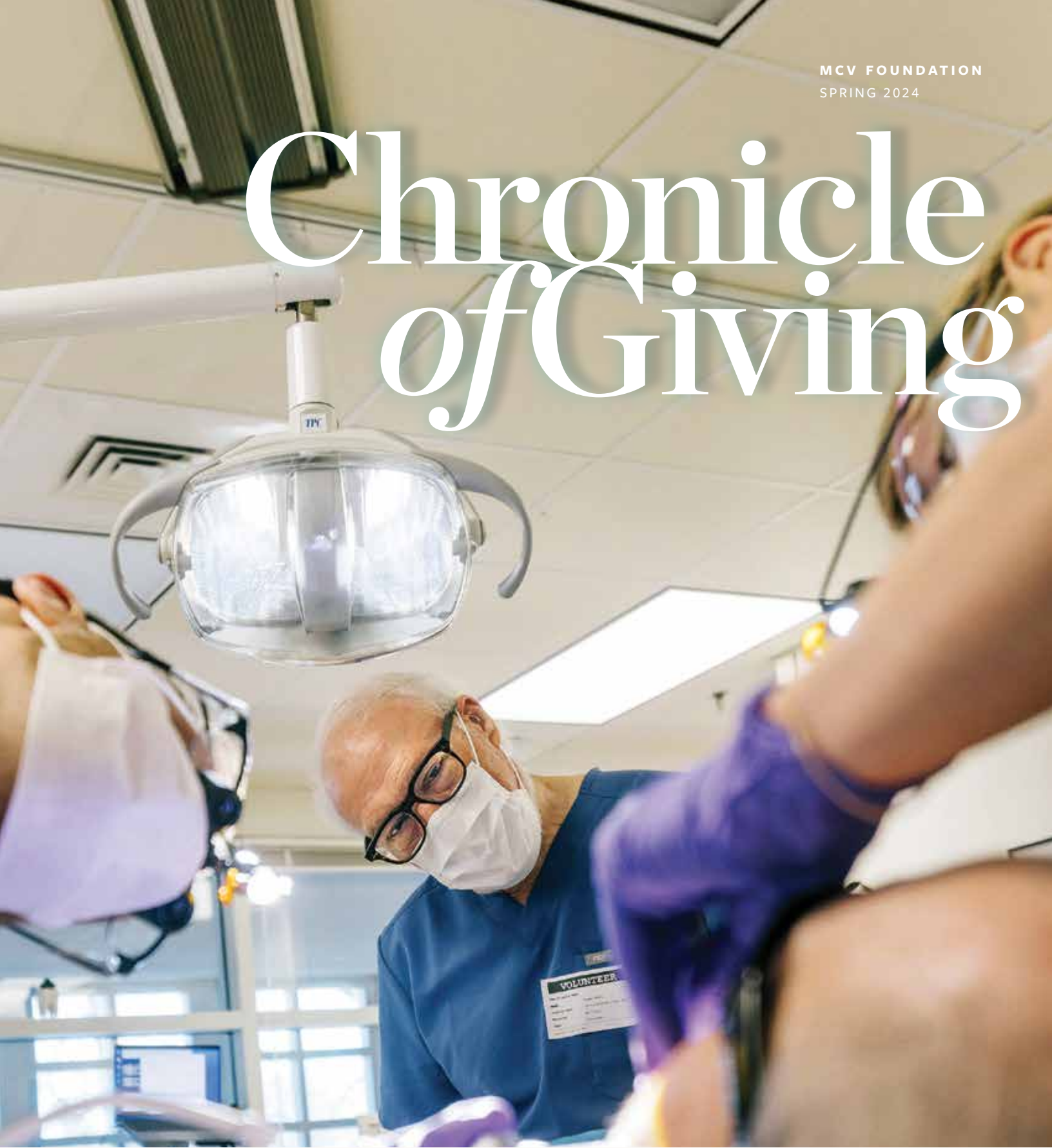


Chronicle of Giving



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A DECADE OF DISCOVERY
Event series marks 10 years of raising awareness and friends.

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HEALING & HOME
The Doorways celebrates 40 years between healing and home.

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Dear friends,

Welcome to our first *Chronicle of Giving* of 2024. This issue finds you as spring once again brings renewal and growth into our lives. It is easy to see a metaphor for this renewal and growth in the support that you provide for VCU's academic health system year after year.

Donors and friends like you change lives, create new beginnings and push knowledge forward by supporting scholarships, care programs and novel research across the MCV Campus. Simply put, you are improving health care opportunities and outcomes for us all.

In these pages, you will see many great examples of your impact. Our cover story looks at a new VCU School of Dentistry teaching clinic that will provide much-needed access to care for patients with special needs while ensuring future dental professionals are trained to provide care for everyone who needs it.

This issue also marks 10 years of our Discovery Series events, which began in Williamsburg and have expanded to Richmond. Dozens of VCU Health's leading physicians and researchers have provided valuable insights into their fields, and many of the friends we've made provide generous support for the MCV Campus.

As you read these inspiring stories, we hope you feel a sense of pride and connection to the incredible work that your support makes possible. As alumni, donors and supporters, you create the opportunity for better health, and *that* is the greatest gift for all. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Darius A. Johnson
Board Chair

Margaret Ann Bollmeier
President and CEO

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The *Chronicle of Giving* is published twice a year by the MCV Foundation for alumni and friends of the Medical College of Virginia Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University. © 2024 MCV Foundation

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The MCV Foundation inspires, seeks, secures and stewards philanthropic resources for VCU Health.

The MCV Foundation supports the education, research and clinical care mission of our MCV Campus partners: VCU College of Health Professions, VCU School of Dentistry, VCU School of Medicine, VCU School of Nursing, VCU School of Pharmacy, VCU School of Population Health, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center and VCU Medical Center.

The foundation manages approximately \$900 million in assets to ensure the MCV Campus remains at the forefront of excellence and innovation in patient care, education and research. Through more than 2,000 funds, the MCV Foundation provides scholarships, professorships and funds for research and programs to support the lifesaving work occurring at VCU Health.

ON THE COVER | Students learn how to provide oral health care to residents at the Virginia Home as one of several service-learning sites affiliated with the VCU School of Dentistry. PHOTO: DANIEL SANGJIB MIN, MCV FOUNDATION

GOING GREEN | If you prefer to receive a digital copy, email info@mcvfoundation.org.



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Patty Merrill provides support for VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center through a charitable beneficiary designation.

TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Driven by the Mission

Moses Foster Jr. draws parallels every day between the creative sparks that fuel West Cary Group's marketing and advertising projects and the return on investment that creativity brings to clients.

He applies that same thinking as an MCV Foundation trustee to connect inspirational resources with life-changing outcomes.

Foster, a Farmville, Va., native who attended Virginia Tech, is the founder, president and CEO of West Cary Group, a marketing and advertising firm he established after a career that ranged from publishing houses in New York to Capital One in Richmond.

His firm is one of the largest minority-owned marketing, advertising and technology firms in the country, and his leadership and community impact earned him a 2024 Virginia Black Business Leader Award from *Virginia Business* magazine.

