

Chronicle of Giving



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LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR
AND PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear friends,



The MCV Campus is full of energy as students and trainees arrive for the fall semester. The leaves have started to change their hues, and we welcome cooler

temperatures following an unrelentingly hot and humid summer.

The foundation celebrated its strongest year ever in support of VCU Health's mission. We are energized by the momentum that will lead to opportunities that lie ahead. More than ever, our efforts are vital to ensure that the MCV Campus continues to lead in the education, patient care and research that can change the way medicine is practiced here in Central Virginia and around the world.

Our cover for this issue highlights a heartwarming story about the connection between a College of Health Professions student and the donor whose grief inspired the creation of a scholarship in her son's memory. This issue also features the achievements of the foundation's annual award recipients, notable gifts to support VCU Health's excellence in orthopaedics, and a new endowed chair to honor legendary cardiologist Dr. Ken Ellenbogen.

These stories remind us to express our gratitude for what friends and supporters have made possible through transformative philanthropic gifts. We could not do this important work without your support, and we look forward to continuing to advance change and growth for the good of all.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ann Bollmeier
President and CEO

Ellen E. Spong
Board Chair

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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. © 2022 MCV Foundation

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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 \$800 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 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 | Rehabilitation Counseling student Karen Melcho discovered her calling and a deep connection to the donor whose scholarship she received. PHOTO: TYLER TRUMBO, MCV FOUNDATION

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



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William Jones decided to support VCU Massey Cancer Center with a CGA after seeing its lifesaving care help save his niece’s life.

TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Advancing Women's Health Research

Women's health care has taken giant leaps since Susan G. Kornstein, M.D., graduated from medical school decades ago. The field today encompasses not only reproductive health, but also cardiovascular health, mental health, breast health, bone health and more.

Dr. Kornstein leads those efforts at VCU Health as professor of psychiatry and obstetrics & gynecology within the VCU School of Medicine, as well as co-founder and executive director of the VCU Institute for Women's Health, deemed a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She is also editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Women's Health*.

A world-renowned researcher, Dr. Kornstein leads a \$3 million ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant from the National Science Foundation. Additionally, she was just awarded \$3.2 million from the National Institutes of Health for a Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health grant.

Dr. Kornstein has been a trustee of the MCV Foundation for five years.

How did you become involved with the MCV Foundation Board?

I was aware of the MCV Foundation as a faculty member in the VCU School of Medicine, but I became more familiar with the foundation as my husband (Lee Krumbein) served as a trustee for many years and is now a lifetime honorary trustee. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute as a trustee myself.

(Continued on page 4)



PHOTO: TYLER TRUMBO, MCV FOUNDATION

TRUSTEE'S CORNER CONTINUED

What has been the most rewarding part about your time thus far as a trustee?

As a faculty member, I see the benefits firsthand, from endowed professorships and student scholarships that make a difference in the lives of our faculty and students, to research funding and program support that contributes to improved patient care.

What inspires you professionally?

The amazing researchers that I am so fortunate to work with at the Institute and the tremendous opportunities that we have to advance the care of women patients.

Women were left out of clinical trials for many years and what was learned from studies of men was presumed to carry over to women. We now know women may present with different symptoms, have a different course of illness, and respond differently to treatments.



Explain the significance of the NIH and ADVANCE grants.

The ADVANCE grant works to create the best environment at VCU where diverse women faculty can succeed in STEM fields through cultural change, policy and procedure change, and faculty development. The BIRCWH grant will support junior faculty to develop as women's health researchers in five areas: cancer, maternal-child health, mental health and addiction, obesity and cardiovascular health, and neuro-musculoskeletal health.

What might people be surprised to learn about you?

Growing up, I danced in the State Ballet of Rhode Island, and I competed in state and national piano competitions. I still love the performing arts — opera, ballet, the symphony and the theater.

Romanos Honored With Wayne Medal

This year, two longtime friends of the MCV Campus received one of VCU's most prestigious honors — the Edward A. Wayne Medal.

“Michele and Don’s dedication to and support of VCU students, faculty, patients and programs on the MCV Campus are simply exceptional,” said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, president and CEO of the MCV Foundation. “Their service and generosity will leave a meaningful and lasting impact on campus for many years to come, and I’m grateful for their leadership.”

The Wayne Medal was established in 1971 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to VCU. It’s named for Edward A. Wayne, the former chair of the state commission that recommended the establishment of

