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On the cover:

A look back at VCU's historic run in the
NCAA tournament

Illustration by Hannah Swann

Local & VCU

VCU professor's research introduces new non-physical effects on health

VCU professor and director of the VCU Center for Human Needs, Steven Woolf, M.D., M.P.H., has released research that basic human needs (like food security, housing, health, education and income) may affect physical health more than typical medical explanations.

Woolf's research found, for example, the death rate from diabetes is three times higher for those who have not graduated high school than those who have.

The research was done as part of the Project on Societal Distress, in which Woolf and researchers at the VCU Center for Human needs examine major causes of societal distress in the United States. Their research provides policymakers with data about the populations affected by factors like food security, housing, health, education and income.

The project focuses on explaining how non-health factors can have an influence over physical health and is just one of the projects the VCU Center for Human Needs has been recognized for this year.

The center, established in 2007 and supported through grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, unveiled a County Health Calculator earlier this year (www.countyhealthrankings.org).

The calculator is an online tool that shows the effects of a higher level of health care on a county or other populace. The calculator compares health care in areas whose residents have a higher level of education or income to those who do not. The calculator shows how mortality in the United States would be affected if more favorable socioeconomic conditions existed for a given population.

Brief from the VCU News Center

Massey Cancer Center presents studies to aid age-related diseases; cancer

Recent research from the VCU Massey Cancer Center has discovered mitochondrial mechanisms that could aid in cancer research as well as research for age-related diseases like Parkinson's Disease, heart disease and hypertension.

Researcher and associate professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the School of Medicine, Shirley M. Taylor, Ph.D., helped establish the field of epigenetics when she was a graduate student. Epigenetics is concerned with the process that controls which genes are expressed in the nucleus of the cell, which determines the cell's biological characteristics.

Taylor and her colleagues have expanded the field by discovering enzymes in mitochondria that were previously only known to be present in nuclei. The study found two DNA modifications in mitochondria that perform specific functions in the nucleus of cells. One "silences" the expression of certain genes while the other can remove the "silencing" mark. Together, these two modifications act like a genetic on/off switch.

"In diseases such as cancer, epigenetic control is lost," Taylor told VCU News Center. "Genes that should be switched on are switched off and vice versa, leading to uncontrolled growth. Our research indicates that errors in gene expression could be unfolding in mitochondria, possibly contributing to loss of mitochondrial function typical of cancer and a host of other age-related diseases."

Taylor collaborated with Richard G. Moran, Ph.D., associate director for basic research at VCU Massey Cancer Center and professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the VCU School of Medicine. Other collaborators include doctoral students Lisa S. Shock, Prashant V. Thakkar and Erica J. Peterson from the VCU Department of Microbiology and Immunology. The study was partially funded by the National Cancer Institute and by a pilot project award from Massey.

Brief from VCU News Center

New underage drinking laws result in loss of license

Starting July 1, drivers under the age of 21 will face harder punishment if convicted of drinking and driving.

The law says that drivers under 21 with a blood-alcohol level of .02 percent or higher can lose their license for a year and pay a fine of at least \$500 or perform 50 hours of community service.

The bill was first introduced in 2008 by Del. Bill Janis (R-Henrico) and passed with a clause to phase it out in 2010 because the state feared it could lose federal law-enforcement funding if the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention deemed it a status offense. Status offenses are things that are crimes for juveniles but are not considered crimes for adults.

Janis re-introduced the bill as permanent legislation during the 2011 General Assembly session.

The bill will not change DUI charges and a blood-alcohol level of .08 percent or higher will still warrant a DUI charge.

Brief from the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Noise ordinance to regulate city's residential zones

On June 27, city councilman Charles Samuels proposed a new noise-control ordinance in place of a past ordinance that was deemed unconstitutional last year by Manchester District Judge Robert Pustilnik.

The new ordinance has the same provisions as in the past: city residents cannot create sound that is measured at 65 decibels or more between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. in another person's residence. The nighttime cap is 55 decibels and the ordinance defines nighttime to be from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Repeat violators of the proposed ordinance could face a Class 2 misdemeanor charge.

Unlike the old ordinance, the proposed one will only be enforced in areas zoned specifically for residential use and in multi-use or multi-family residences.

In addition to limiting where the ordinance is effective, the new one comes with guidelines of how "excessive noise" must be measured. In residential zones, police officers with decibel meters will be required to take measurements from the property of who complained, not the property where the noise is coming from.

Brief from Style Weekly

Local doctors pursuing full-service children's hospital; VCU considered as location

Local doctors have begun exploring the possibility of a free-standing, full-service children's hospital in Richmond and are considering the VCU Health System as a possible host to the project.

Pediatricians Associated to Care for Kids (PACKids) are looking to possibly establish the hospital under an already-established hospital system and have approached Bon Secours Richmond Health System and the HCA Virginia Health System in addition to VCU. The group is also exploring the possibility of opening the hospital independently of other health systems.

This is not the first offer the VCU Health System has had to establish a children's hospital. In 2005, VCU was set to partner with the Independent Children's Hospital to develop a 75-100 bed, full-service children's hospital. The project was called off in 2007 due to rising construction costs.

Currently, the VCU Health System does include the Children's Hospital of Richmond on Brook Road, but the facility only offers specialized services like occupational and physical therapies and psychological and neuropsychological services.

Brief from The Richmond Times-Dispatch

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NEWS

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VCU construction projects to follow Master Site Plan and Strategic Plan • 4

State funding cuts result in tuition raise

Mechelle Hankerson
News Editor

In a May 20 email to VCU and the VCU Health System, president Michael Rao announced large cuts in state funding and a resulting \$700 tuition increase for in-state students.

According to Rao's email, VCU will receive \$41 million less in government funding that was specifically allotted to support in-state student tuition.

Executive director of VCU media relations Pam Lepley said that besides the loss of a federal stimulus, most funding VCU lost is state funding.

Between fiscal years 2008 and 2012, state funding to VCU has been reduced by a total of \$63.5 million. Between 2001 and 2011, cuts to VCU's funding have resulted in the state funding \$4,279 less per in-state student.

"If you had been a student in 2000, you would have \$4,300 more dollars going to your education than you do now from the state," Lepley said.

According to Lepley, public institutions that have more in-state students generally suffer more state funding cuts. With about 89 percent of the student body being in-state (the largest in the state), VCU is particularly susceptible to state funding cuts.

Lepley said state and federal cuts are a reflection of the current economic climate and that across the nation,

funding for higher education has been significantly decreased.

Eighty-one percent of tuition and fees goes toward instructional and student support, which includes research and instruction. Approximately 10 percent goes toward institutional support, which includes things like safety and security. The remaining 9 percent is allotted for building and ground maintenance, which includes things like lighting, utilities, building and grounds maintenance and recycling.

According to VCU's 2011-2012 myTuition website, the funds from the tuition and fees increase will help alleviate the loss of federal and state funding as well as support limited increases in funding for more faculty, library materials, student recruitment, scholarships and research.

The tuition increase will not cover new construction projects, dining services, housing, parking or campus artwork.

The \$700 increase for in-state students reduced the university's \$41 million shortfall to less than \$8 million. The remaining costs can be covered by federal stimulus funds, though these funds will not be available after the first quarter of 2012. **CT**

Richmond Health Inspections: Shafer Dining Center (excluding Market-810 To Go)

Last inspection: April 20, 2010

Three critical violations, nine non-critical violations

Critical violations (corrected during inspection)

- Interior of plastic bin that holds silverware under Field of Greens observed dirty/soiled
- Three pans of ground beef and two pans of rice observed at improper hot-holding temperature
- Faucet hose lines under constant pressure and not equipped with proper backflow prevention device

Non-critical violations (corrected during inspection)

- Bag of potatoes stored on floor
- Wiping cloths stored on countertop
- Oven racks stored on floor of Fan Fare

Non-critical violations (not corrected during inspection)

- Spray heads on the automatic dish machine are not properly clean and are clogged
- Sides of two ice machines are dusty
- Rice storage bin and paper towel dispenser at Fan Fare observed soiled
- Drain line beneath conveyer line observed leaking
- Damaged wall in the corner of Fan Fare
- Dirty/soiled floors beneath drink-in-a-box system and two-door refrigerator at Fan Fare. Ceiling above dish machine has an accumulation of dust near vent.

Michael Martin, a VCU ARAMARK manager, said, "I would characterize our relationship with the Health Department as outstanding."