In 2020, Foster joined the MCV Foundation board, where he serves on several committees, including communications and finance and audit.

Foster said he knew inequities existed in health care. What he has learned since becoming a foundation trustee, however, are the efforts being made every day on the MCV Campus to overcome them.

He was intrigued by the opportunity to be part of an organization that not only acknowledged the challenges of a community-based health system, but clearly illuminated pathways to address them.

"The MCV Foundation has a really good sense of its customer," Foster said. "To the extent that we, the board, can provide funding for illnesses and conditions or provide resources for people who might not otherwise be able to access them ordinarily, that's pretty powerful."

Foster said he is proud to watch that innovation come to life, from impressive work happening at VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center to the advancements and continued focused funding at VCU Health for sickle cell disease. He said the foundation's thoughtful, purposeful approach and steadfast stewardship underscore its mission to be a resource for those who need it most.

"The fulfilling part of this opportunity," Foster said, "is being able to break new ground in areas that have plagued the health care community for so long."





The annual MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch event allows scholarship recipients to spend time with the donors who created their scholarships and to share a delicious meal together at the Jefferson Hotel. Photos: Daniel Sangjib Min

A Celebration for Scholarships

The Jefferson Hotel’s Grand Ballroom was filled with inspiration, gratitude and warmth at the annual MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch Feb. 25.

“Every year we host this event, we continue to be in awe of the incredibly talented MCV Campus students who will be



Speakers George W. Burke III, M.D., a VCU School of Medicine alum and MCV Foundation trustee, and Calvin Yeager, Ph.D., a VCU School of Dentistry student, inspired attendees.

assistant professor in 1977, then in 1979 entered private practice with Pulmonary Associates of Richmond.

“For those of us who went through health care, all the skids were greased. We had a culture 50 years ago that allowed us to receive an affordable education,” said Dr. Burke, who volunteers for the School of Medicine Office of Admissions in his retirement. “As donors to the MCV Campus today, we want to support students who are facing financial burdens, and the wonderful offshoot of it is that it helps the quality of health care in general.”

The student speaker was Calvin Yeager, Ph.D., a VCU School of Dentistry student who holds a doctorate in microbiology and immunology and stokes his passion for inquiry by working in the VCU Philips Institute for Oral Health Research. Dr. Yeager grew up in a Northern California coastal community where his family’s circumstances were modest.

“I truly believe that scholarships are life-changing for students because every moment we don’t have to be working to live, we can start giving back,” Dr. Yeager said. “Every dollar invested in philanthropy is redistributed to the community through service and will improve the future of health care.”

If you are interested in supporting an existing student scholarship or creating a new endowed scholarship, please contact Brian Thomas, the foundation’s executive vice president and chief development officer, at 804-828-0067 or brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org.



The foundation recognized Jean Giddens, Ph.D., dean of the VCU School of Nursing, as she prepares to leave the MCV Campus after more than a decade of incredible leadership, innovation and dedication.

CURRENT AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS
AVAILABLE IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

\$9.5+
million

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS THAT SUPPORT
HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS

540
ON THE MCV CAMPUS

SINCE LAST YEAR,

14
NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS
HAVE BEEN CREATED



L to R: Guests included Joseph DiPiro, Pharm.D., VCU’s associate vice president of health sciences for faculty affairs, and his wife, Cecily DiPiro, Pharm.D.; Carla Thomas and her husband, Brian, executive vice president and chief development officer for the MCV Foundation; former foundation trustee Kit Sullivan, D.D.S.; and Lyndon Cooper, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the VCU School of Dentistry, and his wife, Lisa Cooper.



MCV Foundation trustee Ernesto Sampson (front row, third from left) and his wife, Savon, shared a table with the family and friends of the late Clelia May Johnson, who was the namesake of one of more than 540 endowed scholarships on the MCV Campus.

tomorrow’s health care leaders,” said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, MCV Foundation president and CEO. “It is an honor to bring together scholarship recipients with the generous donors who support such deserving and hardworking students.”

Donors have created 14 new endowed scholarships since last March, raising the total to 540 endowed scholarships supporting health sciences students on the MCV Campus. Total impact of current and endowed scholarships on the MCV Campus exceeded \$9.5 million in the 2023-24 academic year.

Featured speakers at this year’s brunch included George W. Burke III, M.D., a VCU School of Medicine alum and MCV Foundation trustee. He joined the School of Medicine Pulmonary Division as an



A Decade of Discovery

By Cara Haddon

For 10 years, the MCV Foundation’s Discovery Series has featured renowned physicians and researchers sharing the latest insights and innovations in health care. The events have provided unique access for guests to foster relationships and enjoy one-on-one conversations with VCU Health experts.

In November 2023, the foundation celebrated a decade of its signature event program, the Discovery Series. The foundation launched the series to raise awareness and visibility in the greater Williamsburg area of the outstanding medical research, patient care and education that happens on the MCV Campus.

The 2013 inaugural event was a success thanks in large part to a strong host committee whose exceptional advocacy championed the work of VCU Health within their own Williamsburg communities.

In its first year, the program attracted more than 75 attendees. Today, the event regularly draws more than 200 guests while continuing to showcase the many exceptional areas of VCU Health. The series has also expanded to include a Richmond-based event in recent years.

“The host committee has one of the greatest tools to make the Discovery Series a success — word of mouth,” said Charles Crone, a former MCV Foundation trustee. “Each year, the event brings more new friends, patients and supporters to VCU Health.”

The host committee continues to play an integral part in the success of each event. During a recent planning meeting, committee members reflected on the past decade, noting that the Discovery Series fall 2023 events were among the best so far.

The Discovery Series has made a significant impact across the MCV Campus and VCU Health. Since 2013, VCU Health has received more than 300 new patient referrals from individuals who have attended Discovery Series events. Additionally, more than \$9 million has been contributed from attendees who join the Discovery Society through their gifts to support any school, unit or program on the MCV Campus.

“It’s been fascinating to see what’s been accomplished in the last 10 years,” said host committee member Louise Canfield. Judi Forehand Starkey echoed those sentiments, adding that “great opportunity lies ahead for Williamsburg and its connection to the MCV Foundation and VCU Health.”



The inaugural Discovery Series Host Committee for Williamsburg included Bob and Louise Canfield, Charles and Ginny Crone, Julie Baxter and Paul Dresser, Jane Kaplan and the late Jim Kaplan, and Judi Forehand Starkey.

Photo: CSI Studios

If you would like to learn more about the MCV Foundation’s Discovery Series events, please contact Brian Thomas, executive vice president and chief development officer, at 804-828-0067 or brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org.

All Smiles

Dentistry alum's major gift establishes special-needs clinic.

By Holly Prestidge

Photos by Daniel Sangjib Min and Tyler Trumbo

“When do we get kicked out?”
The heartbreaking question was a familiar one to Roger Wood, D.D.S.

He had heard it over and over throughout his decades as a pediatric dentist from desperate and weary parents of children with special needs. These parents were used to hearing from service providers, educators and countless others that their kids would eventually age out of services, as if the children's needs somehow lessened when they turned 12 or 17 or 21.