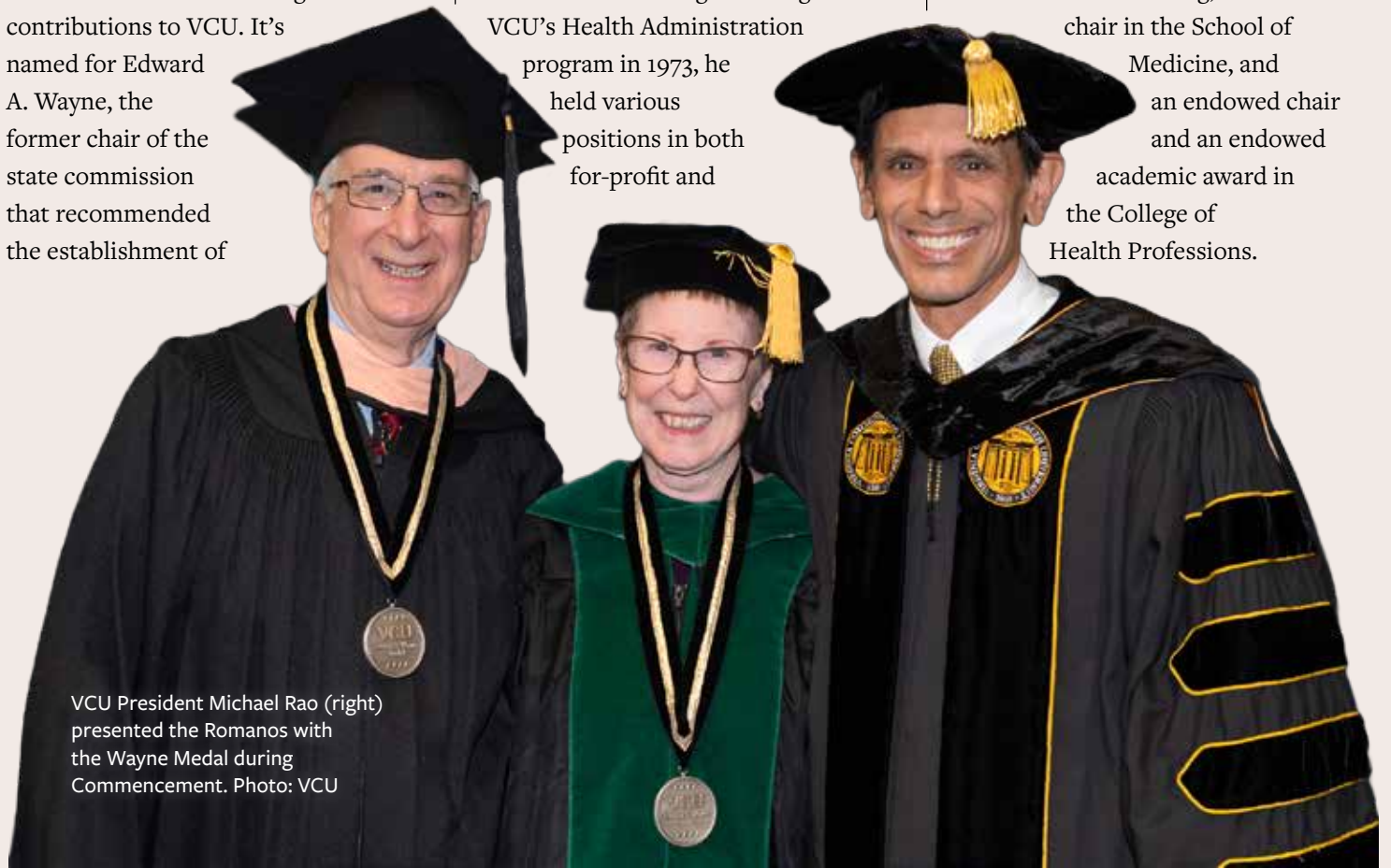
Virginia Commonwealth University in 1968. Wayne, a past president of the Federal Reserve Bank, also went on to serve as VCU’s first vice rector.

VCU’s Board of Visitors selected the Romanos for this honor based on their extensive service to the community. A 1984 alumna, Michele Romano, M.D., is a retired family practice physician and a former faculty member at the VCU School of Medicine. Dr. Romano has served on the VCU Board of Visitors, where she was vice rector, the VCU Health System Authority Board and is a current trustee of the MCV Foundation.

Don Romano is a retired health care administrator. After graduating from VCU’s Health Administration program in 1973, he held various positions in both for-profit and

nonprofit hospitals in the Southeast, including MCV Hospitals. He was senior vice president at the Greater Southeast Healthcare System in Washington, D.C., before starting his own consulting business. Don also served his alma mater as a member of the Health Administration Alumni Council at the VCU College of Health Professions.

The Romanos are generous supporters of the university. In 2005, they established endowed scholarships in the School of Medicine and College of Health Professions. A year later, they pledged a leadership gift to create two distinguished professorships in the School of Nursing, an endowed chair in the School of Medicine, and an endowed chair and an endowed academic award in the College of Health Professions.



VCU President Michael Rao (right) presented the Romanos with the Wayne Medal during Commencement. Photo: VCU

MCV Society Celebrates Power of Planned Giving



The spring reception brought together MCV Society members in person for the first time since 2019. New members like Pete and Paige Ashby (left) and Susan Craik and Jeff Kling (right) enjoyed the event for the first time. Photos: Tyler Trumbo, MCV Foundation

In April 2022, more than 130 guests gathered at the historic Virginia House to celebrate the generosity and impact of donors who have made a planned gift in support of the MCV Campus.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate and thank our MCV Society donors for their generous

commitments to support the MCV Campus,” said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, president and CEO of the MCV Foundation.

The MCV Society was founded in 1994 to recognize individuals who have included an MCV Campus school or unit in their estate plans.

The group is the largest giving society to benefit the MCV Campus, and its members are often alumni, retired faculty or staff, and grateful patients who want to ensure future support for the causes they care about most.

The momentum for this type of support has proven consistently strong.

“Each year, membership in the MCV Society continues to grow,” Bollmeier said. “We welcomed 17 new members this year, and total membership in the society exceeds 600 people. It’s a group large in number, generous in heart and incredible in impact.”

Since July 2021, new planned gifts from the MCV Society represent \$10 million that will provide future support to a wide range of causes across the MCV Campus. The total value of documented planned gifts to benefit the campus exceeds \$100 million.

“Our MCV Society planned giving donors are some of our most loyal and devoted supporters,” said Ellen Spong, chair of the foundation’s board of trustees. “Their generosity will touch every area of the VCU Health enterprise, and it is because of donors like them that the MCV Campus will continue to flourish in the decades to come.”

If you would like to learn more about how to make a planned gift to support the MCV Campus, please contact Brian Thomas, the MCV Foundation’s vice president and chief development officer, at 804-828-0067 or brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org.



Above: MCV Society members Samantha and Mike Nuckols enjoyed the spring reception for members with Louie Correa and Joseph T. DiPiro, Pharm.D., former dean of the VCU School of Pharmacy. **Below:** MCV Society members Ramona Neifeld and Jim Neifeld, M.D., pause for a photo with Fay Chelmow and David Chelmow, M.D., interim dean of the VCU School of Medicine, during the reception.



MCV SOCIETY MEMBERS

646

**NEW PLANNED
GIFTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2022**

\$10.9
million

**TOTAL EXPECTANCIES FOR
THE MCV CAMPUS**

\$100
million

Critical Care Air Transport Teams (CATTs)



The MCV Foundation's fourth Health in History event with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture featured a discussion about how the U.S. transformed combat care during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in ways that changed how medicine is practiced off the battlefield.