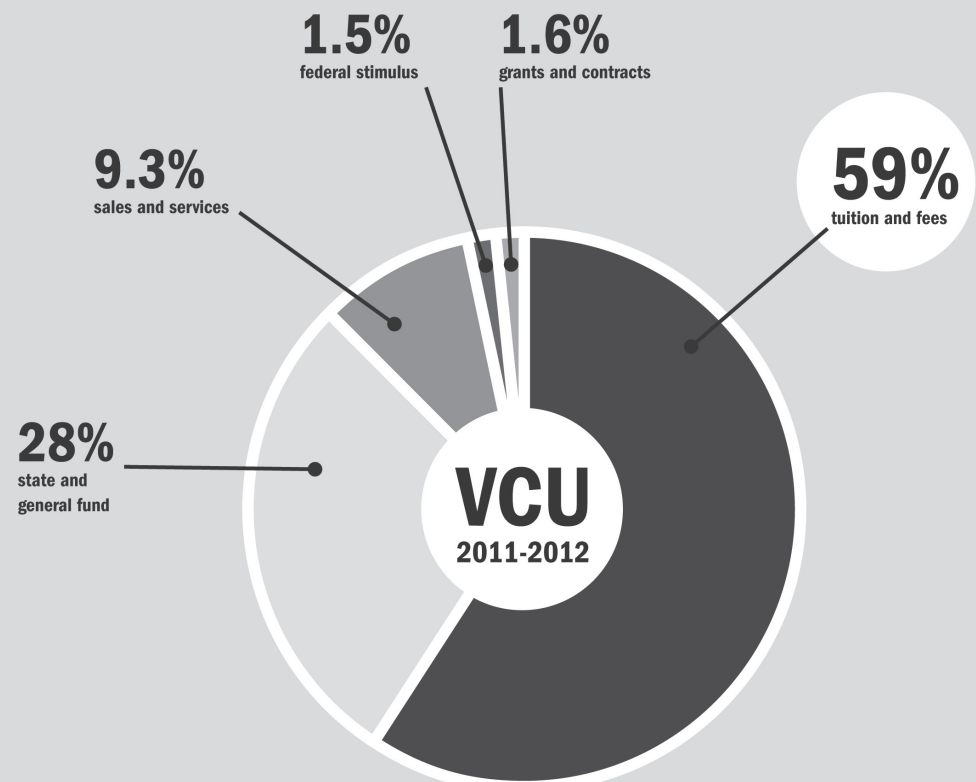
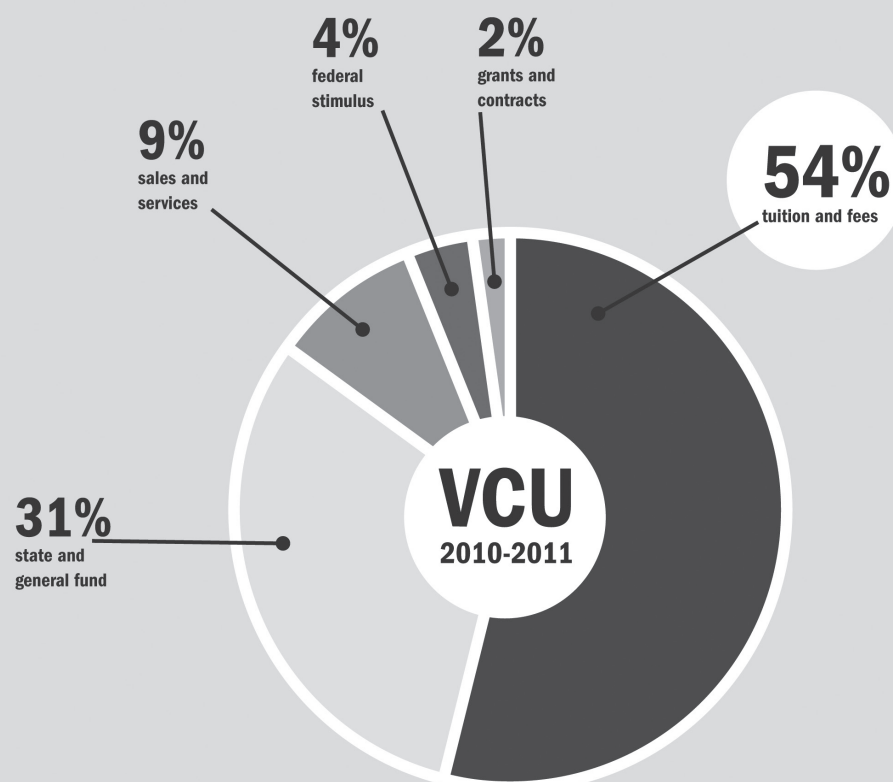
Martin has been with VCU for seven years and in those seven years, no VCU food locations have failed a state health inspection.

"When you look at those criticals, they're not anything major they would shut you down for," Martin said.

According to Martin, everything that can be corrected during the inspection without interrupting service is corrected.

In addition to state health inspections, VCU requires all 40 to 50 managers to be ServSafe certified, which is a food handling certification. VCU also works with a third-party inspector, EcoSure, to have inspections between state-mandated inspections.

VCU Funding Where VCU's budget comes from



From VCU's 2011-2012 University Budget Plan and Tuition and Fees



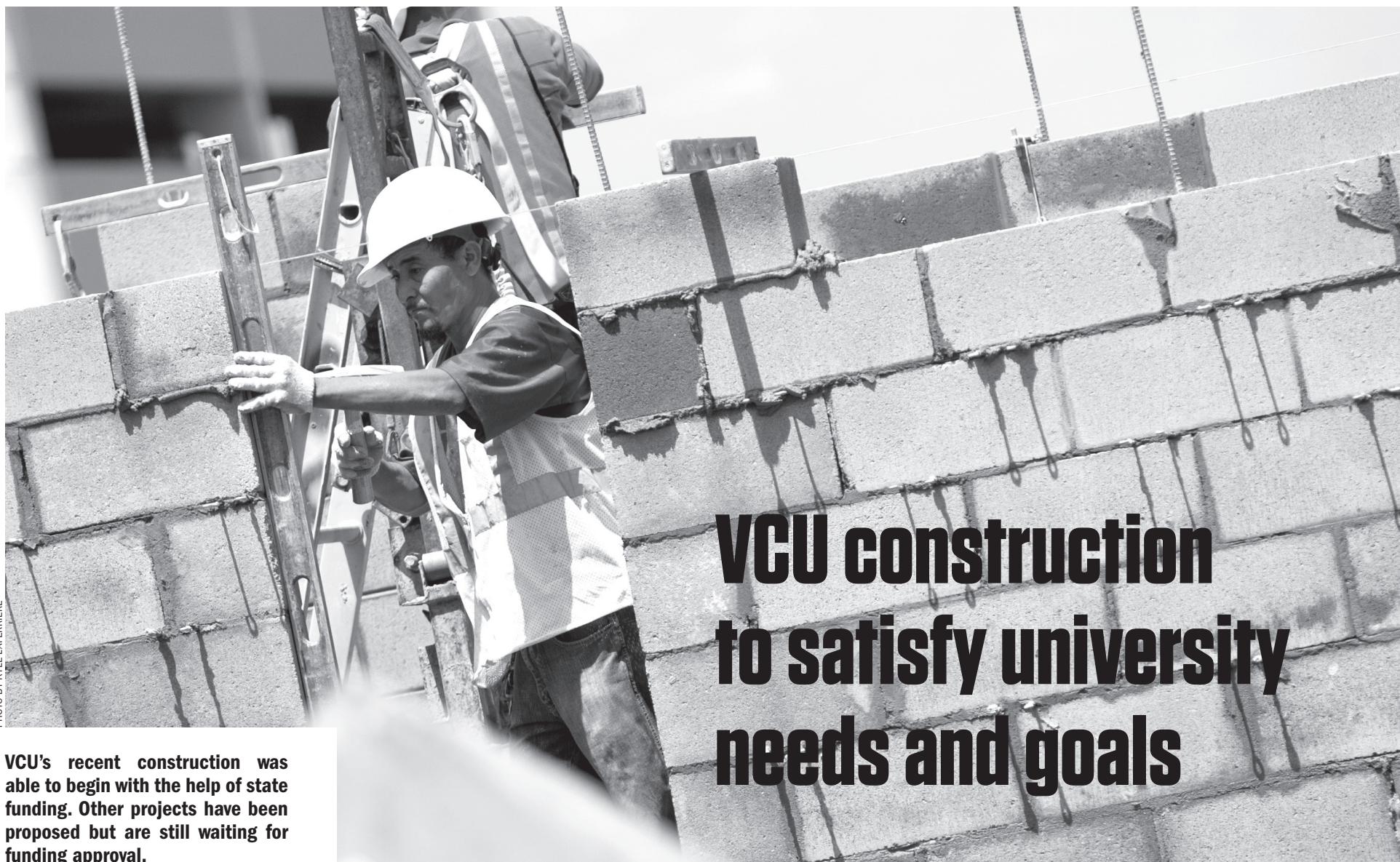


PHOTO BY KYLE LAFERRIERE

VCU's recent construction was able to begin with the help of state funding. Other projects have been proposed but are still waiting for funding approval.