These parents assumed Dr. Wood would cut ties, too.

They were wrong.

Not only did Dr. Wood embrace his patients with special needs into their teens and adulthood, establishing a “practice within a practice” just for them at his dental office in Midlothian, but he and his wife, Karen, are now working to ensure future dentists are positioned to do the same.

The couple is leading the charge to establish the Wood Special Care Dentistry Clinic within the VCU School of Dentistry. The clinic, scheduled to open this fall, will provide training and exposure to patients with special needs for dental and dental hygiene students. It also will serve as a much-needed care provider for the special-needs community.

In addition, the clinic has the potential to integrate other MCV Campus resources, including social work and occupational therapy, to provide a multidisciplinary, patient-centered approach to care that extends beyond dental needs. The effort to create the clinic is being further bolstered by an unrestricted bequest from the estate of the late David Childress, D.D.S.

VCU School of Dentistry students already receive some training at partner sites in the community, and a new clinic at the school will help them gain confidence when providing care to patients with special needs.





Roger Wood, D.D.S., whose Midlothian-based pediatric dentistry practice became a welcome place for patients with special needs, is leading efforts to create the Wood Special Care Dentistry Clinic at the VCU School of Dentistry.

ADAPTING TO THE NEEDS OF GROWING PATIENTS

Dr. Wood grins a lot. His good-natured personality is infectious. He retired during the COVID-19 pandemic after more than 40 years as a pediatric dentist, and in those years, his practice welcomed everyone.

He wore cowboy boots in the office, and he recalled how his youngest patients would do the same when they came in for appointments.

“I love working with kids,” Dr. Wood said. “It’s fun — I’m a hyper person, and that worked well for me.”

That wide grin fades, however, when he talks about the special-needs community.

Unlike other dental specialty areas, pediatric dentists are well suited to help children with special needs, he explained, because with children, gaps in development among those with special needs and others are not as wide. Problems begin as the children grow up, however.

Many pediatric dentists stop seeing patients with special needs when they reach teen years because the dentists don’t know how to adapt to challenges of their size and disability as they age into adulthood. That, and they prefer to avoid disruptions for other patients if the patients with special needs are loud or become physically challenging.

“It takes a long time to see an adult patient with special needs,” Dr. Wood said. “As they age, they get stronger, and you have to know what you’re doing and like what you’re doing.”

He became an inclusive service provider, he said, simply because he said “yes” to inquiries from parents when other dentists did not.

“There are not a lot of places they can go,” Dr. Wood said about older children and adults, noting that by the time he retired, nearly one-third of his time was spent caring for patients with special needs. As a former chief of dentistry at Johnston-Willis Hospital, he explained that if his patients needed dental work under sedation, he had access to the hospital’s operating room.

One of those patients was Christopher Carroll.

Christopher, now 27, has cerebral palsy, is legally blind and is deaf and nonverbal.

His mother, Nora Carroll, recalled that Dr. Wood was highly recommended to her years ago, and despite a 30-minute drive, Christopher and his two younger siblings were patients of Dr. Wood for nearly 20 years.

“When Christopher was young, the difference between a neurotypical child and a child with special needs wasn’t so large,” Carroll said. “But as he got older, the gap increased, and Dr. Wood adapted to all those different needs.”

Carroll said Christopher’s patience with his dental appointments decreased as he got older, so his appointments were moved to a private room with fewer distractions. More assistants were needed to physically help Dr. Wood.

On one occasion when Christopher needed a tooth extraction, Dr. Wood did so at the hospital so the young man could be sedated.

“It was fantastic and made the process so easy,” she said.

Now she’s not sure what the future holds.

Since Dr. Wood retired, Carroll has not found a dentist who has hospital access to allow Christopher to be sedated for deep cleanings and other dental needs.

“The pediatric dentistry world is helpful,” she said, because pediatric dentists understand the guessing game that parents of children with special needs experience in trying to determine why their children, even those who are nonverbal, are sick or cranky. “But doctors rely highly on feedback from adult patients, and when they can’t get that, they don’t know what to do.”

GIVING BACK

The Wood Special Care Dentistry Clinic will be located on the first floor of the Lyons Dental Building near the dentistry school’s valet parking entrance, improving convenience for patients. It will be a quiet space, away from the hustle of the school’s existing dental clinic, so families and patients have privacy and wheelchair accessibility.

Lyndon F. Cooper, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the VCU School of Dentistry, said VCU has a responsibility to care for all patients and to teach future oral health professionals how to care for a diverse population. He said the school’s recent efforts to increase access to care coincide with the Woods’ vision.

“Fortuitously, the school’s intentions intersected with Dr. Wood’s passion for providing care to patients with special needs,” Dean Cooper said. “In expanding our ability to care for these folks, our community will benefit, and our students will gain experience they will carry throughout their careers. We are extremely grateful for the Woods’

gift, which holds the promise of remarkable oral health care for those who previously had little opportunity.”

Dr. Wood, now an affiliate faculty member at the School’s Department of Pediatric Dentistry, will teach in the clinic. It is yet another example of the commitment he and his wife have made. For years, the Woods participated in Missions of Mercy projects through the Virginia Dental Association Foundation and partnerships with the VCU School of Dentistry. Those projects provide high-quality dental care in areas around the state that lack sufficient dentists.

“Our hope is that enough students go through the program so they’re comfortable with patients who have special needs,” Karen Wood said. “Then they have the heartstrings to help these people.”

Dr. Wood echoed those thoughts.

“I had a very successful practice for a long time because of people who supported me,” he said, referring to both longtime patients and staff. “The clinic is a good way for me to give back.”



JEFF JOHNSON, D.M.D.

Jeff Johnson, D.M.D., chair of VCU’s pediatric dentistry department, credited the Woods with thinking outside the box to create a synergy with other specialties that could offer additional services for patients while they are on the MCV Campus —

everything from therapy to transportation and social services.

“Dr. Wood’s life legacy has been about providing care for people who wouldn’t otherwise get it,” Dr. Johnson said. “With the Woods’ leadership and guidance, we’re breaking ground on a transformative experience for patients, for dental students and every learner in this building.”



Students learn how to provide oral health care to residents at the Virginia Home as one of several service-learning sites affiliated with the VCU School of Dentistry.

If you would like to support the VCU School of Dentistry, please contact Gloria Callihan, the school’s associate dean for development and alumni relations, at 804-828-8101 or gfcallihan@vcu.edu.



the doorways

BETWEEN HEALING & HOME

By Holly Prestidge

Photos by Daniel Sangjib Min

The Doorways celebrates 40 years of providing supportive and low-cost housing to VCU Health patients and families.

*t*he fog that swirls around San Francisco's famed Golden Gate

Bridge and shrouds the iconic landmark in legendary mist does not always warn of its impending arrival or roll in gradually and gently.

Sometimes, it just appears.

Just like that.

In mere moments, visibility is zero. Sailors rely on foghorns to guide them safely through the bay. Even the most experienced nautical veterans face treacherous conditions. The unexperienced can fare far worse.