Health in History Returns

Event explored how combat care inspired innovations off the battlefield.

From smallpox inoculation of troops during the American Revolution to medical helicopters in Vietnam, medical innovations born on the battlefield have often reshaped the way health care is provided every day.

Those medical advances were the focus this summer at the fourth installment of the Health in History series co-hosted by the MCV Foundation and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

Guest speaker Art Kellermann, M.D., senior vice president of VCU Health Sciences and CEO of VCU Health System, discussed the book he co-edited, *Out of the Crucible:*

How the U.S. Military Transformed Combat Casualty Care in Iraq and Afghanistan. David L. Robbins, a *New York Times* bestselling author, moderated the conversation at the newly renovated Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

This Health in History series is made possible by a grant from the Virginia Sargeant Reynolds Foundation, and the collaboration between the MCV Foundation and the museum was the creative idea of Austin Brockenbrough III, a trustee of the Virginia Historical Society and a lifetime honorary trustee of the MCV Foundation.

"I am so pleased with the

partnership as these two great institutions are incredibly important to our community,” Brockenbrough said. “Creating a forum to discuss the intersection of major medical milestones and historic events helps ensure the amazing legacy of the MCV Campus.”

Dr. Kellermann shared four lifesaving innovations that have come out of battlefield medicine and are now used regularly in today’s hospitals, including topical bleeding control technology that was developed at VCU.

Dr. Kellermann said he hopes that civilian medical practices will continue to incorporate combat medicine techniques to improve patient survival rates in the future.

“On the field, there are different ranks and branches of service,” Dr. Kellermann said, “but when they deploy and come together in medicine, they are one team, one fight.”

If you are interested in learning more about the Health in History event series, please contact Brian Thomas, vice president and chief development officer, at 804-828-0067 or brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org.



Above: Darius A. Johnson, chair-elect of the MCV Foundation board, shares opening remarks at the fourth annual Health in History event.



Left: VCU Health CEO Art Kellermann, M.D., M.P.H., with Robert F. Diegelmann, Ph.D., who helped develop WoundStat technology used in combat gauze. The product uses a VCU-engineered compound that stops severe bleeding in minutes. Photos: CSI Studios



Above left: Discovery Society members Tom and TJ Cardwell caught up with Ben Robison and Betty Graham during the spring Discovery Society Reception at the Muscarelle Museum of Art in Williamsburg. **Above right:** Eleanor and Bruce Knowles enjoyed the reception at the Muscarelle Museum of Art in Williamsburg. Photos: Penelope M. Carrington, MCV Foundation

Discovery Society Contributions Surpass \$6M

In 2013, the MCV Foundation began hosting its Discovery Series events in Williamsburg. The programs have offered attendees opportunities to hear from and connect directly with world-renowned care providers and researchers from across VCU Health in specialties such as cardiology, oncology, psychiatry, emergency medicine and much more.

Soon after the Discovery Series launched, inspired individuals began to raise their hands to offer help and support for the lifesaving and innovative work they were learning about at the events.

In 2015, as a way to recognize and thank Discovery Series attendees who choose to support the MCV Campus, the Discovery Society was created to unite people from the greater Williamsburg area who share a common goal of improving lives through philanthropy at VCU Health.

The Discovery Society now provides millions in funding each year for important projects across campus. As the society's impact grows, so does the MCV Foundation's gratitude for this generous and forward-thinking group.



DISCOVERY SOCIETY'S
IMPACT

MEMBERS

242

RAISED IN 2021

\$2.6
million

RAISED SINCE 2015

\$6
million

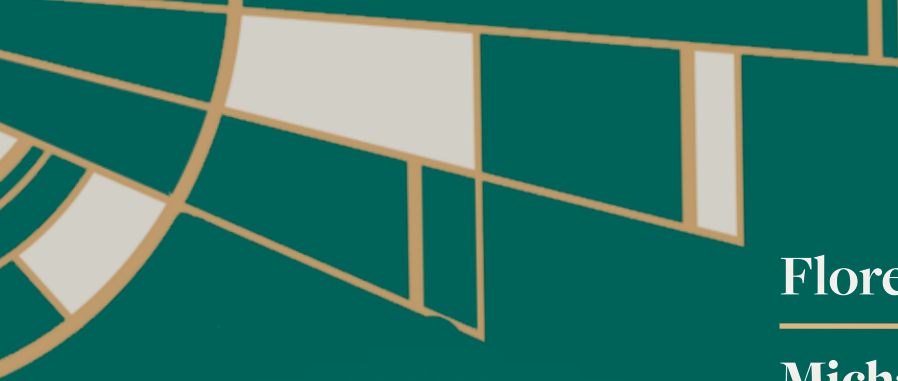


2022 MCV Foundation Awards

This year on June 6, among the blooming grounds of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, the MCV Foundation recognized four outstanding individuals at its annual awards dinner.

These honorees are tenacious medical pioneers, lifelong health care advocates and professionals who embody the heart and soul of their respective fields and demonstrate VCU Health's diverse spectrum of transformative leadership.

By Holly Prestidge



Florence Neal Cooper Smith

Michael B. Dowdy Award



A piqued childhood curiosity about a then little-known disease led to Florence Neal Cooper Smith's tireless efforts over more than 50 years to raise awareness of sickle cell disease.

For those efforts, she's widely regarded as the "Mother of Sickle Cell Disease" in Virginia. Smith was instrumental in lobbying Congress to pass the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act in 1972, which authorized funding for project grants and contracts for research around diagnosis, treatment and control of sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder.

She organized Richmond's first citywide survey in 1969 to determine the extent of sickle cell awareness regionally. Smith then worked with VCU Health to implement and lead the Virginia Sickle Cell Awareness Program, which provides screening services for newborns at birth and counseling for couples who are at risk of having children with sickle cell disease.