Mechelle Hankerson News Editor

Kate Sandy's daughter will begin this fall as a VCU freshman living in a dorm. Sandy and her daughter live in the area and were looking into the possibility of commuting come next year, but with VCU's most recent bout of construction, it may not be necessary.

"I think it's really important to be part of a college campus, whether you commute or live on campus," Sandy said. "(My daughter) has the ability to live on campus, so (she's going to) try it out."

Sandy said, specifically of new housing and parking garages, that the new construction is a way for the school to accommodate students' needs while showcasing the school's growth.

On Grace Street, VCU has begun construction on a parking deck and new student housing with local restaurant and hookah lounge, Sahara, between the two projects.

According to Brian Ohlinger, associate vice president of VCU Facilities Management, the school did offer the owners money to acquire the property, but was unable to buy the property.

"We offered above the official appraisal in an effort to acquire the property, but the owner wanted much more than we could reasonably offer," Ohlinger said.

According to the online Richmond City Real Estate Assessor, the land Sahara sits on is worth \$616,000 and the building is worth \$219,000, making the total appraisal of the property \$835,000.

"(The property) wasn't essential; it would've been nice, but it wasn't essential

(to our projects)," Ohlinger said.

The West Grace Street South residence hall was put forth in accordance with VCU's 2004 master site plan, which outlines different projects regarding the physical plant of both of VCU's campuses. According to dean of student affairs Reuban Rodriguez, projects must also work with VCU's strategic plan and from there, they are prioritized. If the projects require state funding, they are then presented to state legislature through the six-year capital plan.

"Typically ... in the six-year plan, we don't have the funding, but (it shows the state legislature) our priorities," Ohlinger said.

Not all projects are funded through state funds. Some are a mixture of private and public, and others, like residence halls and parking decks, rely on future revenue generated from those who use the facilities.

On the MCV campus, a new school of medicine building has been in construction for a year and a half and will be finished within the next year and a half. According to Rodriguez, the building is funded through public and private funds, with the McGlothlin family providing one of the largest gifts in VCU history to the construction of the building (\$25 million). Rodriguez said that the new building will be named for them.

"There hasn't been a lot of funding from the state because of the economic conditions right now," Ohlinger said. "We'll see how this session goes this year and what we get, but our number one priority is the expansion of Cabell library."

VCU construction to satisfy university needs and goals

Projects are prioritized to fulfill VCU's strategic plan, which details goals the university hopes to achieve over a certain amount of time.

Rodriguez said the West Grace Street South residence hall, the MCV School of Medicine building and the parking deck all relate to goals put forth in the strategic plan.

"VCU wanted to intentionally increase the number of medical students that come every year," Rodriguez said. "Not only in Virginia, but across the country, there's a shortage of doctors ... so by finishing that building ... we will be able to ... increase the number of seats (at the medical school)."

Parking decks will provide more parking for faculty and students while new residence halls will help improve student services.

"For many years, we continue to have students who want to live on campus in VCU-owned residence halls," Rodriguez said.

He added that the halls currently under construction will be finished by this time next year. VCU also recently received approval to build a similar residence hall on the north side of Grace Street, across from the current project. Rodriguez said that hall should be open in two years.

Suan Vo, a rising sophomore at VCU, said student housing is one of the things that VCU should focus on with its construction and future plans for the campus.

"I think more students look for having their own place, so if VCU were to provide more buildings that were more

like apartment housing, I think students would like it," Vo said.

Rodriguez also said that, within the first week of July, construction on a new state-funded classroom building for the School of Social Work and English department will begin near the VV surface parking lot. The project has been four years in the making, and while the concept of the building was approved, funding was not.

While VCU has faced state and federal budget cuts, construction costs are not affected by the same cuts. **CT**

VCU's complete master site plan and six-year capital plan can be accessed online at the facilities management website (fmd.vcu.edu)

VCU's strategic plan can be accessed online at future.vcu.edu.

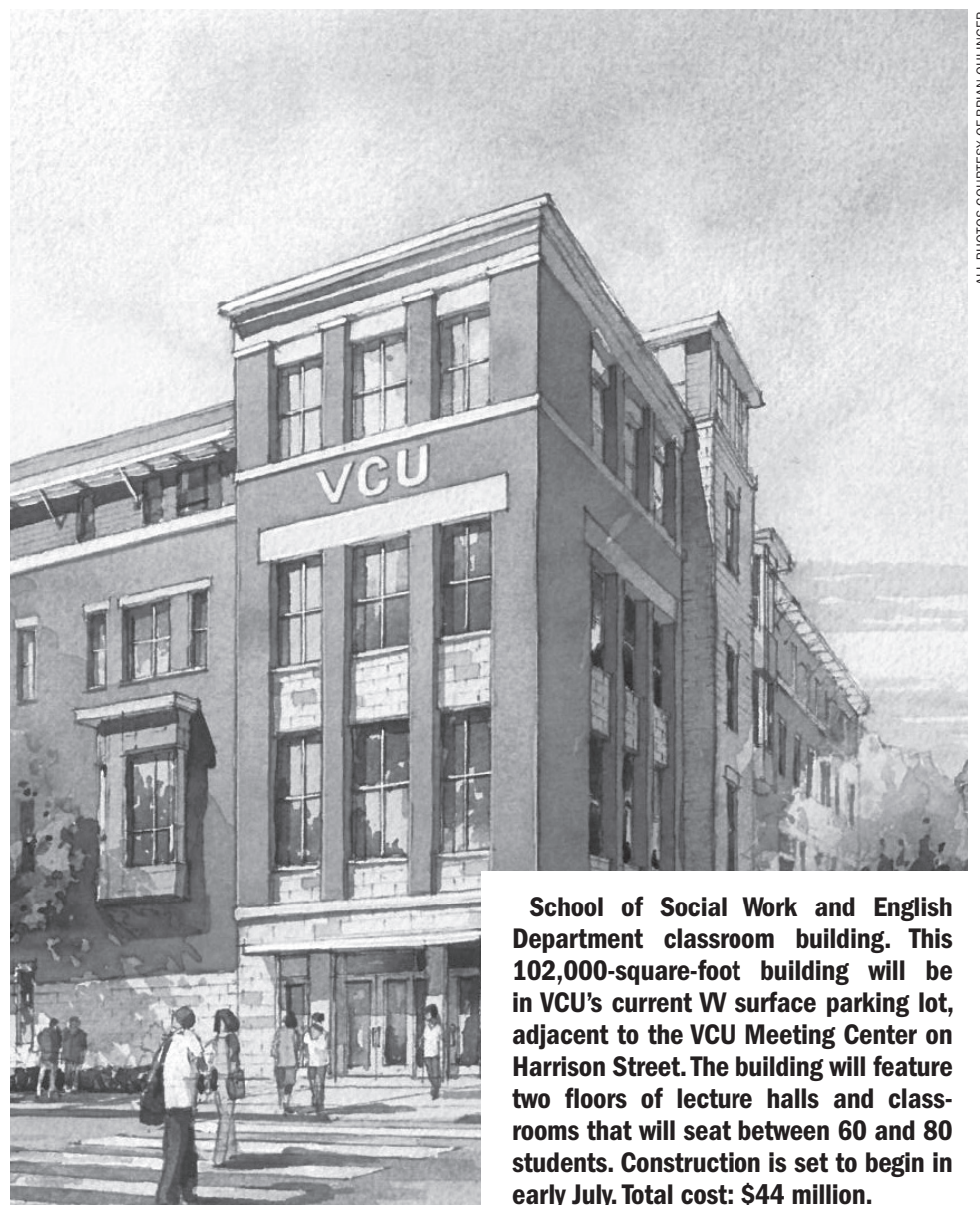




Information Commons and James Branch-Cabell Library renovations. The first addition to Cabell, and VCU's first addition of library space since Cabell's opening in 1970, will feature an 82,000-square-foot addition and an 80,000-square-foot renovation. The addition will house more group study rooms, online reference materials, audio-visual materials and conferencing and distance learning materials. Total cost: \$47.4 million.