A longtime California resident named Kriss, who now lives in Virginia, knows how quickly these changes can happen — and how one's life can transform just as swiftly.



Kriss and Jessica make the familiar walk to Room 707 at The Doorways, where they lived while visiting Richmond for the majority of 2023 following Kriss' bone marrow transplant. As his treatments progressed and his health improved, their stays grew shorter. The couple officially checked out of The Doorways earlier this year after doctors confirmed that Kriss was well enough to go home.



This winter, Kriss sat in the cozy library at The Doorways, a Richmond-based hospital hospitality house that provides accommodations for patients of VCU Health and other local hospitals and their families or caregivers. Next to him, Jessica, the love of his life, leaned in close.

Kriss explained that he led rescue missions around the Golden Gate Bridge when he worked on a special ops marine rescue team during his time in the U.S. Coast Guard. The couple moved to Virginia four years ago, and Kriss then joined the mostly volunteer Virginia Beach EMS Rescue on its marine rescue team.

An EMS medic since he was 15, he's used to helping others through life-and-death emergencies.

But like that fog that appears without warning, an unforeseen adversary pushed its way into Kriss and Jessica's lives in November 2022. As the couple visited Charlottesville for Thanksgiving, Kriss began feeling under the weather. He was achy. He couldn't sleep. By that Friday, something had changed.

His bones hurt. It was a pain he said he never experienced, and it was all over his body. Like a debilitating migraine, he recalls, that pulsed from his legs up into his ribs.

They drove back to Yorktown, where the couple lives, and Kriss went to his local emergency room.

Initial blood tests triggered alarm bells. His white blood cell count was off the charts — an indicator of leukemia — but more tests were needed. Kriss was transported to VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center the following morning, where doctors ran more tests and later confirmed what Kriss and Jessica could scarcely believe.

It was indeed leukemia. Disbelief was pushed aside as their lives quickly became a series of medical appointments, tests and chemotherapy.

Ultimately Kriss would need a bone marrow transplant. Kriss and Jessica both stopped working as Kriss's initial hospital stay on the MCV Campus stretched on.

Room 707 at The Doorways, located a few blocks from the hospital, became their home away from home as days turned into weeks, then months.

Simply put, Kriss and Jessica were reeling.

This time, there were no foghorns guiding their way to safety. They were navigating blind, save for a lifeline that appeared when they needed it most.

'THE HOUSE THAT RICHMOND BUILT'

Scrolled across the arch that leads into The Doorways' parking lot off 7th Street are the words "Between Healing & Home."

It's a mantra brought to life 40 years ago by a small group of women who had no idea the lives they'd ultimately touch.

The Doorways — formerly the Hospital Hospitality House — is among the largest organizations of its kind in the U.S. This year marks its 40th anniversary.

Located in a former Day's Inn that sits between Richmond's Court End and Jackson Ward neighborhoods, The Doorways today serves more than 10,000 unique guests annually, with 90% of those being patients at VCU Health.

Available to those who live more than 30 miles from Richmond, its 117 rooms include specialized areas for pediatric patients, transplant patients and those with compromised immune systems. There are laundry services, a fitness room, a reflection room, TV lounges, kitchens with stocked pantries, a library and computer access. Guests are fed warm meals, thanks to small armies of volunteers who cook or donate daily goods.

The average stay is 6.4 days. Some, however, like Kriss and Jessica, stay much longer.

A suggested donation of \$15 per night is only that; more than half of those relying on The Doorways can't afford to pay.

No one is turned away.

“It’s probably the worst time in the patients’ lives,” said Dolly Hintz, 89, a former member of the MCV Hospitals Auxiliary and one of five founders of the original Hospital Hospitality House. She is also a former trustee of the MCV Foundation. “But they have the comfort of a safe place to stay, they’re going to have a good meal and they know they’re going to get a hug when they really need it.”

The Doorways was established in 1983 and began accepting patients in 1984. It originated when a group of women — the MCV Hospital Auxiliary — raised \$250,000 in the early 1980s to transform a vacant property nearby, the Zeigler House, into a welcoming respite for then mostly families of patients on the MCV Campus.

By 1994, the Zeigler House had been replaced by the current building, once again thanks to that auxiliary, which raised \$1 million to purchase and begin retrofitting the aging former hotel. In April 2015, the Hospital Hospitality House rebranded as The Doorways, and in 2017, the MCV Foundation donated \$50,000 to support renovation throughout the guest house. Since 1984, those two locations have served more than 215,000 people with more than 1.3 million nights of lodging.

“We see our guests every day and get to experience their highs and lows with them, and it becomes a community — that’s really what makes it so special,” said Stacy Brinkley, president and CEO of The Doorways. “When you’re going through something that others are going through, even if you’re from very different walks of life, you bond over that experience. It makes it bearable as you walk through the journey of that health care crisis.”

Dolly can hardly believe what The Doorways has become.

“It’s just evolved into something that we never, ever believed,” she said softly. “I am so grateful to all the people who have kept this going, because this is a mammoth operation now.”

Dolly marvels at the idea that, despite the requirement of living outside of Richmond to utilize The Doorways, it was the Richmond community that made it happen.

“We think of it as the house that Richmond built,” she said. “It just came as this little idea and so many people absorbed that idea and worked on it and still are and will, for perpetuity, I hope.”

COMMUNITY OF CARING

Just before Thanksgiving last November, Jessica stirred a packet of instant oatmeal at the kitchenette counter in their room and handed the bowl to Kriss.

A lot has changed in a year. Small gestures became milestones.

When Kriss began his initial three-month stint in the hospital, Jessica lived at The Doorways. Room 707 was both her respite and her connection to him.

“At first, it was a step-by-step process, and we could only see maybe a few weeks in front of us,” Jessica explained about those early days in late 2022. “We didn’t know we would be here for over a year.”

“The Doorways was available to me during his whole hospital stay — that was a huge relief because I didn’t have to drive back home and leave for hours.”

At The Doorways, they found a sanctuary.

“There’s just incredible sincerity from the entire staff,” Kriss said. “The culture is so sweet. They make you feel welcome and not like you’re an outcast.”

Kriss’ journey spans health care and volunteering to military service. He thrives in team environments. What he experienced on the MCV Campus and at The Doorways fuels his desire to get better.

“The cohesiveness of the teamwork and compassion shown by the staff and the doctors — it has completely revitalized my faith in medicine,” Kriss said. “There’s a community of caring here, and my body and my soul have just become a part of this.”

Dolly Hintz, a former member of the MCV Hospitals Auxiliary and former trustee of the MCV Foundation, called The Doorways “the house that Richmond built” because of the collective community efforts that paved the way for The Doorways.

If you would like to support the healing mission of VCU Health on the MCV Campus, please contact Brian Thomas, executive vice president and chief development officer at the MCV Foundation, at 804-828-0067 or brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org.



Pioneer in Addiction Studies Establishes Scholarship

Nearly 20 years ago, a group of researchers and educators from around the world began discussing needs for global education in addiction science. There was a large gap between the knowledge about science-based treatment and prevention, and their implementation.

