

# Chronicle of Giving



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**LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR  
AND PRESIDENT & CEO**

*Dear friends,*



The MCV Campus is in full bloom as spring brings new growth and excitement. We are energized by the record levels of support for VCU Health and excited to welcome

outstanding new leadership whose work will advance research, care and education on our campus.

Our cover story explores the remarkable history of the VCU School of Pharmacy, which is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding and its bright future built on a strong legacy of developing students for meaningful careers as leaders in the profession and community. We also highlight a recent gift to support the VCU School of Nursing's Richmond Health and Wellness Program, which marks its 10th year of providing collaborative and wellness care to vulnerable older adults. Finally, we celebrate how gifts to the VCU Massey Cancer Center have helped transform and advance the level of care and research it is able to deliver.

Also included in this issue is a compelling story about the power of student scholarships and the cumulative impact of one couple's consistent annual giving over nearly four decades. In addition, this issue features efforts to honor several legendary physicians on the MCV Campus by increasing the endowments previously established in their honor.

Our continued advancement would not be possible without the MCV Campus's history of innovation, which inspires philanthropic investments that create change and growth for the good of all.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ann Bollmeier  
President and CEO

Ellen E. Spong  
Board Chair

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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 Massey Cancer Center and VCU Medical Center.*

The foundation manages more than \$850 million in assets to ensure that MCV Campus remains at the forefront of excellence and innovation in patient care, education and research. Through more than 1,900 funds, the MCV Foundation provides scholarships, professorships, research and program funds to support the lifesaving work occurring at VCU Health.

**ON THE COVER |** K.C. Ogbonna, Pharm.D., was appointed dean of the VCU School of Pharmacy in December 2022 and brings a bold vision for the school's bright future as it celebrates 125 years.

PHOTO: TYLER TRUMBO, MCV FOUNDATION

**GOING GREEN |** If you prefer to receive a digital copy, email [info@mcvfoundation.org](mailto:info@mcvfoundation.org).



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## TRUSTEE'S CORNER

# Championing Tomorrow's Breakthroughs

“Healthy, wealthy and wise” — it is a mantra Mike Bisceglia has heard all his life from his father, who encouraged him to enrich and elevate the lives of his family and community members in every way possible, be it via tangible wealth or intangible knowledge.

They are words Bisceglia lives by today as a member of the MCV Foundation Board of Trustees, an endeavor he relishes as the MCV Campus pushes forward with dynamic, innovative research, medical care and education that begin deep in the heart of the Richmond community and reach around the nation and world.

Bisceglia, who joined the foundation board in 2020, is president and founder of Stauer Watch and Jewelry Co., as well as founder of the Virginia Foundation for Public Media, where he has helped manage financial resources for six years. He is also a board member at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation.

A globetrotter 50 times over, he said there was just something about Richmond that attracted him and his wife, Maura, to this city 30 years ago. Over the decades, Bisceglia said he's seen a dramatic shift in the local health care landscape for the better.



PHOTO: TYLER TRUMBO, MCV FOUNDATION

To further advance that positive change, Bisceglia joined the MCV Foundation after hearing from other board members about its impact on medical professionals, students and the diverse communities VCU Health serves.

“My father always told me to focus on helping your family to become more healthy, wealthy

and wise,” he said. “The MCV Foundation gives me a chance to help on the healthy and wise part of that goal. It’s been very rewarding to see so many of the health professionals supported by the MCV Foundation positively impact the health of so many people in Central Virginia.”

Richmond is lucky, he said, to



have a vast array of services for many of today's most pressing health issues from places like the VCU Health Pauley Heart Center, Massey Cancer Center, and the Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health. He also noted the construction of the new Virginia Treatment Center for Children building, part of the Children's

Hospital of Richmond at VCU.

Bisceglia said he wants to help steward opportunities that enrich the lives of all people, with a particular emphasis on areas where health disparities exist. He remains excited with each new advancement in medical research, from breakthroughs in genetic coding to pharmaceutical manufacturing

processes led by VCU that could impact the world.

"It's become so startlingly clear that the next 50 years will see mind-blowing breakthroughs in health," Bisceglia said, "and the MCV Foundation will be a key component in helping Central Virginia leap forward."





Back, L to R: Paula Song, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Health Administration at the VCU College of Health Professions; Clay Coleman; Deborah Porter; and (front, L to R) Bob Canfield, MCV Foundation trustee; Louise Canfield; Sydney Belt; and Clifton Porter share a table at the MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch. Photos: Chris Ijams

# An Afternoon of Generosity and Gratitude

Annual event celebrates the powerful impact of endowed scholarships on the MCV Campus.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AWARDED  
IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23

**\$3.1**  
million

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS THAT  
SUPPORTED HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS  
ON THE MCV CAMPUS

**520**

SINCE LAST YEAR,

**13**

NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS  
HAVE BEEN CREATED

The Jefferson Hotel's Grand Ballroom was filled with friendly chatter on March 26 for the MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch, the foundation's annual event to celebrate the impact of student scholarships through connecting students and endowed scholarship donors in fellowship.

"We look forward to hosting this event each year," said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, president and CEO of the MCV Foundation. "It is one of the most important ways we celebrate the generosity of scholarship donors and the impact of their investment in supporting the education of future health care professionals."

More than 520 endowed scholarships support health sciences students on the MCV Campus, and donors have created 13 new scholarships since last March. In total, just over \$3.1 million in support was available for students in the 2022-23 academic year.

Special guests at this year's brunch included Omar Abubaker, D.M.D., Ph.D., the S. Elmer Bear Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the VCU School of Dentistry and VCU Medical Center. In 2021, Dr. Abubaker created a scholarship in honor of his late son, Adam, whose tragic death from an opioid overdose spurred Dr. Abubaker to lead efforts to teach safe

prescribing practices and increase awareness of addiction training and research.

“Creating this scholarship is one of the most important things I have done,” Dr. Abubaker said. “I hope this will be an enduring way to honor Adam’s memory by ensuring that students enter their profession understanding the role they must play in helping address the challenges of opioid addiction.”

Guests also heard from Karen Melcho, a graduate student in the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling at the VCU College of Health Professions. Melcho received the Marcia J. Lawton Quality of Life Scholarship and the Blair Craig Memorial Scholarship, which was established by Mary Bradshaw in 2016 to honor her late son, who was a rehabilitation counselor. Melcho shared about her prior struggle with addiction before an overdose forced her into recovery. Her later work with incarcerated individuals struggling with addiction inspired her to become a rehabilitation counselor.

“It’s funny how our trials can propel us to our calling,” Melcho said. “To think that I’m going to carry on a legacy like Blair Craig’s gets me a little teary-eyed. I’m so grateful for all the generosity from those who have supported students like myself on the MCV Campus to allow us to contribute to the mission of VCU Health and build upon legacies.”

*If you are interested in supporting an existing student scholarship or establishing a new fund, please contact Brian Thomas, the foundation’s vice president and chief development officer, at 804-828-0067 or [brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org](mailto:brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org).*



**LEFT:** Back, L to R: Deepak Thomas, M.D.; Mareen Thomas, M.D.; Ogechi Nkem Gbujie; Corey Williams; and (front, L to R) Thomas Rayner and Gwynn Litchfield were among the scholarship donors and recipients who gathered at the historic Jefferson Hotel.



**ABOVE:** Student speaker Karen Melcho, recipient of the Blair Craig Memorial Scholarship, and Omar Abubaker, D.M.D., Ph.D., the S. Elmer Bear Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the VCU School of Dentistry and VCU Medical Center, shared remarks with more than 250 attendees at the MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch.