Today, 95% of children diagnosed at birth live to adulthood thanks largely to Smith's efforts, and she continues to advocate for and rally support for the cause.

The Florence Neal Cooper Smith Professorship — one of a few professorships in the country named for an African American woman — was established in 2014 as a vehicle for securing funding for aggressive, cutting-edge research that could ultimately lead to a cure for sickle cell disease.

"We've come a long way but even though we've done marvelously, sickle cell disease is still out there," Smith said. "This award makes me feel what I'm doing is special and is needed."

Smith is a graduate of Virginia Union University and completed graduate studies in pathology. Her career inspired a short documentary film called *Amazing Journey*, which chronicled her birth during the Great Depression and the outstanding advocacy work she continues to do well into her nineties.

Established in honor of Michael B. Dowdy, who was president of the MCV Foundation from 1993 to 2006, the Dowdy Award recognizes a volunteer who has played a lead role fundraising for the MCV Campus.

Richard P. Wenzel, M.D.

Dr. Eugene P. Trani Award

One of the world's foremost experts on infectious diseases, Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., stepped back from retirement into a familiar role during the COVID-19 pandemic. His steadfast presence during countless local, national and international webinars cut through the tumultuous scientific and political landscape at the time to offer relatable information for faculty and laypeople alike.

An MCV Foundation trustee since 1999, Dr. Wenzel is the emeritus chair of the VCU School of Medicine's Department of Internal Medicine and former president of MCV Physicians, as well as former senior associate dean for clinical affairs.

Dr. Wenzel earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Haverford College, a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and a master's degree in epidemiology from the University of London.

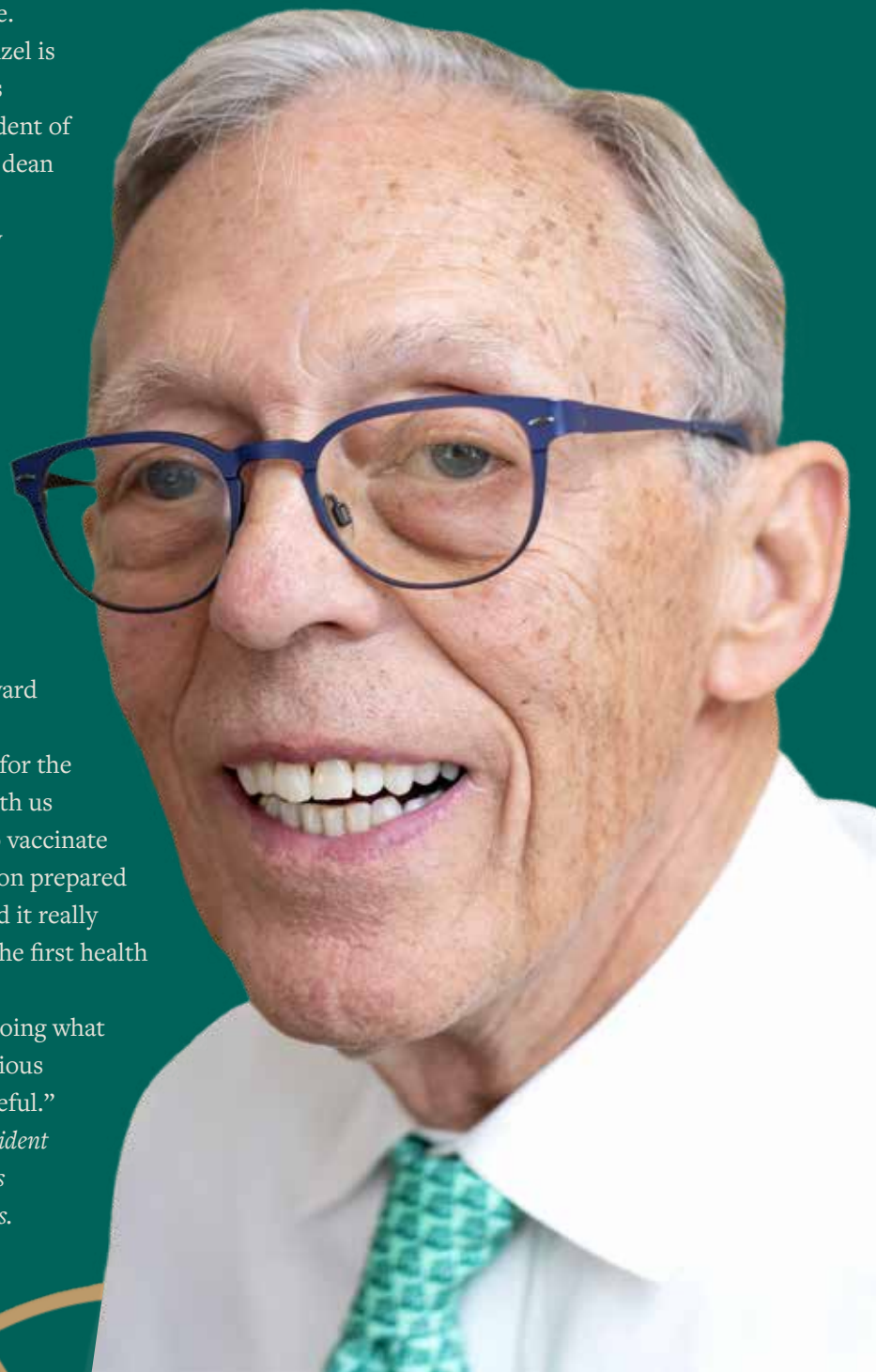
A former president of the International Society for Infectious Diseases, he has been the editor-at-large for *The New England Journal of Medicine* since 2001. Dr. Wenzel is the founding editor of two journals: *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* as well as *Clinical Performance and Quality Health Care*.

Dr. Wenzel said he was honored to receive an award named for someone he admires and respects.

"Eugene Trani always showed steadfast support for the School of Medicine," Dr. Wenzel said. "He stood with us when resisting an unnecessary national directive to vaccinate all health care workers against smallpox as the nation prepared for the Iraq war. The decision was the right one, and it really threw the university into the national spotlight as the first health care system to decline the national program."