“Addiction is an unusual disease in that countries treat it very differently,” said Robert Balster, Ph.D., a VCU School of Medicine professor who led international discussions addressing the emerging issue. “Some countries are very punitive, while some countries treat it like a medical problem and employ extensive involvement of health authorities.”

Dr. Balster and his colleagues decided an important first step in understanding and addressing these issues was to establish a global graduate education program in addiction science and policy — the International Programme in Addiction Studies. There were very few graduate addiction programs anywhere in the world at the time, and in many countries that needed it most, there were none.

The IPAS program is a unique collaboration of three of the world’s leading research universities in addiction science: King’s College London, the University of Adelaide in Australia, and VCU. Students are introduced to the latest information on topics ranging from the biological basis of addiction, to treatment, prevention and policy.

Now in its 15th year, IPAS has trained more than 100 students from 28 countries on six continents who have gone on to develop and administer addiction treatment programs, shape law enforcement and public policy, and advise global leaders.

Despite the program’s success, the critical access component of IPAS still wasn’t completely solved for Dr. Balster, who joined VCU’s Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology in 1973.

“Our biggest lingering problem is that we have so many students who want to enroll in the program but simply can’t afford it,” he said. “Our tuition is in line with other graduate programs in the U.S., but that’s incredibly prohibitive for someone from a low-or middle-income country whose annual salary might not even cover costs.”

That’s why, in 2023, Dr. Balster pledged \$400,000 to create the Robert L. Balster Scholarship to help students pursue the addiction science education he believes is so important. Once fully funded, the scholarship will provide \$15,000 every year for IPAS tuition.

“It’s become increasingly obvious to me over time that this is the right thing to do with the resources I’ve accumulated over my 78 years,” he said.

Thanks and praise have come from many colleagues, including Bill Dewey, Ph.D., longtime professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at VCU and a world-renowned leader in the field.

“This is an amazingly generous contribution from Dr. Balster that will support scholarship in addiction studies throughout the world,” Dr. Dewey said. “He has remained committed to excellence throughout his career as an outstanding, innovative and intelligent scholar — and now this. He continues to contribute to the global addiction studies landscape in so many ways.”



Leaders from the three major research universities that host the International Programme in Addiction Studies gather each year to review and plan ahead for the global online partnership. (L to R) Mary Loos, Ph.D., VCU IPAS program director; Dace Svikis, Ph.D., VCU IPAS program co-director; Anna Williams, Ph.D., Kings College of London IPAS program director; Andrea Gordon, Ph.D., University of Adelaide IPAS program director; Robert Balster, Ph.D., VCU IPAS program founder. Photo: Eric M. Peters, MCV Foundation

Uncommon Kindness Inspires Scholarship Bequest

Late alumnus expands scholarship fund created to honor his mentor.

Ginny Poole Brinthaup recalls fondly the stories her father, Thomas Robert Poole, M.D., shared with her about the kindness of others he experienced throughout his life.

Few among those people had more of an impact than his mentor, Daniel Thomas Watts, M.D., a nationally recognized pharmacologist and former dean of the MCV School of Basic Health Sciences, now part of the VCU School of Medicine. Dr. Watts died in 1994.

Brinthaup remembers a story her dad shared about having holes in his shoes when he was a medical student on the MCV Campus. As the story goes, she said Dr. Watts asked her father if the shoes were the best pair he had, and Dr. Poole replied that they were his only pair.

It was Dr. Watts who showed up the next day with a new pair of shoes for him, and the gesture was one that Dr. Poole referenced often when he reminisced about his years as a student.

“My dad had a lot of admiration for Dr. Watts because of his integrity and his hardworking nature,” Brinthaup said. “My father came from humble means and, throughout his life, kind gestures such as this deeply touched him and inspired him to do the same for others.”

Dr. Poole, an MCV alum and longtime OB-GYN in West Virginia, passed away in 2021. Among his wishes was to contribute from his estate to a scholarship fund established in honor of his beloved mentor. The Daniel T. Watts Jr. Scholarship was established in the early 1980s to provide money for graduate students within the School of Basic Health Sciences, of which Dr. Watts served as dean from 1966 to 1982.

“Being in need and being helped by people at the university, that was very important and meaningful for him throughout his career trajectory as a physician,” said Tom Brinthaup, Ginny’s husband. “It created in him a similar impulse to help others.”

Brinthaup said she and her brother, Dan Poole, are grateful that their late father’s desire to help others manifested into a legacy that will benefit generations to come. They hope it will make a difference by helping students attain their dreams and continuing a legacy of training talented researchers in the basic sciences, following in the footsteps of Dr. Watts.

“My father was proud of himself for being a self-made man,” Ginny said. “As his career flourished, it was important to him to give back to others as much as he could.”



Thomas Robert Poole, M.D., and his wife, Kay Poole, were moved to contribute to a scholarship fund in honor of Daniel Thomas Watts, M.D., a former dean on the MCV Campus and a mentor to many students. Photo: Chris Gotshall Photography

Daniel Thomas Watts, M.D., was a former dean on the MCV Campus whose mentorship led students like Thomas Robert Poole, M.D., to contribute from his estate plans to a scholarship fund in Dr. Watts’ honor. Portrait image: VCU Libraries

If you would like to support the Watts Scholarship Fund or give to student scholarships at the VCU School of Medicine, please contact Jodi Smith, director of development in the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at 804-628-2248 or jtsmith@vcu.edu.

A Space for Healing

Hospitals can be stressful. Visitors, employees and especially patients can experience anxiety, fear, fatigue, or a host of other symptoms and challenges when facing the realities that sometimes arise in health care environments.

Thanks to the creativity and generosity of donors and volunteers at VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, the MCV Campus now has a place of respite for those who need it. The Healing Space is a unique room in VCU Health’s Adult Outpatient Pavilion. It features a 9-by-16-foot curved LED display wall, 13 hidden speakers and customizable lighting. The soft sounds of a breeze, the gentle splashing of water or the quiet sounds of a tranquil snowfall that visitors experience can soothe anxiety or help them refocus on facing their challenges.

This room is offered through Massey’s Integrative Health Department, and it’s the brainchild of board members and volunteer leaders Terrell Harrigan, Shelly Arthur and Becky Massey. The team envisioned the space as a place for individuals to find peace in a busy and stressful environment, and they hope the space will also be used for gatherings like support group meetings, yoga and meditation classes.

“The Healing Space stands out above and beyond what is offered at other cancer centers,” said Harrigan, who with her husband, Elliott, donated funds to support the room’s construction. “It makes me really happy to know we’ve got this space that our patients, staff and families can find as a place of healing, whatever healing they need — in spirit, mind and body.”

The planning team envisioned a number of possibilities for the space, including research to

enhance and advance the holistic care of Massey patients. The Healing Space’s display wall offers 12 different nature films featuring various soundscapes with light and sound syncing up to create the sense of immersion in the scene.

Visitors can customize their experience to meet their needs, and the space lends itself to mindfulness-based interventions, some of which have been shown to help with anxiety and depression symptoms during cancer treatment.