**RIGHT:** L to R: Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, M.D., associate dean of admissions at the VCU School of Medicine, shared a table with Enrique Gerszten, M.D., and his wife, Ellen Gerszten. To honor the beloved teacher and mentor, an anonymous donor established the Enrique Gerszten, M.D., Scholarship in 2021.



# Foundation Awards \$4 Million to Advance Student Diversity

In November, the MCV Foundation announced it would award \$4 million over four years to help VCU recruit highly qualified students from underrepresented backgrounds to the university's five health sciences programs.

Studies show that health care providers who identify as racial or

ethnic minorities place greater value on serving vulnerable or low-income populations. In addition, many students from economically less-advantaged backgrounds report they intend to practice in communities similar to those in which they were raised.

However, there remains inadequate representation of qualified students from diverse backgrounds in health science programs nationally.

“Improving diversity, equity and access in health care delivery, research and education sits at the core of everything we do,” said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, president and CEO of the MCV Foundation. “The health care workforce — whether in specific communities or on a global scale — should feature the same diversity as the people it serves. We’re confident our MCV Campus partners will use this award to effect significant change in moving toward that goal.”

Aspiring students in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, health professions and nursing will benefit from a \$4 million award to increase diversity in health sciences. Photo: Kevin Schindler





# MCV Campus Celebrates Fulfillment of Endowed Funds Honoring Faculty Legends



The MCV Foundation and the School of Medicine hosted two events to celebrate successful efforts to endow funds in honor of Harold F. Young, M.D., a legendary neurosurgeon, and Joel J. Silverman, M.D., former chair of the Department of Psychiatry.

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**ABOVE:** In October, more than 100 alumni, colleagues and other friends, including Peggy Martin (middle) and Lee Martin (right), gathered to honor Harry Young, M.D. (left), and celebrate the newly endowed M. Theresa and Harold F. Young Chair in Neurosurgery. Photo: Penelope M. Carrington, MCV Foundation

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**RIGHT:** The Joel J. Silverman, M.D., Faculty Research Award honors Dr. Silverman (third from right), former chair of the Department of Psychiatry. The fund will support junior faculty research. Dr. Silverman's family gathered at a reception in February with other donors, colleagues and friends. Photo: Chris Ijams

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# Care for Community

A VCU School of Nursing alumna's support for a community engagement fund is fueling a still-expanding wellness program in Central Virginia.

By Zaynah Qutubuddin

**C**rystal Goodwin likes solving problems. During her time as a community nurse, she identified a big one: The health care needs of many of the most vulnerable members of the community were not being met.

Goodwin started her own nursing career in both the neuroscience ICU and trauma surgery. When her journey took her away from those physically and emotionally demanding roles and into community health, she was introduced to new challenges she had not yet considered.

“Going into someone’s home and seeing their lack of resources was difficult,” Goodwin said. “As a nurse, it made me feel less-than, and it was a struggle for me because I wanted to meet those needs.”

In a hospital environment, Goodwin had been accustomed to accessibility.

“If you need something, you just turn and get it,” she said. “Physical therapists, occupational therapists and pharmacists were all one call away. When you’re in the field, it’s not right there.”

That was when Goodwin learned about one way VCU was addressing this need with a solution: the Richmond Health and Wellness Program (RHWP), a wellness initiative that brings care coordination to the doorstep of vulnerable communities in Central Virginia.



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Now in its 10th year, the Richmond Health and Wellness Program (RHWP) brings care coordination to the doorstep of vulnerable communities in Central Virginia. Photos courtesy VCU School of Nursing

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Spearheaded by the VCU School of Nursing, RHWP recently celebrated its 10th year of service and has earned a reputation as a model for holistic care coordination across the country. The program was established in 2012 and delivers weekly wellness clinics that focus on health assessment, monitoring

and coaching in five community-based sites across the Richmond region.

Around 100 VCU students are guided by faculty each semester as the program offers education on effective chronic disease self-management, wellness coaching through healthy cooking demonstrations and diet management



education, and care coordination to proactively manage other health issues and related social needs before they develop into emergencies.

“It’s a wonderful combination of clinical practices, service to the community and, most importantly, help for people who want to be helped,” said Kimberly Battle, Ph.D., a clinical assistant professor at the School of Nursing.

Last year, RHWP served 437 individuals during 2,883 visits.

The program also prepares students for their future in collaborative health care. Students from across VCU’s Monroe Park and MCV campuses participate, including those from nursing, pharmacy, medicine, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, kinesiology and psychology.

“To know that we are preparing future caregivers, I love that,” Goodwin said. “I think it’s a huge part of what makes the program a success.”

But it’s about more than merely providing services, according to Kathie Hendrick Falls, RN, director of clinical operations at RHWP. Identifying gaps in care is key to helping participants understand their conditions and how to proactively manage them, and connecting them to information and resources.

“We are providing a way to research a population that really deserves to be researched in a healthy way to figure out what the drivers are that make it difficult for them to meet their health and wellness needs,” Falls said.

“That’s what drew me to support the Richmond Health and Wellness Program,” Goodwin said. “I wanted to see those needs met in the community.”

Goodwin has lifelong connections with Richmond and VCU. She was born and raised in Richmond and later graduated from the School of Nursing in 1993.

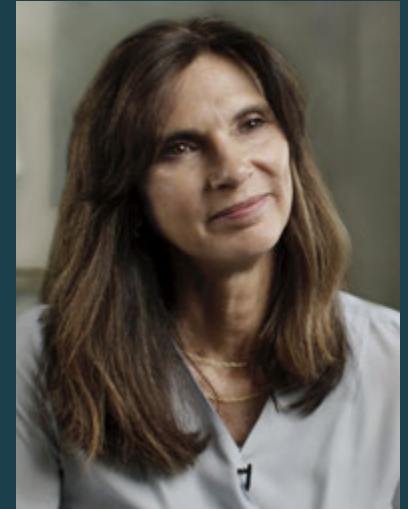
She eventually had to take a step back from her nursing career to take care of her own health, but this did not deter her spirit.

Goodwin and her late husband, Hunter Goodwin, decided to create the Crystal Goodwin Community Engagement Fund in 2017. She has continued to support it since that time, and others have joined the cause.

“It’s a perfect fit for me to give back to Richmond and to the community that I love and hold so dear,” she said. “I was once told it’s very difficult to move the needle in poverty, but I hope this support will help create change in our community by providing the resources needed to make a difference.”

The fund has been a key part of continuing the work of RHWP, so much so that the program is now expanding into three new communities — Alberta, Tappahannock and Petersburg — and a new site in Southside Richmond.