"It seems a little unfair to receive an award for doing what I love — teaching principles of medicine and infectious diseases," Dr. Wenzel said, "but I'm proud and grateful."

Established in honor of Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., president of VCU from 1990 to 2009, the Trani Award recognizes exceptional dedication and support of the MCV Campus.





Sheryl Garland

Jerome F. Strauss III Award

Access for all is at the heart of VCU Health’s mission, and the change agent behind it is Sheryl Garland, who has worked to improve the health care system for the Richmond community for more than 30 years.

An MCV Foundation trustee, Garland is VCU Health System’s chief of health impact and executive director of the VCU Office of Health Equity.

Described as the “moral center” of VCU Health for her commitment to challenging others to be better and do better, Garland excels at collaborating with health care leaders, federal and state governmental entities, and practitioners to create actionable strategies that improve health care access.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Garland spearheaded institutional engagement with the Virginia Department of Health and community partners to secure and distribute vaccines within VCU Health clinical areas and affiliated community sites.

Outside of her health system responsibilities, she’s been the director of community outreach for the VCU Institute for Women’s Health as well as the administrative director of the VCU Center on Health Disparities.

Garland said the award constitutes a “milestone” in her career. It’s extra special because she knew Dr. Strauss.

“He represented excellence in his field and a level of dedication and sincerity that you don’t see — he was truly authentic,” Garland said. “It’s more than an honor to be recognized with an award that bears his name.”

Garland earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Wake Forest University and a master’s degree in health administration from VCU. She completed an administrative residency at MCV Hospitals. A former trustee of the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, she currently serves on the boards of CrossOver Healthcare Ministry and the University Health Services - Professional Education Programs.

Named in honor of Jerome F. Strauss III, M.D., Ph.D., former dean of the VCU School of Medicine, this award is presented to a VCU administrator, faculty or staff member who has demonstrated extraordinary service and stewardship to the MCV Campus.

Joseph T. DiPiro, Pharm.D.

W. Robert Irby, M.D., Award

Joseph T. DiPiro, Pharm. D., retired this spring after eight dynamic years as dean of the VCU School of Pharmacy. While he launched the School of Pharmacy into a top-20 national ranking, endowments to the school doubled, philanthropic gifts quadrupled and the number of annual donors increased by 40%.

The School of Pharmacy was twice named VCU's top division for diversity and inclusive culture after the percentage of underrepresented students in Pharm.D. classes doubled during his tenure.

Dr. DiPiro helped launch the nation's first Ph.D. program in pharmaceutical engineering in partnership with VCU College of Engineering. The School of Pharmacy also exceeded its ambitious \$12 million Make it Real fundraising campaign goal.

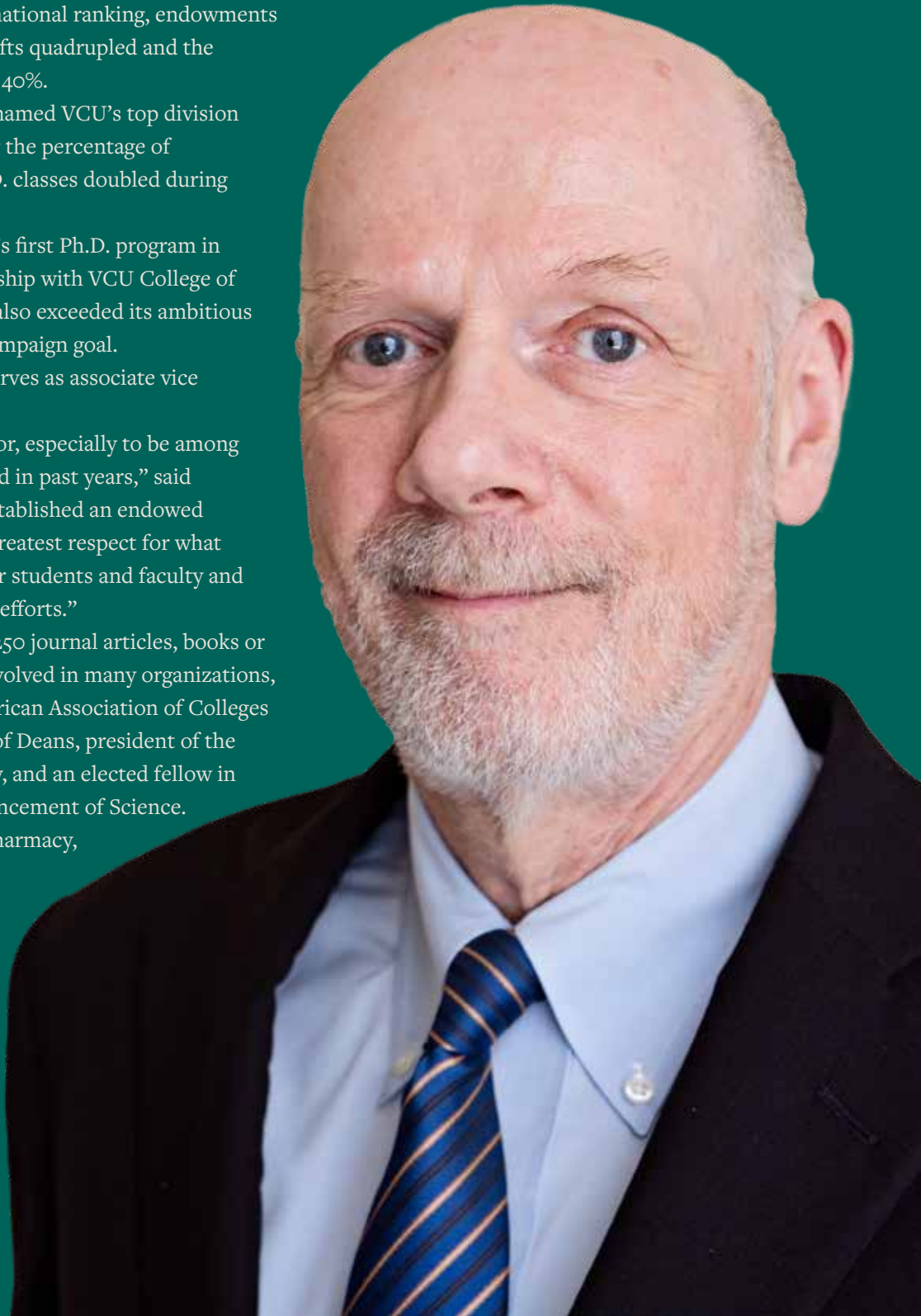
Dr. DiPiro continues to teach and serves as associate vice president of faculty affairs.