“We are excited about the programmatic and research opportunities in The Healing Space,” said Masey Ross, M.D., director of the Integrative Health Program and an oncologist specializing in breast cancer. “We hope to collect data as we go, through patient-reported outcomes and other methods, to demonstrate the impact on patient and staff well-being.”

This data can help Massey researchers identify key factors that can help ease the burden of dealing with cancer and to understand the specific needs, values and experiences of cancer survivors. All of which can help Massey’s team improve quality of life and future cancer outcomes.

Organizers hope to add more destinations and experiences for visitors in the future and plan to collaborate with VCU Health chaplains to provide experiences inclusive of various faiths.

“This is just part of the expectation of what a comprehensive cancer center really is,” said Becky Massey, volunteer leader and chair of the Massey Advisory Board. “It’s an exciting, groundbreaking and unique advance in integrative care.”



L to R: Paula Fracasso, M.D.; Robert A. Winn, M.D.; Shelly Arthur; Terrell Harrigan; Becky Massey; architect Matt Roman; and Elliott Harrigan opened The Healing Space during a ribbon cutting in fall 2023. Photos courtesy VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

“It makes me really happy to know we’ve got this space that our patients, staff and families can find as a place of healing, whatever healing they need — in spirit, mind and body.”

TERRELL HARRIGAN, MASSEY VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in supporting the healing mission of VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, please contact Caitlin Doelp, executive director of development, at 609-432-6247 or doelpc@vcu.edu.

A bequest from Mark and Sandy Hudson will provide future support to the Department of Health Administration at the VCU College of Health Professions. Photo: Joe Mahoney

Forks in the Road Led to Success

There are moments in everyone’s life — the proverbial forks in the road — where choices are made, and in the best-case scenarios, those choices turn out to be the right ones.

For Mark Alan Hudson, those moments opened doors to a life that carried him to the top of a health care system and beyond.

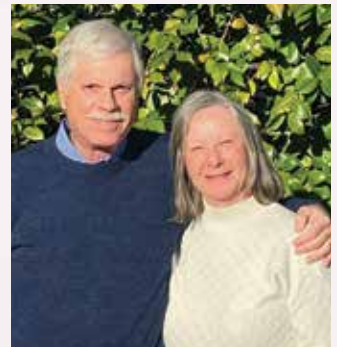
Hudson, a North Carolina resident who grew up in Virginia’s Tidewater region, has included the Department of Health Administration at the VCU College of Health Professions in his estate plans. He also provides annual gifts for the department through a donor-advised fund.

Hudson explained that while his early ambitions involved being a city or county manager, those jobs did not materialize following graduation from the University of Virginia in 1975. What was available, however, were jobs within the clinical laboratories at the UVA Health Medical Center. A few promotions later, the field of health administration had piqued his interest. He applied to VCU’s health administration program and was accepted.

Hudson graduated in 1983 and found a home at a small hospital system in North Carolina, where he would spend more than two decades before retiring as executive vice president of Cleveland County Healthcare System, now part of Atrium Health. Following retirement, he established his own consulting company. He is also a published freelance writer and former magazine editor.

“I was incredibly blessed to get into the program,” Hudson said about the Department of Health Administration at VCU, which is ranked No. 3 among its peers nationally and is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. “It was both challenging and rewarding, and I never regretted going in that direction.”

He explained that one of the key components of that program is the yearlong residency that provides invaluable hands-on experience.



MARK AND SANDY HUDSON

“Graduates in health administration carry a lot of clout,” Hudson said. “Within the health care network, employers want MCV graduates. Not just in Virginia, but elsewhere.”

Hudson said he and his wife, Sandy, were both at a point in their lives where they wanted to give back to the place that shaped their futures. In fact, both had connections to the MCV Campus. While Hudson was working through the health administration program, Sandy Hudson was working at the hospital as a medical technologist.

“You don’t have to be a billionaire to make a difference,” Hudson said. “It doesn’t matter how big or small the gift, just get into the habit of contributing to the causes you care about — make your plans and then formalize them.”

“What matters,” he added, “is that you help as best you can.”

If you would like to support the VCU College of Health Professions, please contact T. Greg Prince, Ed.D., senior director of development, at 804-828-7247 or tgprince@vcu.edu.



The 40-year career of Julia R. Nunley, M.D., who retired last June, inspired her colleagues, former patients and other friends to establish the Julia R. Nunley, M.D., Lectureship in Dermatology. Photo: Daniel Sangjib Min, MCV Foundation

Lecture Series Will Inspire Future Dermatologists

Last fall, colleagues and former students launched efforts to celebrate the career of Julia R. Nunley, M.D., a professor of dermatology who retired in June 2023 from the VCU School of Medicine. During her career, she earned board certifications in internal medicine, nephrology and dermatology. Her specialty and mentorship in the school’s Department of Dermatology inspired colleagues, former patients and other friends to honor her legacy by creating the Julia R. Nunley, M.D., Lectureship in Dermatology.

Dr. Nunley was a pioneer in her field. For nearly half of her 40-year tenure on the MCV Campus, she served as director of the department’s residency program, helping train generations of dermatologists. Her dedication to the MCV Campus and the greater dermatology community has had an outsize impact on the field.

“She has generously shared her knowledge with trainees who now care for patients across the country and around the world,” said Art Saavedra, M.D., Ph.D., a dermatologist and dean of the VCU School of Medicine. “This lectureship is a fitting extension of her legacy — ensuring our future trainees have direct access to national experts and leaders in the field.”

The lectureship will provide opportunities for distinguished experts from across the country to share groundbreaking research and clinical insights, as well as to explore complex cases and push advancements in dermatological science. The series will also inspire the next generation of dermatologists.

“For this to be the first endowed dermatology lectureship is humbling,” Dr. Nunley said. “Most of my professional life has been in education, and it’s an honor that a lectureship has been created that keeps with this focus I had during my career.”

If you’d like to support the Julia R. Nunley, M.D., Lectureship in Dermatology at the VCU School of Medicine, please contact Jodi Smith, director of development in the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at 804-628-2248 or jtsmith@vcu.edu.

The Enduring Inspiration of Education

Steve Garrett thinks a lot about the ripple effect that seemingly small choices can have on someone's life, including his own.

For him, the most pivotal choice involved two people deciding to pursue callings to careers in health through education on the MCV Campus.

"Mom and Dad met at MCV," Garrett said of his late parents, Roy and Eleanor Garrett. "Those schools are essential to my very existence. She was in the MCV School of Nursing, and he was a year ahead of her at the MCV School of Pharmacy."

Roy and Eleanor graduated in 1959 and 1960, respectively. The couple eventually moved to Eleanor's hometown of Lynchburg, Va., where they advanced in their respective careers.

Roy enjoyed the work of being a pharmacist. During his 41-year career, he worked in local pharmacies and at Lynchburg General Hospital. He enjoyed interacting with people and helping to understand their needs. In retirement, he volunteered at the health department in Lynchburg before a stroke caused him to fully retire. Eleanor was inspiring in her pursuit of continued education and professional achievement.