In addition to improving student and information services, VCU is planning new parking garages, including one already in construction at Laurel Street (above) and future deck on Henry Street (below).



School of Social Work and English Department classroom building. This 102,000-square-foot building will be in VCU's current VV surface parking lot, adjacent to the VCU Meeting Center on Harrison Street. The building will feature two floors of lecture halls and classrooms that will seat between 60 and 80 students. Construction is set to begin in early July. Total cost: \$44 million.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN OHLINGER



SPORTS

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The aftermath of VCU's trip to the Final Four • 6

Getting to know the 2011 men's basketball recruits • 8

The Final Four effect

Faculty & Alumni

Adam Stern
Executive Editor

Considering it was always going to take months, if not years, to figure out the exact effect of VCU's Final Four run, you could understand why Sybil Halloran was a bit bemused the first time she was asked how big of an impact the run would have.

"Twelve hours after the Sweet 16 game," Halloran said with a smile.

Halloran is director of undergraduate admissions at VCU, and she, like so many of her fellow faculty, was just one of tens if not hundreds of VCU employees that were thrust into the middle of a wild – albeit wonderful – couple of weeks during the Rams' Final Four run.

A few months later, Halloran was able to reflect upon the past and perhaps more importantly, start to look toward the future of what the Rams' run will translate to as she talked to the Commonwealth Times in her office on Franklin Street on a steamy, late-June afternoon.

What's assumed by most is that VCU's foray into the Final Four will be a big benefit to the school. The question that remains, though, is how much and how soon?

"Because of the timing of the Final Four ... it was too late to have much of an impact on applications (for fall of 2011)," Halloran said. "What it's potentially doing is affecting how many students choose to enroll."

"Based on what we're seeing – students who are saying yes once accepted – we have seen an increase."

No shocker there. And in terms of prospective students for beyond this upcoming fall, the potential numbers are encouraging as well. On a normal day, VCU.edu, VCU's strictly academic website usually receives 3 million hits a day. On the day VCU mowed down Kansas to reach the Final Four, the website hit a mind-numbing 11.2 million hits.

"That was not the athletics website; that's to admissions, about VCU, where is VCU," said VCU's director of public relations Anne Buckley. "Stuff like that, you don't get that interaction and interest normally, and it really speaks to what having a team go that far does for you."

It's also a big money maker. And after the Rams' run, VCU Barnes & Noble manager Amy Randolph knows that as well as anybody.

In a two-week span from when VCU reached the Sweet 16 to when they were knocked out of the Final Four, the bookstore sold as much merchandise as they usually do in a year. By the end of June, they had finally sold out of all 65,000 tournament-related tee-shirts that were originally priced at \$20 a pop then went down to \$5 after the initial buzz.

"We sold everything we have," said Randolph.

Presumably, the Final Four run will also extend it's helping hand all the way to VCU's alumni association. Alumni were a vastly visible presence at the team's six different games held throughout March and early April, and according to John Blohm, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations at VCU, hopefully that trend should continue.

"It's hard to predict the long-term effects, but we hope our alumni will continue to be proud of their alma mater and help spread the word about the university," Blohm said. "(The players) ... gave us the opportunity to tell the VCU story of hard work, determination and will to succeed." **CT**

Coaches & Players

Jim Swing
Sports Editor

Nearly three months after the fact, when asked what his favorite moment was during VCU's unforgettable run to the Final Four, Shaka Smart is rendered nearly speechless.

"Why don't you ask my wife?" he utters, attempting to pass the buck. He lets out a breath of fresh air and reminisces over the month that changed his life and the program he represents.

The second-year head coach collects his thoughts, lets out a smile and releases a direct answer.

"The most pure joy was after we beat Florida State; because of the five wins, it was a close game," he said.

Smart has always been one to entertain a challenge so naturally; he selects the toughest moment his team faced in the NCAA Tournament.

"They took the lead and then Brad hit that shot; that was the one time that, if you watch our bench after Rob blocked the shot and we won the game, that was the one moment where just pure joy and just unrefined enthusiasm happens."

The aftermath has turned Smart and the Rams' organization into a brand name. "VCU" and the term "upset" have practically gone hand in hand. A National Spelling Bee commentator even referred to a Cinderella contestant as "the VCU" of the event.

But Smart embraces the exposure he and his program have received.

"Because of the media attention and because of us being on TV so much, we're a lot more recognizable," he said. "You go out to eat and a lot of people want to buy you dinner now, which is fine."

Smart is not the only piece of VCU's conspicuous puzzle that has felt the rippling effects of its journey to the Final Four.

— *continued on page 8*





Rising junior Troy Daniels and former Ram Ed Nixon help Shaka Smart lift the Southwest Regional trophy in San Antonio this past March.

PHOTO BY KYLE LAFERRIERE

“I think all four of those guys are going to end up playing for money this next year, which is a great thing to play the game you love and get paid to do it; it’s terrific.”



In just two years as head coach, Shaka Smart has a CBI Championship and a Final Four appearance under his belt.

— continued from page 6

All three of his assistant coaches received interview for coaching positions at other Division I programs.

Mike Rhoades was looked at by Boston University for the vacant head coaching position. Purdue and Louisville examined Will Wade for an open assistant coaching job.

But for one, he found the perfect fit.

After 21 years of coaching at the high school and college level at seven different locations, Mike Jones always teetered with the notion of becoming a head coach.

In the last five years, interviews came and went, but he chose to keep a selective mindset, turning down multiple offers.

Then, with help from a Final Four appearance on his resume, Jones received an offer from Radford to fill its head-coaching void he just couldn’t pass up.

“It helped me a lot,” Jones said. “I think people recognize that it’s not easy

to get there, so when our team made it there obviously everyone was looked at in a different light so I think it certainly helped raise my awareness with other ADs around the country.”

Jones said that during an interview with the hiring committee, the run was brought to attention and that it’s not uncommon for him to be approached about the historic run throughout Radford’s campus.

“It makes me smile every time I think about it,” he said. “I’ve worked in the profession for a long time – over 20 years playing and coaching at the high school and college level – so it was very gratifying.”

As the eligibility expired for VCU’s four seniors, a look to a future playing professional is of the inevitable.

For Jamie Skeen – considered a potential NBA Draft pick – the possibility of even being tossed into the conversation would never have happened unaccompanied by his performance in March.



PHOTO BY KYLE LAFFERIERE

Bradford Burgess will be VCU’s lone senior this upcoming season.

“It helped me out a lot,” he said. “Without it I wouldn’t be here, I wouldn’t even be here talking about it.”

After going undrafted in the NBA Draft, Skeen set his sights overseas, signing a contract with ASVEL Basketball Club in Lyon, France.

With help from VCU’s march to the Final Four, Smart is confident that all four of his graduated seniors will play at the next level.

“The words Final Four will forever be connected to them, particularly for the seniors who really led the way,” Smart said. “I think all four of those guys are going to end up playing for money this next year, which is a great thing to play the game you love and get paid to do it; it’s terrific.”

In Smart’s mind, the words Final Four don’t represent the past; they represent what’s possible in the future.

With freshman Rob Brandenburg, DJ Haley and Juvonte Reddic receiving quality minutes throughout postseason

play, the experience is irreplaceable.

“When you go to the Final Four, when you advance in the NCAA Tournament, it gives you a kind of feel for what you’ve got to do to win big,” Smart said. “That’s something everyone on our team gains, whether they played 30 minutes or whether they played five minutes. Now hopefully a lot of the guys that played lesser minutes will be able to step up and expand their role.”

For Smart, it’s not about the glitz and glamour. It’s not about unveiling a Final Four banner at the Siegel Center at the beginning of next season. It’s about staying motivated and building on it.