"Receiving this award is a great honor, especially to be among those who have received the Irby Award in past years," said Dr. DiPiro, who, along with his wife, established an endowed scholarship at the school. "I have the greatest respect for what the foundation has done to support our students and faculty and I have enjoyed being a part of all these efforts."

Dr. DiPiro has authored more than 250 journal articles, books or editorials. Additionally, he has been involved in many organizations, including as past president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, past chair of its Council of Deans, president of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and an elected fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Before joining the VCU School of Pharmacy, he spent more than two decades at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy before serving as executive dean at the South Carolina College of Pharmacy.

Named in memory of Robert Irby, M.D., an MCV rheumatologist who was devoted to securing financial support for campus, the Irby Award is presented to a faculty member who has assisted with major fundraising efforts.



Full Circle

Rehabilitation counseling student
Karen Melcho discovered profound
connections to the journey of Blair Craig,
whose death inspired his mother to create
a scholarship in his honor at the VCU
College of Health Professions.

By Holly Prestidge





Blair Craig's mother,
Mary Bradshaw (left),
and Karen Melcho (right)
Photo: Tyler Trumbo,
MCV Foundation



Blair Craig, with daughters Anne Grayson and Abby (right), worked as a senior mental health clinician before his death in 2015. Photo courtesy of Mary Bradshaw

The edge of Mary Bradshaw's puzzle was intact, the border revealing snippets of colorful slashes and bold strokes distinctly recognizable as a Jackson Pollock painting. Despite her penchant for puzzles — several are framed and hanging proudly around her White Stone home — Mary wouldn't finish this one.

Rather, she gifted these 1,000 pieces with the border intact to a new friend and fellow puzzle enthusiast, Karen Melcho, with simple instructions to finish the work Mary had already started.

A sweet, impromptu gesture that could not be more symbolic of their newfound relationship.

Mary and Karen are linked by tragedy but also by resounding hope.

Mary's world shattered in 2015 when her oldest child, Blair Craig, died. He was 48 and living his best life as a caring husband and father to two daughters. More than a decade before, he threw himself into a career as a senior clinician in Chesterfield County's Department of Mental Health Support Services, helping people through the darkest times in their lives.

Blair loved his job. He was acutely familiar with the

experiences of those he counseled because he'd been there himself.

The death of a child leaves an indelible mark on a parent's heart. To honor her son and encourage others to follow in his profession, Mary established the Blair Craig Memorial Scholarship in 2016. The scholarship is offered to graduate students in the VCU College of Health Professions

Department of Rehabilitation Counseling.

Karen is its third recipient.

"It's really important to have people work in the field of addiction," Mary said. "We need more people like Blair."

These days, Mary talks openly about Blair's addictions. Like many parents, she never saw it coming.

Blair was a happy child, Mary said. He played soccer and had lots of friends. He was four years older than his brother, Fred. As a young man, Blair dreamed of being a lawyer, and Mary was convinced he'd achieve that goal. He was articulate and logical. Public speaking came easy to him, and he had a natural competitive edge.

Looking back, Mary said she didn't recognize the warning signs of substance abuse as he moved through high school. He graduated from St. Christopher's School and launched into life at Hampden-Sydney College, only to admit after his

“It's really important to have people work in the field of addiction. We need more people like Blair.”

MARY BRADSHAW
BLAIR CRAIG'S MOTHER



first year that he needed help for an addiction to drugs and alcohol.

Blair took a year off from college to work through recovery and for the first time, Mary said, she came face-to-face with a crisis for which she was completely unprepared. She remembers the sheer despair as she watched her son struggle. In his early 20s, Blair cut ties with life as he knew it. He gave up his friends. Socializing stopped. He was riddled with phobias. After having back surgery, for example, he suffered greater because he was afraid to take pills or medications for fear of relapsing.

“Mental health is just such a crisis and unless it touches you, you don’t really know what it’s like,” Mary said. “People dismiss it — they think, ‘Put [addicts] in treatment, they’ll be OK,’ and that’s just not true.”

While working his recovery programs, Blair transferred to VCU to seek a political science degree. It’s there he found a supportive recovery network that ultimately became a lifeline. Life was looking up, Mary said. Blair was doing well

academically and was working for a lawyer. He found an apartment. He leaned on his recovery network.

Then came the first diagnosis — Hodgkin’s lymphoma — when Blair was 24. It was shocking but more than that, Mary explained, it somehow felt doubly unfair to be happening to an individual who had already been through so much.

Blair started radiation treatments but continued working and going to school. He graduated cum laude and was accepted to the University of Richmond School of Law.

Mary said she was about to write the check for law school when Blair surprised her again — he’d changed his mind. Going through rehab and recovery opened his eyes and his heart to the work that needed to be done in the field of mental health.

Instead of law school, Blair went through VCU’s rehabilitative counseling program, ranked fourth nationally among all master’s-level rehab training programs.

His second diagnosis came four years after the first, and this time it was stage four. Mary said Blair began chemotherapy and he moved back home.

But while working through his treatments, he continued living his life despite seemingly insurmountable

odds. He went on to marry his sweetheart, Traci, and they had two precious daughters. As a licensed professional counselor, Blair worked to destigmatize mental

health and improve access to care and treatment, the lack of which troubled him the longer he worked in the field.