"Education was huge for her, and she took her calling as a nurse very seriously," Garrett said. "She never stopped wanting to train future nurses."

Eleanor earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Virginia and returned to MCV for her Ph.D. at the School of Nursing. As her career moved from hospital to classroom, she also earned a master's degree in education.

Scholarships established by Steve and Shirley Garrett at the VCU schools of Pharmacy and Nursing help recruit the best and brightest students while honoring Steve's parents, who met as students on the MCV Campus. Photo: Nancy Parker, Cabay Photography



Her time as nursing faculty began with teaching a single course and evolved into serving as director of the Virginia Baptist Hospital School of nursing. She also held several local and state leadership roles with the Virginia Nurses Association and the National League for Nursing.

Garrett's parents were a lifelong inspiration for his own journey, and he and his family wanted to find a way to recognize how important Roy and Eleanor were as role models. To honor their memory, he and his wife, Shirley, established scholarships named in honor of his parents at both the VCU School of Nursing and VCU School of Pharmacy.

"College costs a lot now," Garrett said, "and I wanted to help people who need it to have a chance to make a better life for themselves like my parents did."

They hope the Roy L. Garrett Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy and the Eleanor H. Garrett Memorial Scholarship in Nursing will help increase the number of qualified nurses and pharmacists for Virginia and the region, and their son also has a very personal reason:

"I want people to remember my parents," Garrett said. "I want people to know they can make a difference in their community the way my parents did."

If you would like to support scholarships at the VCU School of Pharmacy, please contact Louie Correa, senior director of development, at 804-828-3016 or lacorrea@vcu.edu. To support scholarships at the VCU School of Nursing, please contact Pam Lowe, senior director of development, at 804-827-0020 or plowe@vcu.edu.



Shirley and Steve Garrett gave to create scholarships on the MCV Campus. Courtesy photo

A Drive to Innovate Nursing Research

Sarah Farrell, Ph.D., said experience on the faculty at Yale School of Nursing and working for the Commonwealth of Virginia inspired her interest in nursing research. While encountering some of the field’s most perplexing questions through her work, she decided to apply for her doctoral degree.

As she waited to hear back from the programs she had applied to, she got the call that influenced her final decision: She was a recipient of the A.D. Williams Scholarship at VCU School of Nursing.

“I told the program director, ‘I think you’ve made a mistake. I didn’t apply for a scholarship,’” said Dr. Farrell, who grew up in rural Franklin County, Va.

The scholarship brought VCU’s nursing program to the top of her list, especially after she discovered the school’s strong relationship with the Department of Health Administration at the VCU College of Health Professions, which had piqued her interest.

“The nursing program had an innovative approach to interprofessional education that really led me to VCU,” said Dr.

Farrell, who today is a leadership executive at Apple working with researchers to develop innovative devices for the health care market.

Dr. Farrell has been a donor to the school since graduating in 1996, and a conversation with Jean Giddens, Ph.D., dean of the School of Nursing, helped her realize what mattered to her most was to give back and support others the way she had been aided with the scholarship.

“Dean Giddens used the term legacy, and I never thought about it that way,” said Dr. Farrell, who was a first-generation college student. “The school and MCV Foundation already had the systems in place. All I had to do was think about what I wanted to achieve, and everything just fell into place.”

In 2018, she created the Sarah P. Farrell Legacy Research Endowment at the School of Nursing to support a graduate student or faculty member pursuing research. Each year, she helps grow the fund’s impact through a variety of methods such as corporate matches from her employer or through her donor-advised fund (DAF). Dr. Farrell has also provided for future support from her estate to grow the endowed fund.

“If I can provide seed money for people in the early stages of their career that can help them go on to get national funding, then I feel like I’ll have made a bigger impact,” she said. “This way, the students and faculty are also giving back to the profession to increase the power of nursing research, and I’m giving back to the research community. It’s a full circle.”

If you would like to support student scholarships at the VCU School of Nursing, please contact Pam Lowe, the school’s senior director of development, at 804-827-0020 or plowe@vcu.edu.



SARAH FARRELL, PH.D.



VCU School of Nursing alumna Sarah Farrell, Ph.D. (far left), created the Sarah P. Farrell Legacy Research Endowment at the School of Nursing to support a graduate student or faculty member pursuing research. Photo: Tyler Trumbo, MCV Foundation

Inaugural 5K Walk Raises Thousands for Sickle Cell Professorship



Florence Neal Cooper Smith spoke to the large crowd gathered at Dorey Park to participate in the 5K Walk for Sickle Cell, which raised over \$17,000 for a professorship at the VCU School of Medicine named in her honor. Photo: Holly Prestidge, MCV Foundation

This fall, one dedicated community group helped raise more than \$17,000 for a professorship named to honor a longtime sickle cell disease advocate. The inaugural Florence Neal Cooper Smith 5K Walk 4 Sickle Cell was organized by Finding a Cure Together 4 Sickle Cell (F.A.C.T.S.) and sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority with support from the MCV Foundation.

All proceeds benefited the Florence Neal Cooper Smith Professorship at the VCU School of Medicine, which is among the first of its kind to be named for a Black woman. Smith is a Richmond native

and has been a tireless advocate for awareness and funding for sickle cell disease research for more than a half century.

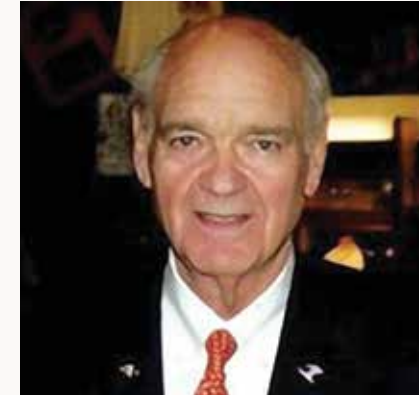
“It’s our hope that each year our 5K will continue to encourage more support from the community,” said Kathie Teasley, who co-chairs the F.A.C.T.S. committee with Allison Coles-Johnson.

The goal is to eventually raise \$1 million to elevate the professorship to an endowed chair in support of sickle cell disease research and care. To date, more than \$500,000 has been raised. Wally R. Smith, M.D., a nationally recognized expert in

sickle cell research, is the inaugural holder of the professorship and serves as the director of VCU Health’s Adult Sickle Cell Program.

VCU Health is a national leader in sickle cell care. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved two gene therapies to treat sickle cell disease in patients ages 12 and older, and Children’s Hospital of Richmond at VCU and VCU Medical Center were involved in clinical trials that resulted in the approvals. The hope is that many more patients will soon qualify for the therapies.

If you would like to support the Florence Neal Cooper Smith Professorship, please contact Samantha Charlet, assistant director of development at the MCV Foundation, at 804-628-2584 or samantha.charlet@vcuhealth.org.



G. GILMER MINOR III
1940-2023

G. Gilmer Minor III, a former MCV Foundation trustee (1996-1999), died May 4, 2023. He attended St. Christopher’s School and was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute and of the Darden School at the University of Virginia, where he earned his MBA.