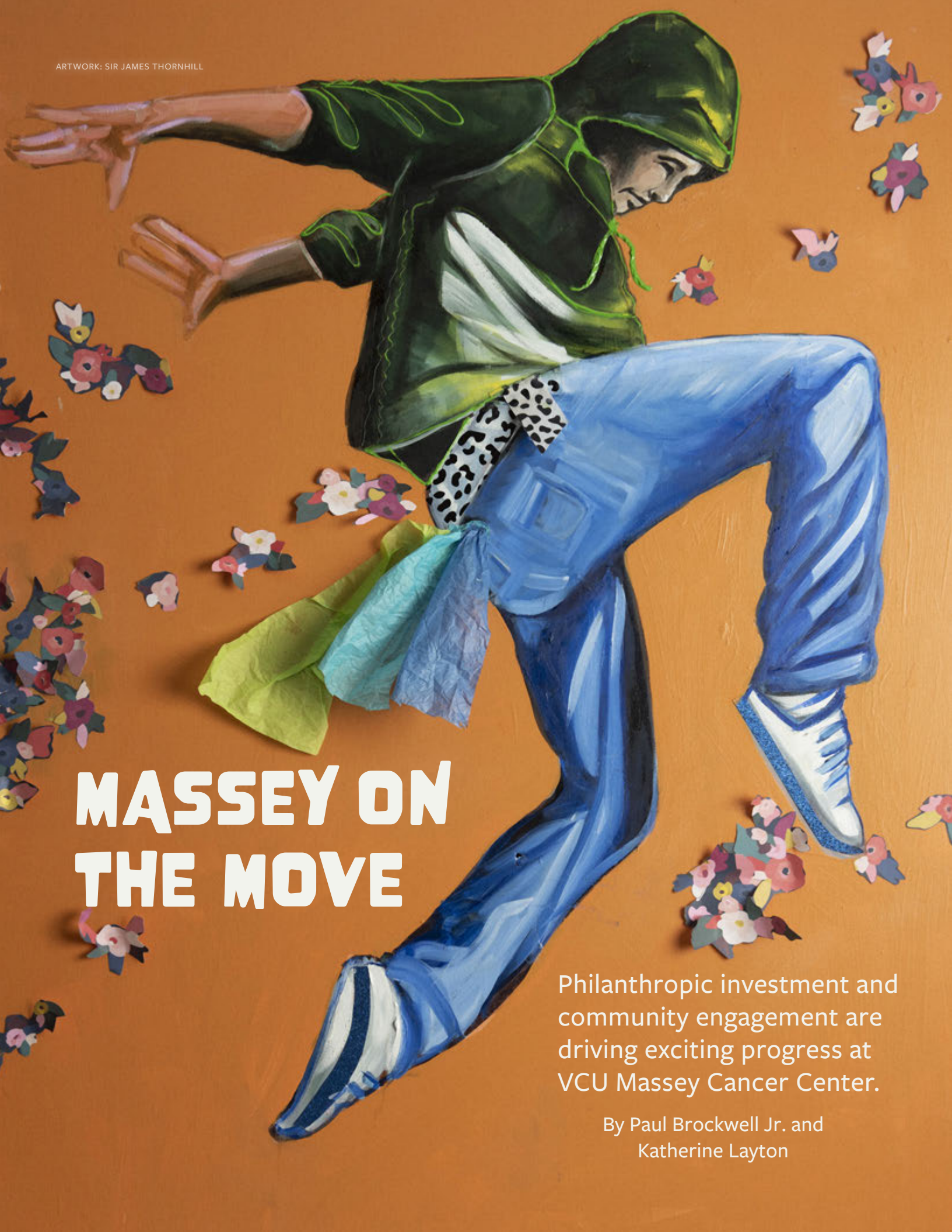
“This program will help to alleviate health inequities in our communities and improve clinical outcomes,” said Dr. Battle. “In the end, that’s what our work is all about.”



When she began working in community nursing, alumna Crystal Goodwin noticed a gap in the needs of vulnerable patients. That insight helped inspire her and her late husband, Hunter Goodwin, to create the Crystal Goodwin Community Engagement Fund to help support the VCU School of Nursing’s programs that are coordinating care for vulnerable older adults in their residential communities. Photo: Tyler Trumbo, MCV Foundation

*If you are interested in supporting the Richmond Health and Wellness Program through the Goodwin Community Engagement Fund, please contact Pam Lowe, senior director of development at the School of Nursing, at 804-827-0020 or [plowe@vcu.edu](mailto:plowe@vcu.edu).*

ARTWORK: SIR JAMES THORNHILL



# MASSEY ON THE MOVE

Philanthropic investment and community engagement are driving exciting progress at VCU Massey Cancer Center.

By Paul Brockwell Jr. and  
Katherine Layton



**W**orld-class care. Cutting-edge research. Unrelenting community engagement. Those are a few of the qualities people associate with VCU Massey Cancer Center. Founded in 1974, Massey has built a reputation of excellence thanks in large part to philanthropy and community engagement. Together with the community, it has played a critical role in advancing cancer treatment and research by practicing what it calls a bench-to-community model.

Thanks to two gifts from the business community, Massey will further its progress to place community needs at the heart of its research and care mission as it hits the road across the state.

## ON THE MOVE

Massey has teamed up with Dominion Energy and Bank of America to deploy two mobile health units that will further Massey's community-to-bench model and provide vital cancer education and outreach to the public within underserved communities in both urban and rural areas in Central and Southside Virginia.

The Massey on the Move vans were funded in part through a \$300,000 grant from The Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation and its Social Justice Grants Initiative. Created in June 2020, the initiative supports nonprofit organizations addressing the fundamental causes of systemic inequity, including health disparities.



PHOTO COURTESY HAMILTON GLASS

“My intent around the design of the Massey on the Move Van is centered around the hopeful outlook on a life without cancer. The van art is focused on a community that feels empowered by the progression of science and the breakthroughs in cancer education and prevention.”

**HAMILTON GLASS  
COMMUNITY ARTIST**

“We are honored to partner with Dominion Energy as a beneficiary of the Social Justice Grants Initiative to better care for our community members in the diverse areas we serve,” said Robert A. Winn, M.D., director and Lipman Chair in Oncology at Massey Cancer Center, who also serves as senior associate dean for cancer innovation at the VCU School of Medicine.

“The COVID-19 pandemic widened health disparity gaps among our communities over these past few years,” said Hunter A. Applewhite, president of the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. “The VCU Massey Cancer Center mobile health

vans will provide essential education and outreach to several communities most impacted by the social determinants of health. Our hope is for this contribution to make a lasting impact in the fight for health equity.”

The vans will feature artwork commissioned from local artists Hamilton Glass and Sir James Thornhill, which reflect community empowerment and hope for a future without the burdens of cancer. Movement within the art represents progress toward that future of equitable prevention, screening and care for all.

*(Continued on page 14)*



“I am inspired by the idea of motion — and of moving toward a future without cancer. Just as Massey Cancer Center is moving us all closer to a future without cancer, my figures are moving on the van.”

**SIR JAMES THORNHILL**  
**COMMUNITY ARTIST**

PHOTO COURTESY SIR JAMES THORNHILL

“While cancer affects all populations, certain groups face a greater risk of developing or dying from cancer due to social, environmental and economic disadvantages,” said Vanessa Sheppard, Ph.D., interim founding dean of the VCU School for Population Health and Massey’s associate director for community outreach engagement and health disparities research.

“Fifty-seven percent of Virginia’s Black population resides in Massey’s catchment, or service, area, and 37% of Massey’s patients are underrepresented minorities. Despite progress, the cancer mortality rate today among Black Virginians is still 14% higher than whites.”

Massey’s Office of Community Outreach and Engagement works

to reduce cancer health disparities and improve outcomes by promoting the importance of healthy living and regular screenings to help prevent and diagnose cancer early.

“Part of our work is to focus on cancer hot spots — localities with higher-than-average cancer incidence and mortality rates — within our catchment area; the vans will help us better reach and serve those communities,” said Dr. Sheppard, who launched the initiative.

Educational materials distributed from the vans are funded through a

\$150,000 grant from the Bank of America Foundation as part of a \$1.25 billion national commitment to advance racial equality and opportunity. The materials will focus on cancer prevention and screenings as well as healthy living and wellness.