A weakened heart from years of radiation treatments, however, led to a heart attack. He died just weeks following a bypass surgery.

“She’s so proud of him and he was doing such wonderful things. I’m going to try to carry that torch.”

KAREN MELCHO, BLAIR CRAIG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Mary recalls watching as her son battled addiction, then fought for others to do the same. She calls all of them “warriors.”

As she spoke, one of those warriors listened.

A native Midwesterner, Karen moved to Fredericksburg as a teen with her family and later went to VCU, where she earned a B.A. in English, minoring in creative writing and religious studies.

The next Hemingway, she joked as she recalled her aspirations back then.

Life, however, didn’t work out as she planned. She struggled for years with addiction before an overdose forced her into recovery. She came back to Richmond for help and, in her recovery, had the opportunity to work with incarcerated individuals.

Karen shared her own story to help others and in doing so, found her calling.

“To hear from someone who has really been there, who can make that trusting connection — that’s priceless,” she said. “Nothing had ever made me feel inspired the way that did.”

Karen said graduate school had never been on her radar. Still, as her life’s purpose became clearer, she took a giant leap of faith by applying to the rehabilitative counseling program Blair completed years before.

Now 49 and heading into her second year of the program, Karen feels the Blair Craig Memorial Scholarship only solidifies that her life has meaning. She said she’s grateful Mary cared enough about her son and the work he was doing to want to help others do the same.

Even the news of the scholarship was serendipitous.

Karen happened to be speaking to a room full of individuals who were new to recovery programs when she got an email alert. She almost couldn’t believe what she saw and, before launching into her planned remarks, shared with the room that she was a scholarship recipient.

“A little hope shot in there,” she said, laughing, as

she remembered how the room erupted into cheers.

“I’m always thinking about how God’s working in all of our lives, and this is one of the ways he’s been working in mine,” Karen said. “I’m grateful, but it also makes me feel a responsibility to do right by Mary and her son.

“She’s so proud of him and he was doing such wonderful things,” Karen said. “I’m going to try to carry that torch.”

Blair’s work wasn’t finished, Mary said. But she’s hopeful his story — and Karen’s — inspires others to give financially and raise awareness of mental health.

Mary has given the gift. Karen, and others like her, simply must see it through.

“Education is just really important in my family,” Mary said. “It’s the most important thing you can give to your children.”

She knows Blair would agree.

“Counselors are just so necessary,” she said, particularly those who’ve gone through addiction and come out better on the other side. “We need people like Blair in this world who were willing to give up so much.”

Mary added: “I just want him to be remembered.”

If you’re interested in supporting the Department of Rehabilitative Counseling, please contact T. Greg Prince, Ed.D., senior director of development at the VCU College of Health Professions, at 804-828-7247 or tgprince@vcu.edu.

Mary Bradshaw (above left);
Blair Craig (right) and his daughter Abby.
Photo courtesy of Mary Bradshaw







Good Bones

VCU Health's strength in orthopaedics has inspired three gifts that help align the department for continued excellence.

By Paul Brockwell Jr.

Make no bones about it: Orthopaedics is one of the most important specialties for an aging population in America. In fact, around a third of the U.S. population will be affected at some point by musculoskeletal diseases as they grow older.

Thankfully, the MCV Campus has a rich history and depth of experience in orthopaedics. In 1938, the first iteration of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery was created under the Division of Surgery at the Medical College of Virginia. Nearly 60 years later, John A. Cardea, M.D., became the first chair of the stand-alone department. Upon Dr. Cardea's retirement, Robert Adelaar, M.D., served as department chair from 2001 to 2015. Stephen Kates, M.D., became Orthopaedic's third chair in 2015 and has helped to grow the department to cover all subspecialties in eight different facilities in Richmond

and through practice sites in Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, Tappahannock and South Hill.

Today, VCU's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery serves as the third-largest provider of care in Virginia and continues to expand coverage throughout the region. Recognized among the nation's high-performing hospitals for orthopaedic care by *U.S. News & World Report*, the department's orthopaedic residency also regularly ranks highly.

It's no wonder that the department's strength has also inspired transformative generosity as the department advances promising research and continues its national leadership in the specialty.

HONORING A MENTOR

When Stacey Berner, M.D., came to Richmond for his residency in orthopaedic surgery, he could not have



Stacey Berner, M.D., and his wife, Betsy Berner
Photo courtesy of the Berners

imagined how deeply his training on the MCV Campus would impact his life. To begin with, he met the love of his life, Betsy, when working the night shift as a vascular surgery intern. She was a nurse in the intensive care unit who had sworn she would never marry a doctor.

“We got married when I was a senior resident,” Dr. Berner said, laughing. The young couple’s time in Richmond was shaped by the mentorship of Bob Adelaar, M.D., and his wife, Carol. Dr. Berner went on to a successful career practicing and then managing ambulatory surgical centers in the mid-Atlantic.

“Dr. Adelaar was a driving force in shaping my career decisions, but also in the way that I approached my work life and my patients,” Dr. Berner said. “He is truly an admired mentor of mine.

“After I shifted to the business side of the profession, I reconnected with him for an assignment in business school and was extraordinarily impressed with how thoughtful he was about leadership and the importance of building and supporting a team around you. He was very self-effacing in his approach to growing the program, but it has clearly advanced tremendously under his leadership.”

Dr. Adelaar joined the faculty in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the VCU School of Medicine in 1976, and during his tenure as chair the national reputation of the department grew, as did clinical and lab research.

Betsy, too, felt that influence.

“I worked in the surgical trauma unit and collaborated with Dr. Adelaar,” Betsy said. “He and Carol are a wonderful couple, and they served as role models to us for what a happy and healthy relationship can be with intensive medical careers.”

The Berners decided to share their gratitude for Dr. Adelaar by honoring him with the Robert S. Adelaar University Professorship to ensure the department continues to attract and retain the next generation of top faculty talent. The professorship was awarded to Gregory F. Domson, M.D., earlier this year.

