honors Brown Bag Lunch Speaker and topic to be announced. Brown bag lunch provided at no extra charge. Honors Center, 916 West Franklin Street.

Registration Fee

FREE registration for all dues-paying members of the VCU Alumni Association.

The \$10 fee for each registration form helps to offset the expenses of printing, postage, and the special services provided for Reunions. To eliminate higher charges for meals and similar events, we have included a registration fee to help support the best possible weekend for alumni.

For more information about Reunion Weekend, please contact the Office of Alumni Activities at (804) 367-1227.

Note: Funds will be issued after April 24, 1992.

Take A Walk Back In Time