“Bank of America is dedicated to supporting organizations that are committed to helping Virginia’s underserved communities,” said Victor Branch, Bank of America Richmond President. “We’re honored to partner with VCU Massey Cancer Center as they prepare to roll out





the mobile cancer health vans that will reduce health disparities in the communities we serve.”

Additional support for ongoing operations of the vans was provided by grants from The Jenkins Foundation and the Shelton Short Trust.

The vehicles enhance efforts at Massey’s four community resource centers across Central Virginia and rural Southside Virginia that provide access to educational information on cancer prevention, early detection, treatment options, clinical trials and survivorship.

### CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM

Building and enhancing the success of a world-class cancer center like Massey would not be possible without private support. Gifts to Massey support the cancer center in a plethora of ways, whether funding early-stage research into new treatments, providing grants for community-based education and outreach initiatives, or helping to recruit and keep the best researchers and clinicians here in Richmond.

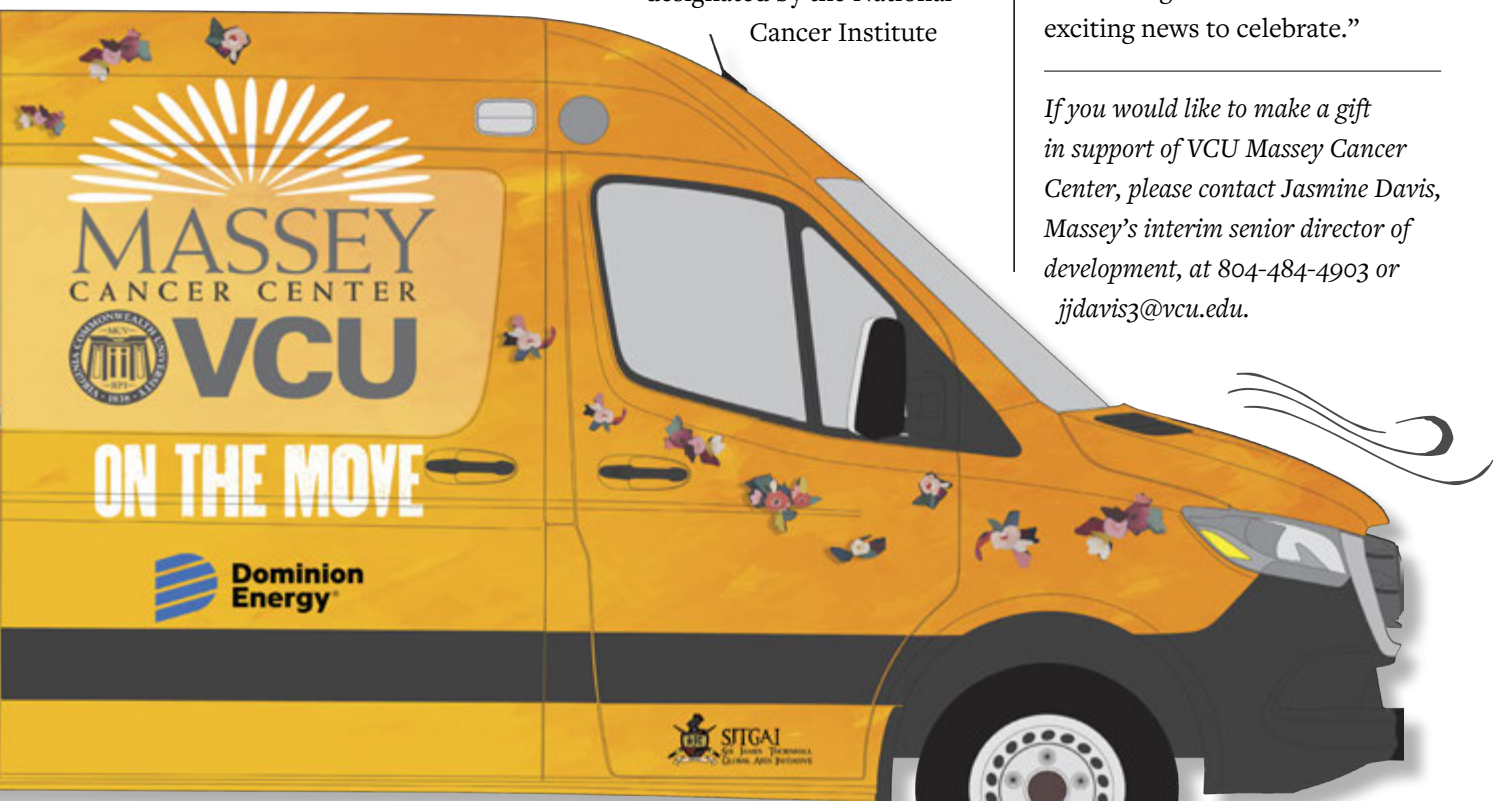
Massey is among only 71 cancer centers across the country designated by the National Cancer Institute

and continues working to take its research and care for the community to the next level, which would include achieving the NCI’s highest level of recognition as a Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“Massey is in the top 4% of cancer centers nationwide, but why stop there? My highest priority is to make Massey a national leader in the fight against cancer by achieving Comprehensive Cancer Center designation this year,” Dr. Winn said. “We’ve submitted our most compelling and competitive application yet, and I expect in the coming months we’ll have exciting news to celebrate.”

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*If you would like to make a gift in support of VCU Massey Cancer Center, please contact Jasmine Davis, Massey’s interim senior director of development, at 804-484-4903 or [jjdavis3@vcu.edu](mailto:jjdavis3@vcu.edu).*





# 125 YEARS OF PHARMACY

The school celebrates its rich history of training pharmacy leaders and the bright future of innovation ahead.

By Paul Brockwell Jr.

**T**he study of preparing and dispensing medicines has been an integral part of the MCV Campus from its inception. An independent school of pharmacy was formally established in 1898, but the Medical College of Virginia included pharmacy in its earliest curriculum when it organized 60 years before then, according to a history of the school written by the late Warren Weaver, Ph.D., dean emeritus of the VCU School of Pharmacy.



By 1913, MCV School of Pharmacy had merged with the pharmacy school that was part of local competitor University College of Medicine. Today, the VCU School of Pharmacy is the 15th-oldest pharmacy school in the U.S., and it continues to build on a rich history of training leaders for careers of service in an evolving profession.

“We’ve continually punched above our weight, whether in research or in innovative clinical practice,” said K.C. Ogbonna, Pharm.D., who was named dean of the School of Pharmacy in December 2022. “Our school has consistently thought critically about the challenges our students will face in the years ahead and stayed ahead of the curve.”

In 1971, VCU was one of the first pharmacy schools in the U.S. to require all students to spend their final year in a practice setting under the supervision of faculty preceptors. Upon receiving their Pharm.D.s, almost half of each class now moves on to additional training through residency programs or fellowships; the remainder go directly into practice. That variety is a reminder of the school’s continued success at preparing students for careers of purpose, impact and leadership.

Pharmacy has always been so much more than counting and dispensing medication. Pharmacists are experts in understanding how medications interact in the body. Wherever you find medications, you will find a pharmacist — from hospitals, research centers and veterinary practices to the familiar pharmacy counter.

“It makes me really excited to be a pharmacist,” said Camille Schrier, a current Pharm.D. student and Miss America 2020. “The school has done an incredible job of helping us understand the diverse roles that pharmacists can take, and that has been beneficial to me. I also know that if I ever wanted to make a career change, I have so many opportunities out there and my knowledge is going to be applicable in so many different industries.”