“We want to continue to build this program and make it bigger and better than it’s ever been,” he said. “We got to the NCAA Tournament. We went to the Final Four. When you do that, you’re hungry to do it again and go further.” **CT**

What's in store: Meet the 2011 men's basketball recruits

Quinn Casteel
Assistant Sports Editor

Teddy Okereafor, point guard

Over the past four seasons, Joey Rodriguez made the point guard position the most stable spot on the floor for VCU. But with Rodriguez out, many have wondered how Shaka Smart will fill the void. At 6 feet 4 inches tall, Okereafor is a different breed of point guard than the 5-foot-11-inch Rodriguez, but his talent indicates he may have the biggest impact of the four freshmen on the roster. Okereafor is originally from London, but he came to the U.S. for high school where he attended Christchurch High School on the Maryland border. While playing for Christchurch, he won Virginia Prep League Player of the Year and was also named First-Team All-State. Okereafor's speed and ability to distribute will allow him to compete with returning point guard Darius Theus for the starting job.

Briante Weber, shooting guard

With Weber, the comparison to 2011 graduate Ed Nixon is an easy one. Weber, like Nixon, is an undersized guard with a light frame best known for being a shutdown defender. At 6 feet 3 inches tall and 175 pounds, Weber is a fearless player who has the ability to put up big numbers in every area of the stat sheet. He averaged 17 points, eight rebounds and four steals at Great Bridge High School before transferring to Fork Union Military Academy last season. Even with the departure of Nixon and Brandon Rozzell, Weber is joining a VCU backcourt that is still loaded with talent. The presence of Bradford Burgess and last season's freshman standout Rob Brandenburg will ensure that Weber will have to earn all of his minutes this year.

Treveon Graham, small forward

Graham committed to VCU back in August 2010, then watched his future team advance all the way to the Final Four which only validated his decision even further. He comes to VCU from St. Mary's Ryken High School, a member of the prestigious WCAC basketball conference. Graham joins the likes of Georgetown University's Jason Clark and the University of North Carolina's Kendall Marshall as players to come out of the conference over the last couple years. His experience playing with and against elite talent will give him a head start over most young players throughout the CAA. Graham is a big, strong, explosive scorer who averaged 18 points and 10 rebounds per game in high school. Look for him to have some big offensive games in Smart's HAVOC offense.

Jarred Guest, power forward

A native of Columbia, S.C., Guest was naturally courted by SEC programs such as Clemson, but he decided to sign with VCU after meeting with Shaka Smart. He is a long, lean power forward at 6 feet 8 inches tall and 190 pounds, and he fits the Jamie Skeen mold to perfection. Despite being slightly undersized, he is an outstanding athlete who can get put-backs around the rim and plays well along the baseline and on the perimeter. Like Skeen, Guest is an excellent three-point shooter for a big man. He has recently developed into a more complete player, and look for that development to continue as he begins to bulk up under VCU strength and conditioning coach Daniel Roose.

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VCU Department of Emergency Medicine Public Disclosure

Everyone is at risk for Traumatic Brain Injury

Learn about a traumatic brain injury study that may affect you or someone you know. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is sudden damage to the brain caused by an outside force to the head — such as a car crash, a fall or from something hitting the head.

ProTECT™ III, a research study conducted by physicians at the VCU Medical Center, is underway and will determine if progesterone, a hormone normally found in our bodies, can reduce the amount of brain damage caused from a TBI. Previous studies suggest that progesterone, given immediately after a TBI, may help treat brain injuries by reducing brain swelling and damage.

Normally, researchers get permission (consent) before a person can be included in a study. A person with a TBI will not be able to give consent at the time of injury. Since TBIs must be treated quickly, there might not be enough time to locate and talk to the person's legal guardian about the study, so it's possible that a person might be enrolled in the study without his/her legal guardian's consent. This is called "Exception from Informed Consent" (EFIC).

If you would like more information about the study or would like to decline participation in advance, please go to the study website or contact us at the VCU Medical Center by e-mail or phone. We would be happy to answer questions or to send you a "ProTECT III Declined" bracelet that you will need to wear for the duration of the study.

To learn more, visit our website at www.protectiii.com, call us at (804) 828-1456 or email us at protect@vcu.edu

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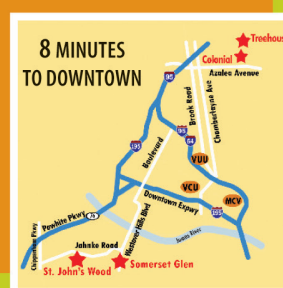
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SPECTRUM

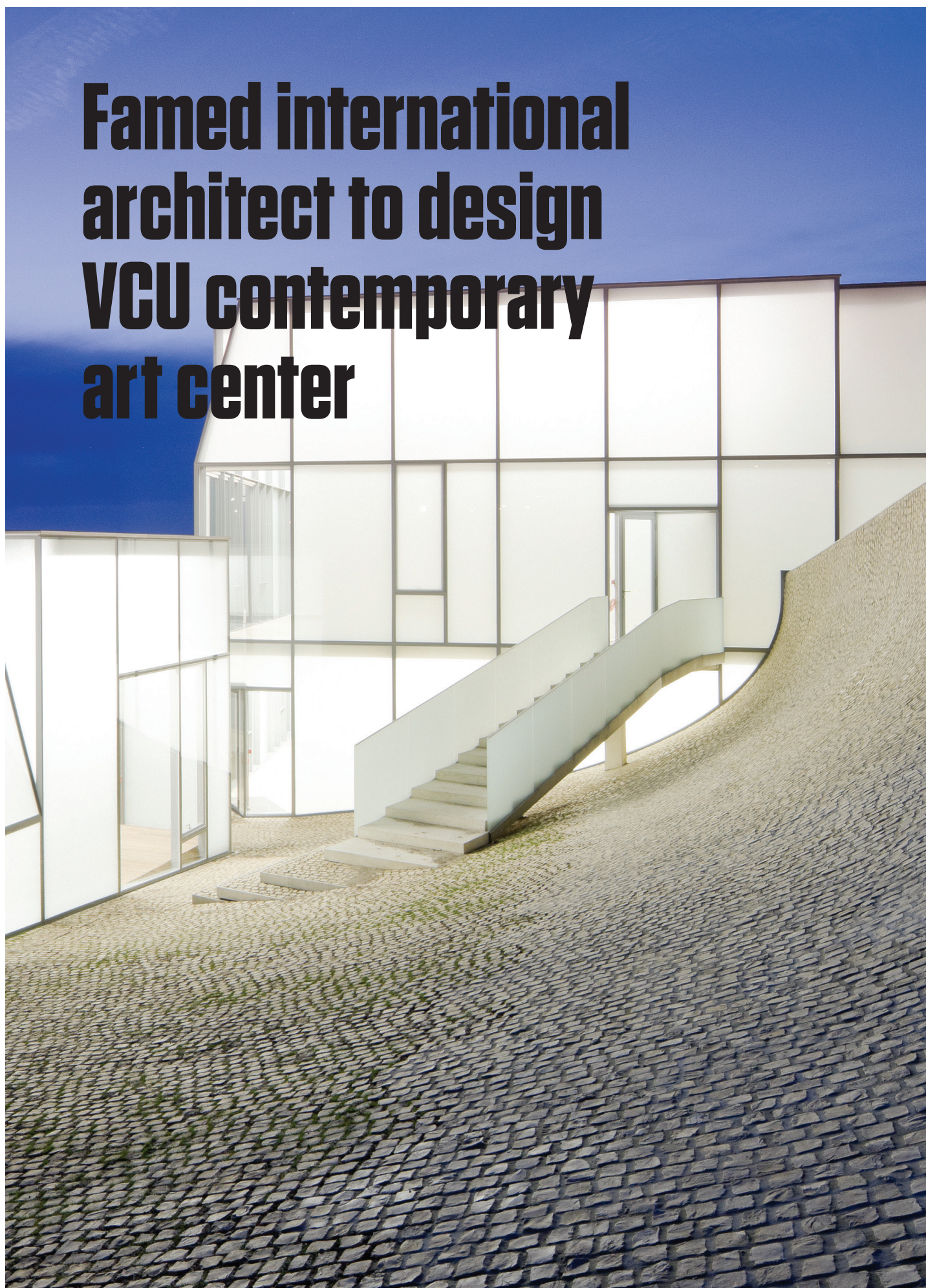
In this section:

Board of Visitors selects architect for contemporary art center • 11-12

A summertime reality check • 13

Plan your summer with foolproof CT astrology • 14

Famed international architect to design VCU contemporary art center



Nick Bonadies

Spectrum Editor

Internationally renowned architect Steven Holl, declared “America’s Best Architect” by Time Magazine, has been slated to design a major new contemporary art and cultural center on the VCU campus.