Mr. Minor retired as chairman and chief executive officer of Owens & Minor in 2005 and continued as the non-executive chairman of the board of directors until 2013, when he became chairman emeritus. He served as a member and president of the board of visitors at VMI and the VMI Foundation.

Mr. Minor was also a strong advocate for education and health care organizations. He served as chair of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, as a member and chair of the Virginia Business for Higher Education Council, on the Virginia Healthcare Foundation Board and on the Presidential Precinct Board. In 2010, he was appointed to serve on the Governor’s Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment. Before his passing, Mr. Minor was commended by the Virginia State Senate and the Virginia House of Delegates as the Outstanding Virginian for 2023.

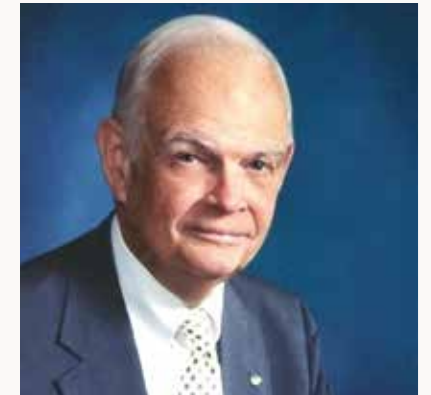


RICHARD SAMUEL REYNOLDS III
1934-2023

Richard Samuel “Major” Reynolds III, an outspoken advocate for the civil rights movement and president of the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation, died Sept. 18, 2023. The former MCV Foundation board member (1999-2002) attended St. Christopher’s School; graduated magna cum laude from Woodberry Forest School; and earned a B.A. in history, with honors, from Princeton University.

Mr. Reynolds served as vice president and director of Robertshaw Controls Company, and he later became managing director of the Reynolds Trusts. The Reynolds Foundation has provided more than \$66 million in grants for arts, education, environment, health and basic human needs. Mr. Reynolds served as co-chair of the Capitol Square Civil Rights Memorial Fundraising Committee. He and his family made the lead gift to the memorial through the Reynolds Foundation. In recognition of his dedication, Mr. Reynolds was awarded the William P. Robinson Medal by the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus.

Mr. Reynolds also served on several state boards and commissions for the Commonwealth of Virginia and was an ardent fundraiser for many community causes.



DR. WARREN WOODSON KOONTZ JR.
1932-2023

Warren Woodson Koontz Jr., M.D., professor emeritus in the Division of Urology at the VCU School of Medicine and former MCV Foundation trustee (1989-1995), died Nov. 1, 2023. He received a B.S. in biology from the Virginia Military Institute, where he was a distinguished military graduate, and earned his medical degree from the University of Virginia. Between his residency years, he served two years in the U.S. Air Force as a captain and chief of surgery.

Following residency, Dr. Koontz joined the faculty of the Medical College of Virginia as an assistant professor. He then moved to Boston and returned to the MCV Campus in 1970 as professor and chairman of the Division of Urology. He also served as the executive director of the Virginia Board of Medicine and worked part time at VCU Medical Center and the McGuire VA Hospital until his retirement in 2003.

Dr. Koontz was a member of many medical organizations and served as associate dean for clinical affairs and chief of the medical staff at VCU Medical Center from 1982 to 1988. In 2014, Dr. Koontz was appointed by Gov. Terence McAuliffe to serve on the board of Long-Term Care Administrators.



Patty Merrill, a longtime donor and member of the VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center Advisory Board, has named the organization among the beneficiaries of her individual retirement accounts. Photo: Daniel Sangjib Min, MCV Foundation

Teeing Up Future Support for Cancer Care and Research

Richmond resident Patty Merrill was introduced to VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center almost two decades ago when she participated in a women’s golf tournament supporting breast cancer research at Massey.

Today, as a generous donor and longtime member of Massey’s Advisory Board, Merrill is working to ensure future generations have access to the best available cancer research and care.

She’s decided to support Massey’s mission by naming the center among the beneficiaries of her individual retirement accounts. By using a beneficiary designation to make the gift, Merrill has the peace of mind that comes from knowing that when she passes, her gift will benefit Massey immediately, without the delays or costs of probate.

“I’ve tried to be as generous as I could during my lifetime,” she said, “but it is the big picture I’m interested in and knowing that I can make the significant impact with a legacy gift.”

Like many people, Merrill has had loved ones in her family experience cancer, and she has seen firsthand the importance of a health care organization that not only treats the disease, but holistically cares for the patient. She describes Massey as that kind of center. Patients receive excellent care during treatment and after, and that continued support is crucial to their healing process.

Merrill said she has seen a transformation at Massey during her time on the board. The capstone of that hard work occurred in June 2023 with the announcement that the cancer center had achieved comprehensive status, a designation from the National Cancer Institute that puts Massey in a highly selective group of cancer centers nationwide.

She said the distinction is the result of many factors, including Massey’s community-centric focus, championed by its director, Robert A. Winn, M.D., who holds the Lipman Chair in Oncology. Massey’s community outreach and engagement serves as a model for addressing health equity research, care and policy initiatives.

“It’s unsettling to me that because of where I live and my life experiences, I have a 10-year longer life expectancy than those who live in other parts of the Richmond community,” Merrill said. “Massey’s renewed focus on and proximity to communities that have been historically overlooked means we can close that gap. Cancer impacts everyone, and everyone should have the benefit of knowing about prevention and then also getting the best treatment.”

In making her estate plans, Merrill left the gift unrestricted so Massey can make the best possible use of her support in the future.

“Those in charge at Massey will know the most important needs and how to best use those funds,” she said. “Ultimately, it’s all research that moves us closer to a world where cancer is an afterthought.”

For more information about charitable beneficiary designations or any other planned gift to the MCV Campus, please contact Jason Chestnutt, CFP,[®] executive director of planned giving for the MCV Campus, at 804-828-7671 or chestnuttjr@vcu.edu.

MAKE A GREAT IMPACT WITH A CHARITABLE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

ALLOWS YOU TO

- Name the MCV Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or other account to benefit a unit on the MCV Campus.
- Make a gift that doesn’t cost you anything right now.
- Provide future support for the causes or unit you care most about on the MCV Campus.

HOW IT WORKS

- Retirement plans, IRAs, life insurance and commercial annuities are not controlled by the terms of your will, but instead use beneficiary forms to determine who receives them.
- Beneficiary forms supersede your will when it comes to passing these assets, making them effective and easy ways to leave a legacy.
- By naming the MCV Foundation as a beneficiary of one of these assets, a gift will come directly to the MCV Foundation to be used in the manner you have directed.

HOW YOU BENEFIT

- Beneficiary designations are one of the simplest ways to make a legacy gift.
- You maintain control of your assets during your lifetime and can modify your plans as needed.
- Your gift passes outside of probate and is excluded from your estate for tax purposes.
- You avoid passing heavily taxed assets to heirs if you designate certain asset types for the MCV Foundation.
- You will become a member of the MCV Society, which honors those who have made a planned gift of any size to support one of the MCV Campus partners. Society members are invited to special events and programs in appreciation of their commitment to the future of the MCV Campus.

WAYS TO GIVE

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