### **PIONEERS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE AND EDUCATION**

Alumnus Carl F. Emswiller is one person who contributed to change in the U.S. and abroad. A graduate of the Class of '62, he served as an associate clinical professor at the School of Pharmacy for about 25 of the 38 years he worked as a pharmacist, but it was his community practice that earned

*(Continued on page 18)*

“ People can find a lot of personal reward by being a pharmacist, by what they’re doing and how they’re serving their communities. ”

**JOSEPH T. DIPIRO, PHARM.D.**  
VCU’s Associate Vice President of Health Sciences for Faculty Affairs and former dean of the VCU School of Pharmacy





JOSEPH DIPIRO

him the profession's highest honor — the American Pharmacists

Association's Remington Honor Medal.

"Carl and his wife, Jewell, really led the charge in the change from product-oriented pharmacy to patient-centered care," said Joseph T. DiPiro, Pharm.D., dean of the school from 2014 to 2022 and VCU's associate vice president of health sciences for faculty affairs. "This is the era that we're in now and training our students how to be much more patient focused, but Carl really led that change in pharmacy practice."

Emswiller worked for a few years with fellow alum Eugene White, who had been developing an office-based practice that was more patient-centered and less commercial. At the time, pharmacists often felt they were hamstrung from providing the full range of services and expertise to patients they saw in the pharmacy.

In many cases, state laws curtailed what pharmacists could legally do, and attitudes toward pharmacists as frontline partners in care were not widespread among other health professionals.

"We had a lot of fences to jump over as pharmacists to really become clinically involved in patient care and patient care

outcomes," said Vic Yanchick, Ph.D., who served as dean of the School of Pharmacy from 1996 to 2014. "I remember being yelled at by a doctor



VIC YANCHICK

who was angry I had taken a patient's blood pressure in a community pharmacy and advised her to make an appointment with her physician."

Emswiller eventually established his own pharmacy in Loudoun County, Va., where he continued to build on the office-based practice concept and

created new patient medication profiles and offered a private consultation room for patients. His wife, Jewell, helped run the administrative side of their business, and he focused on building relationships with the people in the community.

"It's really amazing how far the profession of pharmacy has come," Dr. Yanchick remarked. "Even in the last 40 to 45 years, seeing the things we hoped pharmacists would be able to do when they needed to be done and that now pharmacists are doing them — and using their skills, training and knowledge."

The VCU B.S. degree program gave way to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in the late 1970s, a transition that was complete by 1996. To accommodate the growing student population and provide more educational and experiential diversity, the school opened two satellite campuses for third- and fourth-year Pharm.D. students: the Inova Fairfax Campus in 2007 and the University of Virginia Division in 2012.



## PHARMACY TRAILBLAZERS

**BERTHA C. ROLFE, 1925–2022**

**CLASS OF 1947**

*FIRST WOMAN FACULTY MEMBER*

**B**ertha Rolfe was not the first woman to graduate from the MCV School of Pharmacy, but she will always be remembered as one of the most notable graduates and the first woman to serve on the school's faculty.

"I think she blazed the trail for women to realize this was a great profession to go into," recalled her daughter, Robin Partin. "She always believed in education, and she always knew that women were as capable as men."

Rolfe graduated from the MCV School of Pharmacy in 1947 and was one of very few women pharmacists practicing in Richmond. She later joined the school's faculty and served as a lab instructor and mentor to generations of future pharmacists from the late 1940s until the 1980s. She also served on the MCV Foundation board for 18 years and was active in the former MCV Alumni Association.

"She was tough. She didn't take anything off anyone," Partin recalled. "She was known as a tough teacher, and she had a lot of students older than her who had come back after World War II. Because there weren't many women pharmacists, I think she felt she had to really prove herself capable even more so and to prove that women were very capable."

Her time on the faculty was not without challenges, but it allowed her to feed her intellectual curiosity as a lifelong learner, and she and her late husband, Norman, savored keeping in touch with — and quietly assisting — former students starting their own pharmacies across the state. People are quick to credit her presence with demonstrating that women can excel at pharmacy and inspiring more women to enter the profession.

Following Rolfe's death at 96 in March 2022, her close friend Kathy Bobbitt led an effort to honor her trailblazing legacy with a teaching award named after her at the school. The initiative inspired more than 30 gifts from her family, former colleagues, students and friends that it soared past its original goal, inspiring school leadership to create two awards in her name to recognize an outstanding faculty and staff member each year.

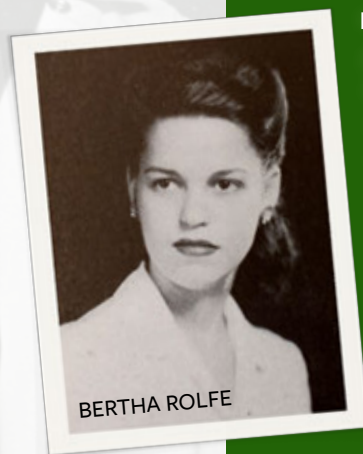
"Her legacy wasn't just as the first woman faculty member, although that was really important," said her son, Robert Rolfe. "I think her impact on the pharmacy profession in Virginia is lasting because of her devotion to the school and her constant devotion to her students as they practiced their profession."

To support the awards named in Bertha Rolfe's honor, please contact Louie Correa, senior director of development, at [lacorrea@vcu.edu](mailto:lacorrea@vcu.edu) or 804-828.3016.

### HISTORIC PROGRESS

It can be easy to celebrate the school's historic trailblazers, but it's equally important to acknowledge that the experiences of these figures were probably more challenging and difficult than most can appreciate today.

The first women to study pharmacy on the MCV Campus came, in part, because World War I created a shortage of trained "druggists," inspiring a change of heart at what had been an all-male pharmacy school. Hilda Saunders Lewter, of Chase City, Va., was among the first women who graduated in 1920, and with the support of her family she became the first woman licensed as a pharmacist in Virginia. Today the legacy of Lewter and of Bertha Rolfe (see sidebar) is reflected in the fact that women make up more than half the student body and are more common in the profession.





Similarly, William S. “Bill” Cooper (see sidebar) entered the School of Pharmacy in the 1950s when segregation and discrimination were rampant, especially in the American South. But his family shared how he stayed focused on

completing his degree and along the way became a mentor and father figure to some classmates who later honored him in a big way.

Today, the School of Pharmacy has embraced and grown from that history to

recognize an unparalleled strength in diversity: A full 30% of the Pharm.D. Class of 2024 are members of an underrepresented minority. In 2022, the school was honored by the university as the top academic unit at VCU and VCU Health in rankings of inclusion and community support. This marks the second time in a row the school has won recognition during the President’s Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment celebration.

Dean Ogbonna, who was then associate dean for admissions and student services, also received the Riese-Melton Award for contributions made in advancing cross-cultural relations.

Dr. Ogbonna said that since joining Pharmacy in 2012, he has been encouraged by the school’s leadership to think critically about how to transform health care to make it more representative of the patients that it serves. This has included creating spaces for students to talk about issues not explicitly expressed in the curriculum.

“None of these ideas were my own; we simply provide a space and opportunity for students to meet a need that was identified,” Dr. Ogbonna said. “This recognition is really a testament to the students,

the faculty and the staff who exemplify the school’s commitment to excellence through inclusion today.”