Holl, who Dean of the VCU School of the Arts Joseph H. Seipel called “one of the most inspired and significant architects of our time” in a press release, has been firmly canonized by the field’s most prestigious awards, publications and exhibitions as a central figure of modern architecture. His numerous international commissions “offer a new, luminous model for buildings”, according to Time Magazine, “that satisfy the spirit as well as the eye.”

One New York Times commentator, describing Holl’s 2007 addition to the Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo. as “a near-perfect work” and “the kind of project that cements an architect’s place in the pantheon,” also called Holl’s visionary approach one that “should be studied by anyone who sets out to design ... from this point forward.”

The VCU Board of Visitors approved a \$2.8 million contract with New York- and Beijing-based Steven Holl Architects in May alongside next academic year’s tuition rates. VCU associate vice president of facilities management Brian J. Ohlinger said the board of visitors came to a final decision out of 64 initial proposals.

As part of their contract, Steven Holl Architects will be responsible for helping to raise funds for construction before drafting conceptual and schematic designs.

No timetable for construction, which is dependent on the success of private fundraising, has been set.

The projected \$19.3 million Institute for Contemporary Art, or ICA, will take a spot currently inhabited by Parking Lot QQ on Broad and Belvidere streets, one of the most heavily traversed entrances to the VCU area. VCU Board of Visitors member Stuart C. Siegel said in an official statement that the building will form a “gateway to the university from the east.”

Plans for the 32,000-square-foot institute include approximately 8,000 square feet of gallery and installation space for both VCUarts exhibits and traveling exhibits. The design will also feature classrooms, offices, a 210-seat auditorium, archival study space, a gift shop and a café.

Seipel, who said in a press release he was “honored” to have Holl leading the project, said he was confident the Insti-

—continued on page 12

One of Holl’s recently constructed projects, Cité de l’Océan et du Surf, Biarritz, France, which opened on June 26. Holl’s architectural firm was selected by VCU Board of Visitors in May to design a new Institute for Contemporary Art on Broad and Belvidere.

PHOTO BY IWAN BAAH





PHOTO BY IWAN BAAN

Holl's past commissions have included projects for museums and universities, as well as residences and office structures like the Horizontal Skyscraper-Vanke Center in Shenzhen, China.



PHOTO BY ANDY RYAN

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO. This addition to the existing museum, according to a New York Times review, "secured (Holl's) place in the pantheon" of American architects.

"We (Steven Holl Architects) envision a new architecture as a catalyst between the public and the great School of the Arts."

Continued from page 11

tute for Contemporary Art will become "an iconic building" for the university and the city and will "find its place as a prominent example of Steven Holl's contributions to the history of architecture."

Holl himself, in a statement, said that VCU's Monroe Park Campus presents "unique opportunities for the Institute of Contemporary Art to act as a social condenser," adding that he and his design team "envision a new architecture as a catalyst between the public and the great School of the Arts."

Steven Holl Architects' most recently completed projects include the Knut Hamsun Center in Norway, the Herning Museum of Contemporary Art in Denmark, as well as the Horizontal Skyscraper and the Linked Hybrid complex in China. The Horizontal Skyscraper and Linked Hybrid complex are particularly noted, as with much of Holl's work, for their achievements in ecological sustainability, centrally incorporating such features as green roofs, geothermal heating, photovoltaic panels and storm water recycling.

Past work with universities includes the Glasgow School of Art, New York University's Department of Philosophy, Higgins Hall at the Pratt Institute, and others. CT

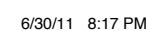
View a slideshow of Steven Holl Architects' notable work and listen to a WCVE interview with Dean Joseph Seipel on the new Institute for Contemporary Art at <http://arts.vcu.edu/ica/>.





This is quite a difficult question to answer without knowing the details of your summertime activities. To ensure that I answer your question accurately, I ask that you please refer to the flow chart below:

ARE YOU WASTING YOUR SUMMER?



TOP TEN

free things todo

in *Richmond*

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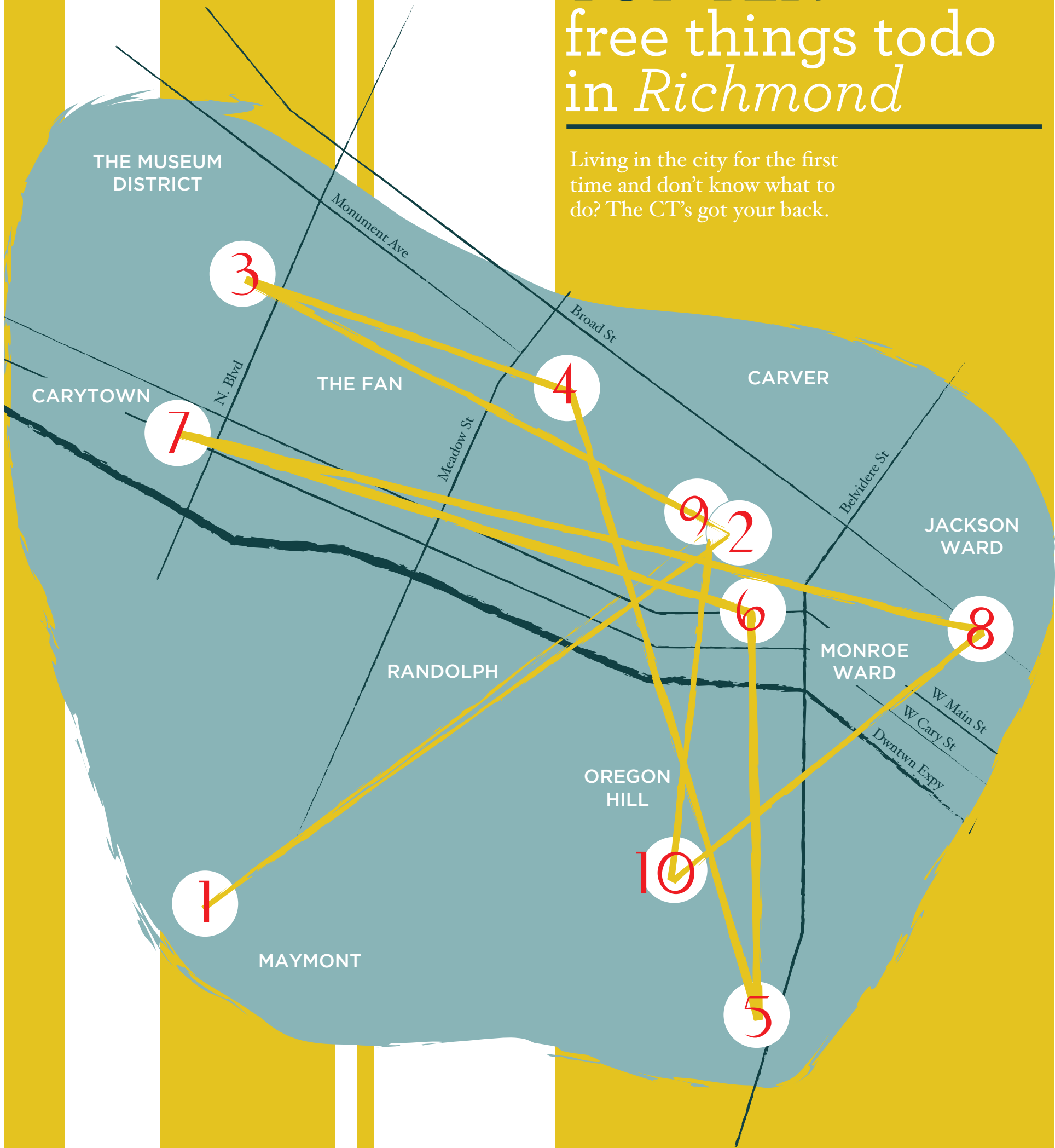


ILLUSTRATION BY MARLEIGH CULVER



1
The Mansion of James and Sallie Pooly is the centerpiece of the 100-acre Maymont estate.

3
The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts was the only venue on the East Coast to display Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris this past Spring.



7
The 83-year-old Byrd Theatre was originally built in 1928 and still shows movies in its original facility.

10
“Knock! Knock!” from the collection of Paul and Sarah Monroe will be an exhibit in the Anderson Gallery until July 31st.