### **SOLUTIONS-ORIENTED LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH**

The School of Pharmacy has consistently attracted faculty who are leaders in their fields, including well-respected researchers and practitioners. Three of the last five presidents of the Association of American Colleges of Pharmacy were former deans of VCU’s school, and the school contributes to an impressive array of projects and discovery through its research output.

The school recently ranked 12th among U.S. pharmacy schools and colleges in NIH funding, with \$10.5 million in support for FY22, according to rankings from the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. Faculty from each department have active research programs and are available to mentor graduate students. Along with the nation’s first Ph.D. program in pharmaceutical engineering, the school is home to the Institute for Structural Biology, Drug Discovery and Development; the Center for Biomarker Research and Precision Medicine; the Center for Pharmaceutical Engineering and Sciences; the Aerosol Research Group and other cutting-edge

K.C. Ogbonna, Pharm.D., dean of the VCU School of Pharmacy. Photo: Tyler Trumbo, MCV Foundation



## PHARMACY TRAILBLAZERS

WILLIAM S. COOPER, 1928–2009, CLASS OF 1957

FIRST BLACK GRADUATE

projects aimed at discovering and optimizing new treatments to address a variety of diseases.

“We’re really focused on educating the next generation of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists that are going to be change agents within their fields,” said Dr. Ogbonna, “whether that is changing the way we meet patient needs in the community or discovering the new drugs of tomorrow. We’re laser-focused on providing our students every opportunity to apply themselves in an ever-evolving health care landscape.”

While the way pharmacy is practiced has transformed over the years, VCU School of Pharmacy remains rooted in a spirit of collaborative innovation.

“I’m excited about the future of the school because of our people,” Dr. Ogbonna said. “We have faculty and staff applying themselves and thinking critically about how they need to adapt and change with health care and higher education, and we have students who are coming to us expecting to explore not just pharmacy, but health care in the broadest sense.”

*If you would like to make a gift to support the School of Pharmacy, please contact Louie Correa, senior director of development, at [lacorrea@vcu.edu](mailto:lacorrea@vcu.edu) or 804-828.3016.*

**W**illiam S. “Bill” Cooper dreamed of being a country doctor, but attending medical school meant relocating his growing family to Washington, D.C., or Nashville, Tennessee, where the closest Black medical schools were located.

His wife, LaVerne, remembers

asking whether Bill should consider pharmacy school in their adoptive hometown, and he agreed to apply for studies at the MCV School of Pharmacy. He had earned a degree in chemistry from Virginia Union

University in 1949

before joining the U.S. Army in 1950. After serving two years at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, preparing troops for the Korean War, he decided to enter pharmacy school and found that his chemistry studies gave him an edge over some of his classmates.

Bill was also grateful to be entering a profession that desperately needed pharmacists to serve Black communities in the segregated South. From his earliest days as a student, he was breaking barriers and faced a number of challenges. LaVerne recalled an incident when Bill and his classmates had stopped for ice cream while on a field trip. The store refused to serve Cooper, so the group decided to leave and go somewhere else that would serve him.

“He was very attached to them,” she said.

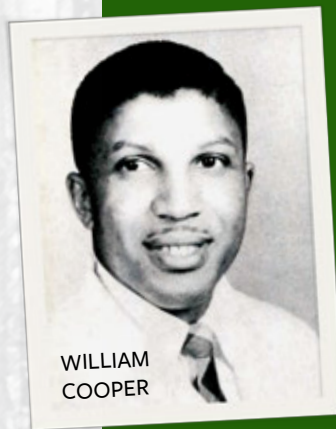
Following his graduation, he enjoyed a 38-year career that led him to serve communities in Hampton, Petersburg and Richmond, where he and two business partners purchased Maymont Pharmacy in 1968. The drugstore was a beloved part of the neighborhood until the construction of the RMA Expressway forced its sale and demolition.

“He really was the People’s Pharmacist,” said his son Bill Jr., who worked in the Maymont Pharmacy as a soda jerk. “Many nights he came home later than expected from his shifts because he would be delivering prescriptions to the elderly or shut-ins.”

Cooper left many legacies, not the least of which is a School of Pharmacy scholarship created in his name in 1987 by former fellow students to honor their 30th reunion. Because he was the first Black student to graduate from the school — and because of his commitment to breaking barriers — Cooper’s classmates designated the scholarship to support students from underrepresented backgrounds.

“We were very surprised when we first learned about the scholarship to honor Bill,” said LaVerne. “He touched so many lives, and we will be forever grateful to the MCV School of Pharmacy Class of 1957 for helping make sure his story is remembered and told to future generations.”

To support the scholarship in his name, additional gifts can be made to the William S. Cooper Scholarship Fund, c/o VCU School of Pharmacy, Box 980581, Richmond, VA 23298.



## OB-GYN Faculty Chair Honors Pioneering Leader

A recent gift to elevate the Fay O. Redwine, M.D., Faculty Fund to an endowed chair cements Dr. Redwine's legacy by investing in faculty excellence in obstetrics and gynecology.



Fay O. Redwine, M.D., was a force for women.

In the early 1970s, Dr. Redwine challenged successfully the then-prevailing notion that women could not handle a career in obstetrics and gynecology. She became only the second female resident in the history of the VCU School of Medicine's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Her intellect and curiosity, coupled with a caring, giving spirit, enabled her to play a major role in the development of new techniques in the field of

triple graduate of the School of Medicine, she joined the faculty in 1977 as associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and human genetics until 1994, when she entered private practice focusing on perinatology.

Dr. Redwine succumbed to complications of breast cancer treatment in 2004. Shortly after her death, her husband, Tom Williamson, established the Fay O. Redwine, M.D., Endowment Fund to honor her legacy.

By 2022, the endowment had grown, thanks in part to contributions from friends, colleagues and others who were impacted by Dr. Redwine. Then, Williamson, with the aid of a matching grant, increased the endowment to a size where his aspiration of establishing a chair now verges on reality, and the ripple effect could impact lives for years to come.

"So many bases are touched with this type of gift," Mr. Williamson said. "It's going to create an opportunity to enhance the stature of the obstetrics and gynecology department through the recruiting of a rising star or an established authority in the field of maternal fetal medicine."

The new endowed chair could bring invaluable research funding

“Funding the endowment to create a chair honoring Fay’s memory is a great endeavor that can achieve a lot of good.”

TOM WILLIAMSON

maternal fetal medicine. Dr. Redwine was a pioneer in using ultrasound to diagnose and treat conditions prior to birth. In 1982, *The New York Times* reported how Dr. Redwine and her MCV colleague Dr. Robert Petres used ultrasound to safely place needles into fetuses to drain dangerous accumulations of fluid before the fluid could cause organ damage. A





PHOTOS COURTESY TOM WILLIAMSON

opportunities and enhance the quality of education for the department’s residents, fellows and students — some who are likely to remain in Richmond to practice. Ultimately, the cumulative effect equals superior patient care and healthier outcomes for women and babies.

Williamson said his late wife, Dr. Redwine, could find the good in everyone and that she’d be proud

that a fund in her honor could move the needle forward in women’s health at a place that was such a big part of her life.

“It’s wonderful for the community right here in Richmond to have cutting-edge maternal fetal care,” he said. “Funding the endowment to create a chair honoring Fay’s memory is a great endeavor that can achieve a lot of good.”