PHOTOS FROM THE CT ARCHIVE

1
Maymont: Only a 10-minute drive from campus, this 100-acre estate-turned-park is a photographer’s dream. With stunning gardens, a wildlife exhibit and some of the best tree-climbing in Richmond, a daytrip to Maymont is the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. The park is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round.

2
VCU’s No Shame Variety Show: Every Friday night, theatre junkies, self-proclaimed comedians and other miscellaneous people that may or may not consider themselves talented gather at the Shafer Street Playhouse (next door to Shafer court) to participate in or watch the No Shame Variety Show. Anyone can perform in the feature; sign-up sheets are available at the Singleton Center for the Performing Arts.

3
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA): The Picasso exhibit may be gone, but the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts still boasts a vast collection of work from different origins, styles and periods. A quick bike ride up to Boulevard is all it takes to visit.

4
Monument Avenue: In 2007, Monument Avenue was named one of the 10 great streets in America by the American Planning Association. The cobblestone street features statues of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and Richmond native and tennis great Arthur Ashe.

5
Belle Isle: This outdoor getaway features bike and hiking trails, bouldering and rock-climbing and the best way to escape the blistering Richmond heat: access to the James River. Belle Isle is a 25-minute walk from the Monroe park campus, on which you will cross a suspension footbridge that provides a picturesque view of the downtown Richmond skyline.

6
Street Drummers: If there is a show at the Landmark Theatre, bet on street drummers playing at the corner of West Main and Laurel streets. There’s no mistaking the clamor of drumsticks on plastic buckets and trashcan lids. For a first-time city dweller, it’s somewhat of a novelty.

7
Byrd Theatre: Located in the heart of Carytown, the Byrd Theatre offers cheap admission to second-running movies not yet released on DVD. Every Saturday night, the “world-famous” Bob Gullege on the Mighty Wurlitzer organ precedes the movie screenings. It’s not free, but \$2 dollars is hardly a steep fee for the experience.

8
First Fridays Art Walk: A variety of galleries, boutiques, and restaurants play host to the First Friday Art Walk on (you guessed it) the first Friday of each month between 5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on East Broad Street. This is Richmond culture at its finest.

9
Hollywood Cemetery: Whether or not the ghost stories are true (they are), there’s no denying the allure of Richmond’s famous Hollywood Cemetery. Historical walking tours are offered Monday through Saturday at 10 a.m., April through October.

10
Anderson Gallery: Tucked behind Hibbs Hall, The Anderson Gallery is the place to see VCUarts students’ work. In addition to student features, the gallery regularly hosts traveling exhibits from regional and international artists.



CT HOROSCOPES | SUMMER EDITION! | Guaranteed 100% accurate

Nick Bonadies
Spectrum Editor

Aquarius

AQUARIUS – Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

JULY Awkward silences threaten to preemptively extinguish a kindling romantic relationship this month. Circumvent this by cleverly pointing out the moment as an awkward silence.

AUGUST Tattoos are for posers and pussywillows. Consider obtaining actual koi and hibiscus blooms and grafting them to your left thigh in an Edo-inspired arrangement.

PISCES – Feb. 19 – March 20

JULY Continuing to wear black jackets, bondage pants and heavy leather boots into the boiling gaping hellmouth of Richmond summer is the best way to reinforce your unique personality in the perceptions of others this month.

AUGUST What appears at first as a maddening whirlwind of obligations, deadlines, last-minute requests and neglect of your own basic functions is in fact an opportunity to see just how long you can go without remembering to buy toilet paper.

Aries

ARIES – March 21 – April 19

JULY The stars in Aries are portents of neither good nor ill fortune this month. They are, in fact, exploding balls of hydrogen and helium many millions of times the size of Earth.

AUGUST Anyone who half-jokingly compares your lot in life favorably to a Darfur war orphan's has probably never sat through a summer orientation icebreaker game themselves.

TAURUS – April 20 – May 20

JULY Your roommate has been typing on her computer really loudly at like 10 in the morning almost every day this month while you're trying to sleep. Lye her tampons.

AUGUST You will wake from a brief nap on a black metal bench to find your ass and its surrounding fabric have actually melted into the metal and fused you together as one. The good news is that, out of fear of repeated tragedy and shame from your plainly visible disfigurement, you will never attempt to publicly wear leggings as pants ever again.

Gemini

GEMINI – May 21 – June 20

JULY You are out of flutes. The only flute store in town closes in like five minutes.

AUGUST You don't ordinarily give funds to panhandlers, but your heart will break this month when a homeless person asks you for a few bucks to rent "Two Weeks Notice," with Sandra Bullock opposite Hugh Grant, the 2002 heartwarmer that explores whether it's ever too late to say "I love you."

CANCER – June 21 – July 22

JULY You will be forced to engage in a flimsy string of meaningless, mutually unsatisfying phrases this month with a perfect stranger, with the sole alternative that you both face the horror of waiting five minutes for class to start in silence and contemplation.

AUGUST Owing to cuts in federal funding, requests for wisdom and guidance from the cosmos for Cancer will be redirected to Libra until further notice.

Cancer

LEO – July 23 – Aug. 22

JULY Though the stars foretell the appearance of a warm and kind yet mysterious and darkly beautiful future lover in your life, they do so only for purposes of entertainment.

AUGUST Your hitherto effective coping mechanism of laughing in the face of tragedy will lead to your failure as a serious actor this month during an audition for the role of Otto Frank, father of Anne.

Leo

VIRGO – Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

JULY The arrival of Mars in Virgo this month results in an influx of fire energy, as manifested in the powerful life-giving blaze of our sun Sol. Gaze into it for at least an hour to channel portentous visions.

AUGUST Your life will go on pretty much the same as it always has.

Virgo

LIBRA – Sept. 23 – Oct. 22

JULY The principal climax of your life arrives this month with your appearance on NPR's *Sunday Puzzle* with New York Times Games and Puzzle Editor and NPR Puzzlemaster Will Shortz, one-third through which your phone will die.

AUGUST Owing to cuts in federal funding, requests for wisdom and guidance from the cosmos for Libra will be redirected to Cancer until further notice.

Libra

SCORPIO – Oct. 23 – Nov. 21

JULY The only thing you have to fear this month is fear itself of the men with the hammers.

AUGUST The ascent of Uranus in your sign this week will lead to the temptation to make many jokes which the stars would like to assure you they've thought of already. Yes, Uranus, like "your anus," like a butthole. You are the most clever.

Scorpio

SAGITTARIUS – Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

JULY A disturbing dream comes to you this month, which begins with a chilling, tearful confrontation with a recent ex-lover and eventually, through a series of events in the palace of Catherine the Great, Empress and Autocrat of All the Russias, culminates in a sexual encounter with a member of the sex to which you are not typically predisposed.

It will be strange and terrifying, noisy in a squelching manner, and if you're to be honest with yourself, exhilarating. This means that you will soon go on a sea journey.

AUGUST For lighter, fluffier pancakes, substitute sour cream for milk.

Sagittarius

CAPRICORN – Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

JULY Your love is a powerful thing and to be withheld from decent, God-fearing people.

AUGUST The stars are politely waiting for you to stop half-assedly whining about your summer classes so that they can continue to tell you grand adventures from backpacking across Europe the past few weeks.

CT

Capricorn



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7-8pm

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7:30-9:30pm

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8-9pm

Group Exercise Class
3-Point Contest
Medic Dodgeball
Water Exercise Class

9-10pm

Group Exercise Class
Free Throw Contest
Medic Dodgeball
Water Volleyball

10-11pm

Group Exercise Class

10-midnight

Indoor Soccer

For more information, please visit www.recsports.vcu.edu or call **804-827-1100**.

Fall Group Exercise schedule begins on August 24, free to students. Check out
our website for class times and schedules.

***For students who have not yet attended orientation, bring a photo ID such as a driver's license for your first visit.**



OPINION

In this section:

Tuition increase small but a big deal • 18
VCU's growth provides students with
endless opportunities • 19

Tuition increase logical but unfair

Shane Wade
Opinion Editor

Months before it actually happened, a number of our opinion columnists predicted the increase in tuition and discussed both the possibilities and consequences that it would have.

At the time, the potential for an increase seemed to be a distant possibility, but as of May 2011, VCU's tuition cost has increased by almost 8 percent.

While 8 percent may seem slight, it means out-of-state students will pay an additional \$1,000 and in-state students will pay an additional \$700. These amounts are significant enough that they might discourage current students already struggling to make ends meet, as well as potential students that may see the increase as a consistent trend.

Although the board of visitors' decision to increase VCU's cost of tuition is not without logic and valid reasoning, I cannot help but disagree with the underlying premise that the university's students alone should incur the cost of increased tuition as a result of the \$41 million decrease in federal and state funding. The burden ought to be shared throughout all levels of the university in order to lessen the pain, meaning that administrators and faculty members might need to take pay cuts, while students simultaneously face an increased cost of attendance or forgo certain student services.

By showing solidarity during these tough economic times, VCU will curb its growing reputation for consistently raising the cost of attendance in some manner, reassuring its students that the university is committed to providing a quality education at a reasonable cost. These steps will greatly increase the school's popularity, ensuring us a greater number of applicants in the following years and solidifying the relationship between the school and students that might feel that their academic experience here was dulled by their financial worries.

Maintaining the credibility of higher education is now more necessary than ever, as we reach a crossroads on the subject of the value of a college education. Public colleges and universities have a responsibility as educators to ensure they are doing their part to persuade people that college is worth the four years of stress and loans. A school's choice to make education more

ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH SWANN

inclusive and accessible to middle-class families has a significant influence on the state and region's economic health because a college education is so often a prerequisite for meaningful jobs. Raising tuition, or simply being viewed as a school with an unstable cost of attendance, only serves to dissuade people

from attending, inhibiting diversity in terms of economic class and isolating students from the Richmond community. VCU students, despite paying a tuition that is below state average, retain the right to protest any changes concerning the university that we find objectionable.

That right is not limited to any basketball games we lose or the annual increases in tuition we face; whatever you find objectionable, whether it be the campus cuisine, availability of classes, substandard on-campus housing or absurd university policies concerning Nerf guns, let your voice be heard

through one of the many media outlets available to you. **CT**

Unrelenting growth offers abundant opportunities

Colin Hannifin
Columnist

When I first came to VCU in the fall of 2008, I wasn't sure what to expect, even after receiving advice from my older brother, who had enrolled three years earlier. While I have found many things to respect and appreciate about VCU, I've found one defining characteristic of the university that sets it apart from others: growth.

VCU has attempted to expand almost all aspects of the university from student enrollment to respective campuses and its national profile. Since the fall of 2001, enrollment has increased from about 25,000 students to more than 32,000 students; a growth of more than 25 percent in just 10 years.

To match this growth, the university has been marching forward with its

"VCU 2020" plan. Adopted in 2004, this strategic plan outlines VCU's growth throughout the next decade, with approximately \$1 billion to be spent on new facilities alone. In my three years, I've seen endless construction around the Monroe Park campus, most notably the opening of the state-of-the-art Cary Street Gym. Construction continues, with the skeletons of new dorms and parking garages stretching over the city and the promise of even more in the years to come.

In line with its intent on expansion, VCU continually strives to raise its national profile through reputable academic success. The art program is the best public school art program in the nation and among the top five when private schools are taken into account. The VCU School of Medicine is well-respected across the nation for its

trauma center and cancer research, just to name a few of its flagship programs. The engineering and business schools sport programs that are rising to be among the best in the nation. The College of Humanities and Sciences sports dozens of majors, each one uniquely difficult, demanding and respected. But perhaps nothing has done as much to raise VCU's stature as the men's basketball team's improbable run to the Final Four this past year.

All of these developments are shifting the perception of VCU. No longer do non-Richmonders respond with a blank stare when I tell them I go to "VCU." They're learning that VCU means something.

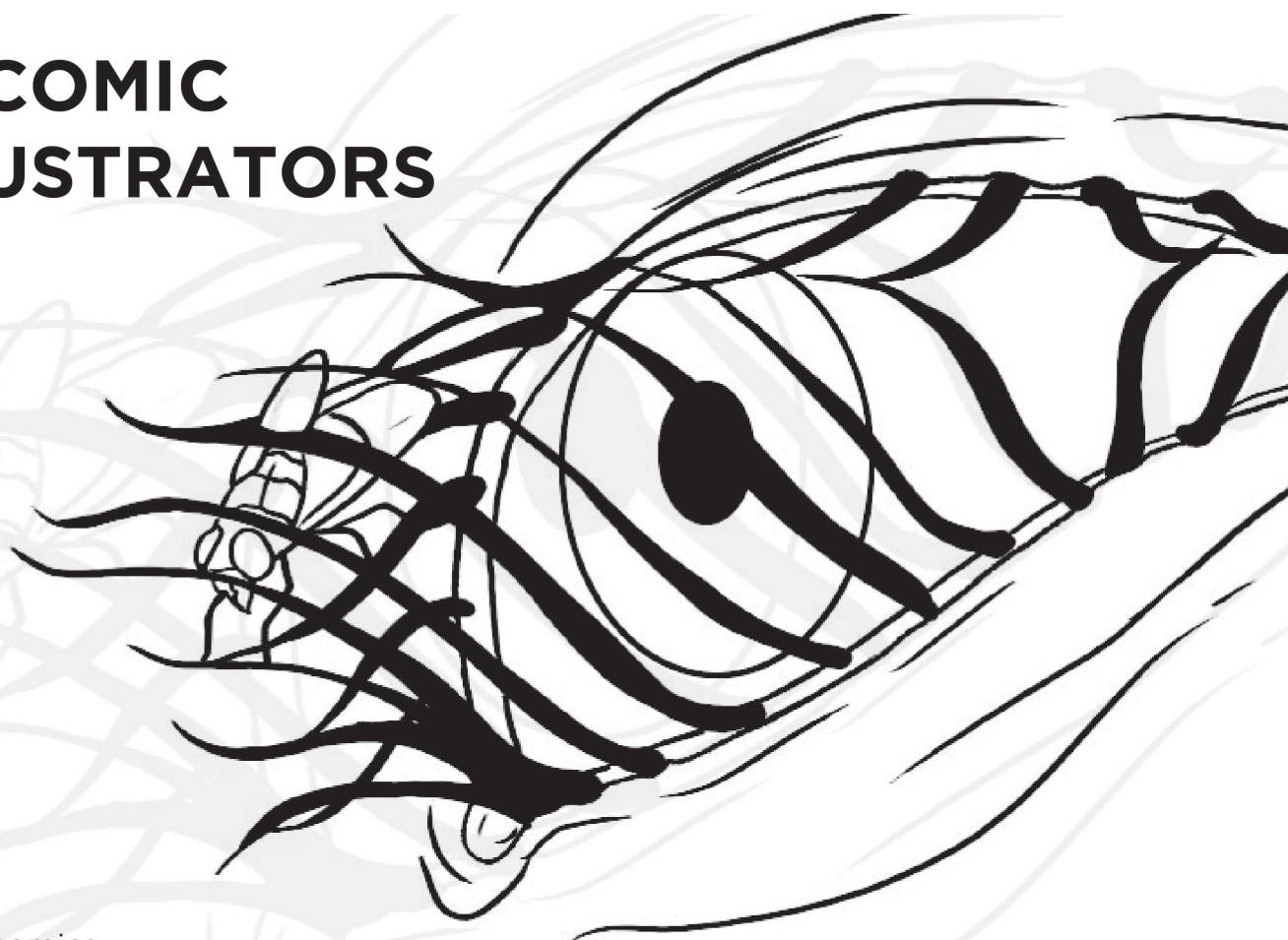
This recognition has massive implications for current and new students alike. Come to campus in the fall, and it is impossible to miss the crowds that cascade through the Commons or stream into Shafer. In-state tuition has increased by more than 20 percent since 2010 to cover the loss of federal stimulus funding and our cost of growth. And while it's easy for individuals to feel lost in a university that seems to be expanding in every imaginable direction, this growth

has more positive effects on students than negative ones. While the tuition increase is regrettable (and more complicated than most people realize), it is still among the lowest in Virginia. But most of all, this growth means one thing to the current and prospective students of VCU: opportunity.

Opportunity at VCU is nearly unlimited, no matter what academic field you are in. As a growing school, with numerous programs that are rising in stature, there are plenty of places to make your mark and help shape this university for the better. There are many unique programs to be found at VCU and an unmatched breadth of diversity. Only VCU has programs like the da Vinci Center, a center focused on innovation, or the Brandcenter, the nation's top graduate school for advertising and marketing.

These are the best known of VCU's academic programs, but far from the only ones. There are countless opportunities here in the middle of Richmond; it's just up to us students to go find them and make them ours. **CT**

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