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*If you would like to support the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology within the VCU School of Medicine, please contact Nathan Bick, senior director of development in the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at 804-827-4937 or [nathan.bick@vcuhealth.org](mailto:nathan.bick@vcuhealth.org).*

# Newly Elevated Chair Continues Legacy of Pushing Boundaries

The Walter Lawrence Jr., M.D., Chair in Oncology advances surgical oncology and cancer research while driving equity and access in patient care.

Surgical oncology pioneer Walter Lawrence Jr. was a gifted MCV and VCU Health surgeon, a diligent cancer researcher and a staunch social justice advocate who leaned on and lived by a resolute moral compass.

His death in 2021 at age 96 inspired a push to elevate the existing esteemed Walter Lawrence Jr., M.D., Distinguished Professor of Oncology in the VCU School of Medicine even higher, to an endowed chair. Dr. Lawrence's four children, several alumni, colleagues and other friends made lead gifts to the effort.

The enhanced Lawrence Chair in Oncology ensures that the School of Medicine continues Dr. Lawrence's legacy of pushing the boundaries of surgical oncology and cancer research. "Dr. Lawrence's influence and impact on the Department of Surgery, Massey and the field of surgical oncology is immense — he was a master surgeon, educator and above all a gentleman who cared deeply for his patients," said Vigneshwar Kasirajan, M.D., chair of the Department of Surgery at the School of Medicine. "He pioneered many of the multidisciplinary efforts in the care of patients with cancer and developed the first academic division of surgical oncology."

Dr. Lawrence began his career as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Korean War, where he served as chief of surgery of a MASH hospital. Speculation about his role leading to the creation of the character Hawkeye Pierce on the hit television series *M\*A\*S\*H* was always just that, though it tickled him to talk about it. Following the war, Dr. Lawrence joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where he performed the first renal transplant in 1963.

That achievement led to his recruitment by MCV in 1966, where he became the vice chair of surgery and later chaired the first academic division of surgical oncology in the U.S. He worked alongside renowned surgeon David Hume, M.D., who performed Virginia's first kidney transplant at MCV in 1957.

Dr. Lawrence went on to serve as the first director of the newly NCI-accredited cancer center on the MCV Campus, a position he held until retiring in 1990. His efforts underscored the importance of connecting cancer research with clinical trials and improved patient care.

He fought for diversity in student admissions and in clinical trials. Upon retirement, Dr. Lawrence threw himself into teaching. He served as professor emeritus at the School of Medicine and chaired the school's admissions committee. He also taught medical students at Richmond's McGuire Veterans Medical Center.

"To say Dr. Lawrence was ahead of his time as a physician and as a human being is an understatement. Long before equity became a prevalent pursuit in health care, Dr. Lawrence was a proponent of it," said Robert Winn, M.D., director of VCU Massey Cancer Center. "He increased access to care for individuals who, at the time, were largely marginalized by the medical community. His very legacy is about forging your own path as a clinician, following your core values and leading the change instead of allowing standards of care and operating procedures to remain cyclical and stagnant."

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*If you would like to support the Walter Lawrence Jr., M.D., Chair, please contact Andrew Hartley, director of development in the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at 804-628-5312 or [andrew.hartley@vcuhealth.org](mailto:andrew.hartley@vcuhealth.org).*





PHOTO: ALLEN JONES, VCU



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Carole Ivey, Ph.D., studied occupational therapy under Jeanne Madigan, Ed.D., and later followed in her footsteps as chair of the department. Dr. Ivey said the faculty enhancement fund her mentor created is an excellent way to celebrate Dr. Madigan's impact through mentoring of faculty and students. Photo: Tyler Trumbo, MCV Foundation

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## Retired OT Chair Creates Faculty Support Fund

The Dr. M. Jeanne Madigan Endowed Faculty Enhancement Fund supports occupational therapy professors in the VCU College of Health Professions.

M. Jeanne Madigan, Ed.D., spent her career helping individuals maneuver the seemingly ordinary daily functions of life, like getting out of bed, preparing meals or brushing one's teeth — activities that present real challenges for those with physical limitations due to disabilities or injuries.

A former chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, Dr. Madigan helped patients lead fuller, richer lives, and she is perpetuating that dedication to the field she loves through her gift to create the Dr. M. Jeanne Madigan Endowed Faculty Enhancement Fund.

The fund provides for a variety of department needs, including financial assistance for faculty to pursue doctoral-level degrees or post-professional work, professional development that fosters innovation and leadership, compensation for faculty to present research at national conferences, recruitment expenses and more.

Carole Ivey, Ph.D., the current OT chair, was a student in the early 1990s when Dr. Madigan led the department. Dr. Ivey recalled her former professor as a personable, patient-focused clinician who poured her heart and soul into her calling. Dr. Ivey joined the department full time in 2011 and became department chair in 2020. By then Dr. Madigan had retired, but the two reconnected and stay in touch today.

“Dr. Madigan’s career was about occupational therapy and she saw everything through that lens,” Dr. Ivey said. “She lived and breathed it.”

Dianne Simons, Ph.D., echoed those thoughts. Dr. Simons was an adjunct faculty member who became full time under Dr. Madigan — a transition Dr. Simons admits would have been much harder without Dr. Madigan’s nurturing guidance.

“She was always in my corner,” Dr. Simons said, explaining that Dr. Madigan’s approachable demeanor allowed her to relate to students despite her status as chair.

“She closed that divide immediately,” Dr. Simons said. “I had the utmost respect for her because she gave me that grounding to make me feel like what I was doing was worth it.”



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*If you would like to support occupational therapy at the College of Health Professions, please contact T. Greg Prince, Ed.D., the college’s senior director of development, at 804-828-7247 or [tgprince@vcu.edu](mailto:tgprince@vcu.edu).*

## Deep Roots

Alumni couple's steady support has a long-term impact on the VCU School of Dentistry.

When Jack Thompson, D.D.S., and his wife, Margaret, opened their dental practice in rural Gordonsville, Va., in the early 1970s, they did so with the understanding that they'd give it their best for five years and then re-evaluate their options.

Five years, however, turned into 50, as the Thompsons found their calling among a community that embraced them and their family as beloved service providers and, more importantly, neighbors and friends.

Their dedication to the needs of their small, rural community is part of why the Thompsons have given to the VCU School of Dentistry almost every year for nearly four decades — gifts that cumulatively have provided tens of thousands of dollars to support VCU Dentistry.

“Our success stems from our relationship with the VCU School of Dentistry, and that connection extends beyond our education to postgrad relationships with the school, classmates and alumni,” Jack Thompson said. “It’s a relationship that’s allowed us to support our family, but also the school, and that translates to caring for our community.”

The Thompsons also want to ensure that communities like Gordonsville have oral health care providers in the future, an especially important priority for them after practicing in a rural community for 50 years.

“We’ve seen the improvements in access to dental care but still see the need for more,” Jack said, “not just access to dentists, but also affordable care.”

The Thompsons said some of their fondest memories included organizing and participating in Missions of

Mercy, or MoM events, as they’re known in the Virginia dental community. The events target underserved areas around the commonwealth that lack dental providers, places like Virginia’s Eastern Shore and Wise County in Southwest Virginia.

Both Thompsons are alumni of the School of Dentistry. Jack and Margaret grew up in Richmond and were high school sweethearts. They both attended the University of Richmond. Margaret worked as an organic chemist at A.H. Robins while Jack attended dental school. When their children were in grade school, Margaret went back to school for dental hygiene at VCU and worked alongside her husband.

“Their sense of connection and dedication is truly something to celebrate,” said Lyndon Cooper, Ph.D., D.D.S., dean of the VCU School of Dentistry. “The Thompsons are a great example of how the cumulative effect of consistent gifts over the years can have a profound positive impact on our dental students, faculty and staff.”

The Thompsons, now retired, have three children and 12 grandchildren. Their son took over the Gordonsville practice, continuing in his parents’ footsteps by caring for a community long endeared to their family. One of their two daughters married a dentist.

“We were initially going to give Gordonsville five years — but things just worked,” Jack said with a smile about those early years. “You’re not just there as a service provider, but a community member, and a lot of friendships grew in that small town.”

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*If you would like to support the VCU School of Dentistry, please contact Gloria F. Callihan, the school's associate dean for development and alumni relations, at 804-828-8101 or [gfcallihan@vcu.edu](mailto:gfcallihan@vcu.edu).*





PHOTO: HOLLY PRESTIDGE, MCV FOUNDATION





## Boosting Research From Retirement

Former VCU Health CFO invests in Massey research through retirement account.

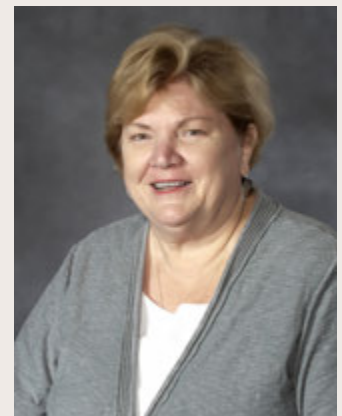
Cancer research became personal for Linda Pearson following her brother's death from acute myeloid leukemia, so in 2005 she created a fund in his memory to support leukemia research at VCU Massey Center.

"I just wanted to do something," she said. "I'm a big believer in science and research. I think that's part of my nursing background, and I wanted to set up something to help."

Pearson began her career at MCV Hospitals after graduating from the

VCU School of Nursing. After 10 years, she became director of psychiatric nursing before returning to school to pursue an interest in business. Pearson earned an accounting certificate at VCU, became a certified public accountant and eventually returned to VCU Health, this time in the business office.

Over the next 35 years, she advanced through several roles in finance, retiring in 2018 as VCU Health's chief financial officer of hospitals and clinics.



LINDA PEARSON



## SMART GIVING WITH RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

One of the simplest and smartest giving strategies is to make a gift with a retirement account. Choose the gift that matches your goal.

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Make an immediate impact and obtain a charitable tax deduction.	Penalty-free withdrawal from retirement account, starting at age 59 1/2.	Charitable tax deduction, reduce account balance and taxes on future required minimum distributions.
Make an immediate impact and avoid taxes on required minimum distributions from your IRA.	Qualified charitable distribution from IRA, starting at age 70 1/2.	Avoid income taxes, count toward any current required minimum distribution, reduce account balance and taxes on future required minimum distributions.
Provide future support, avoid taxes on required minimum distributions from your IRA and receive guaranteed income for life.	Charitable gift annuity funded with a qualified charitable distribution of up to \$50,000 in a single tax year from IRA.	Life income at an attractive rate, avoid income taxes, count toward any current required minimum distribution, reduce account balance and taxes on future required minimum distributions.
Provide future support, make a gift that doesn't require an attorney and doesn't cost anything now, and avoid double taxation on retirement accounts.	Beneficiary designation for a percentage of retirement account.	Avoid passing heavily taxed assets to heirs and maintain control of your resources during your lifetime.

As she recently began to update her estate plans, she said she reflected on her gratitude for the career opportunities she had at VCU Health.

"I wanted to pay that forward. VCU Health was the first place that came to mind," Pearson said. "I wanted to do something to recognize how grateful I am to VCU for all the opportunities I had during my career."

With that in mind, she and her family created the Pearson Family Cancer Research Fund to honor all of her family members who have

struggled with cancer. The new fund provides support for research in a broader range of cancer types.

Pearson also designated Massey as the beneficiary of an individual retirement account to enhance the endowed fund. Each year, she makes additional gifts through qualified charitable distributions from her IRA to grow both funds. Pearson uses her retirement account for philanthropy, which offers her tax benefits as a bonus to her giving.

"Nearly everyone in my family had

some type of cancer, so I wanted to create this fund to provide research support where it is needed most," Pearson said. "Massey is so renowned and recognized for its translational research that I had no doubts that's what I wanted to support."

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*If you would like to learn more about how to support the MCV Campus with your retirement account, please contact Ashley Sheets, director of planned giving for the MCV Campus, at [sheetsa2@vcu.edu](mailto:sheetsa2@vcu.edu) or 804-828-1671.*



Joseph R.  
Gazala, M.D.

Joseph Richard Gazala, M.D., one of the most generous donors to the VCU School of Medicine’s scholarship program and a highly respected physician in the Richmond community, died Nov. 12, 2022, at the age of 100.

“Dr. Gazala lived a remarkable and inspirational life, and he is someone that I will forever feel fortunate to have known,” said Nathan Bick, senior director in the Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations office. “His life was centered around his family, his work and the importance of education.”

Dr. Gazala was born in Mosul, Iraq, and raised in Baghdad, where he attended the Royal College of Medicine. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1953 and completed his postgraduate studies in ophthalmology and residency training at New York University, followed by a fellowship at the American College of Surgeons in New Jersey.

He and his family moved to Richmond in 1958, where he joined MCV as an associate clinical professor of ophthalmology while working in private practice until retiring in 1989. During his career, he served on the surgical staff of both Richmond Eye & Ear Hospital and MCV, later VCU Health.

Throughout his life, Dr. Gazala felt a strong sense of community and connection to the MCV Campus. He wanted to repay the place he called home, so in 2012, he established the Joseph R. Gazala, M.D., Scholarship with \$100,000. In 2018, he also gave \$100,000 to create the Joseph R. Gazala, M.D., Family Lectureship Fund in ophthalmology. In February 2022, he gave an additional \$1.1 million to support the scholarship fund he established a decade earlier.

In July 2022, Dr. Gazala gave an additional \$2 million and announced his intent to grow the scholarship fund through a \$2 million bequest, bringing his total giving to nearly \$5.5 million.

“Dr. Gazala left an indelible footprint on the MCV Campus,” said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, president and CEO of MCV Foundation. “His truly generous support of scholarships for medical students is the culmination of an exceptional legacy that will endure for many generations and will inspire many additional gifts through his example.”

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*If you would like to support medical student scholarships at the VCU School of Medicine, contact Jodi T. Smith, director of development in the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at [jodi.smith@vcuhealth.org](mailto:jodi.smith@vcuhealth.org) or 804-628-2248.*



# New Deans on Campus

Trio of new leaders brings depth of experience and research to MCV Campus.

The MCV Campus welcomed three new leaders this year who are bringing exciting research and new perspectives to their schools after extensive national searches.

In April 2022, Lyndon Cooper, D.D.S., Ph.D., joined the School of Dentistry as dean. Dr. Cooper's time as the newest dean on the health sciences campus ended when K.C. Ogbonna, Pharm.D., was named to lead the School of Pharmacy in December.

Both were excited to welcome Arturo P. Saavedra, M.D., Ph.D., who joined the School of Medicine as its new dean in April. Dr. Saavedra will also serve as executive vice president for medical affairs for the VCU Health System.



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Pictured left to right: Lyndon Cooper, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the VCU School of Dentistry; Art Saavedra, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the VCU School of Medicine; and K.C. Ogbonna, Pharm.D., dean of the VCU School of Pharmacy. Photo: Deaudra "Sha" Aguado

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