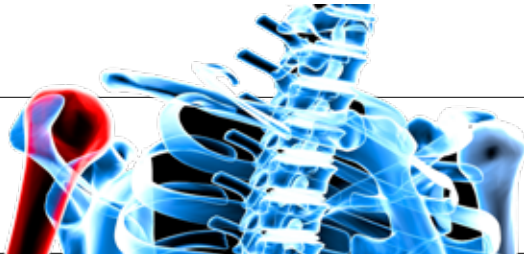
“Stacey and I have been together for many years, and often talk about and dream what we’d like to do if we had the resources,” Betsy said. “And it was an easy decision to say yes to this opportunity. This is the institution we have the fondest memories for, and we’re extraordinarily lucky to be able to support it.”

MCGLOTHLIN ENDOWED CHAIR HONORS FACULTY EXCELLENCE

]The department’s history of strong leadership also inspired a recent gift to endow a chair in orthopaedic surgery that will help retain top faculty and advance research efforts.



Stephen Kates, M.D. (left), is the third chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and continued the legacy of excellence established by former chairs Robert Adelaar, M.D. (center), and John A. Cardea, M.D. (right). Photo: Eric Peters, MCV Foundation



Due to their admiration of Dr. Stephen Kates, James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin made a \$2 million commitment to create the McGlothlin Endowed Chair in Orthopaedics at the medical school. Among the school's stalwart supporters, the McGlothlins have endowed student scholarships and given a leadership gift to support building the medical school's state-of-the-art learning facility, the McGlothlin Medical Education Center.

"I'm truly honored by the transformative generosity this fund will help our department produce at VCU," Dr. Kates said. "The department's strength in research has positioned us as national leaders, and this support will help us build from that foundation to continue advancing and improving how we practice orthopaedic medicine."

The endowed chair in orthopaedic surgery was established to support an outstanding faculty member by protecting time for research, which in turn advances patient care and provides top-tier training for students, residents and fellows. Dr. Kates, the current chair, was recently named to this endowed position.

ENDOWED RESEARCH FUND KEEPS DEPARTMENT FUTURE-FOCUSED

Research remains a key component of VCU Health's leadership in orthopaedics. Under the tenure of Dr. Kates, the department's research activity has increased significantly with a well-equipped biomechanics lab and well-funded laboratories to study musculoskeletal infections as well as nerve injury and repair. On the infection prevention front, Dr. Kates and his team were honored in 2015 with the Richard A. Brand Award for Outstanding Orthopaedic Research.

Progress has also been significant for nerve injury treatment. The FDA recently approved the use of innovative technology developed at VCU through a partnership with BioCircuit Technologies. Nerve Tape is a microhook and biomaterials-based device that quickly aligns, entubulates and secures severed nerve ends accurately and without the need for microsutures or specialized microsurgical training. With the recent FDA approval, it could be available for clinical use next year thanks to efforts of its inventor Jonathan Isaacs,

M.D., professor and chair in the Division of Hand Surgery.

To help advance these cutting-edge research priorities, an anonymous donor recently gave \$1 million to establish an endowed research fund in Dr. Kates' honor. The Stephen L. Kates, M.D., Orthopaedic Research Fund honors his outstanding leadership. The new fund was also eligible for matching dollars from VCU's Glasgow Endowment, which doubled the impact of the gift to \$2 million to support the robust research efforts among residents and faculty within the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the School of Medicine.

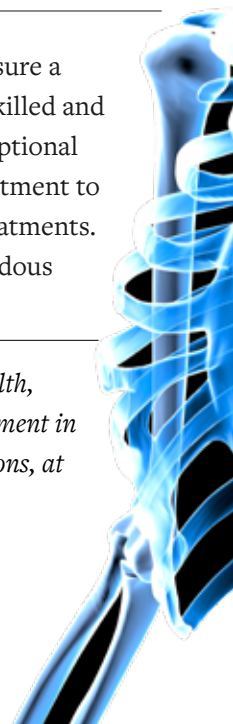
"This trio of gifts is a testimony to the exceptional work of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and its faculty," said David P. Chelmow, M.D., interim dean of the VCU School of Medicine who holds the Leo J. Dunn Chair in



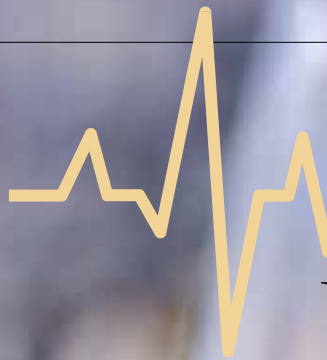
Frances G. and James W. McGlothlin
Photo: VCU Public Affairs

OB-GYN. "Together, the donors are helping to ensure a strong future for a department that's known for skilled and compassionate patient care, for providing an exceptional training ground for surgeons, and for their commitment to research that advances our understanding and treatments. We're very grateful to the donors for their tremendous vision and generosity."

If you would like to support orthopaedics at VCU Health, please contact Nathan Bick, senior director of development in the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at 804-827-0387 or nathan.bick@vcuhealth.org.







Wholehearted Praise:

\$2.4M Raised

to Honor Dr. Ken Ellenbogen,
'A Legend in the Field'
of Cardiology

By Eric Peters



When Rick Burton and his husband, Mike Shebelskie, visited VCU Health Pauley Heart Center in 2017, their world finally began to change after a challenging year.

Shebelskie — an attorney, a five-time marathoner and a skilled cyclist — had been battling a debilitating heart arrhythmia that kept him from activities as simple as walking up a flight of stairs. The couple's visit to Pauley came on the advice of a

physician and friend who told them the person who “wrote the book on arrhythmias” was practicing right here in their hometown of Richmond — Kenneth Ellenbogen, M.D.

“From the very first meeting, when we went into the room to talk to him, it was like we were the only patients he had,” Burton said. “And ultimately, Dr. Ellenbogen gave Mike his life back.”

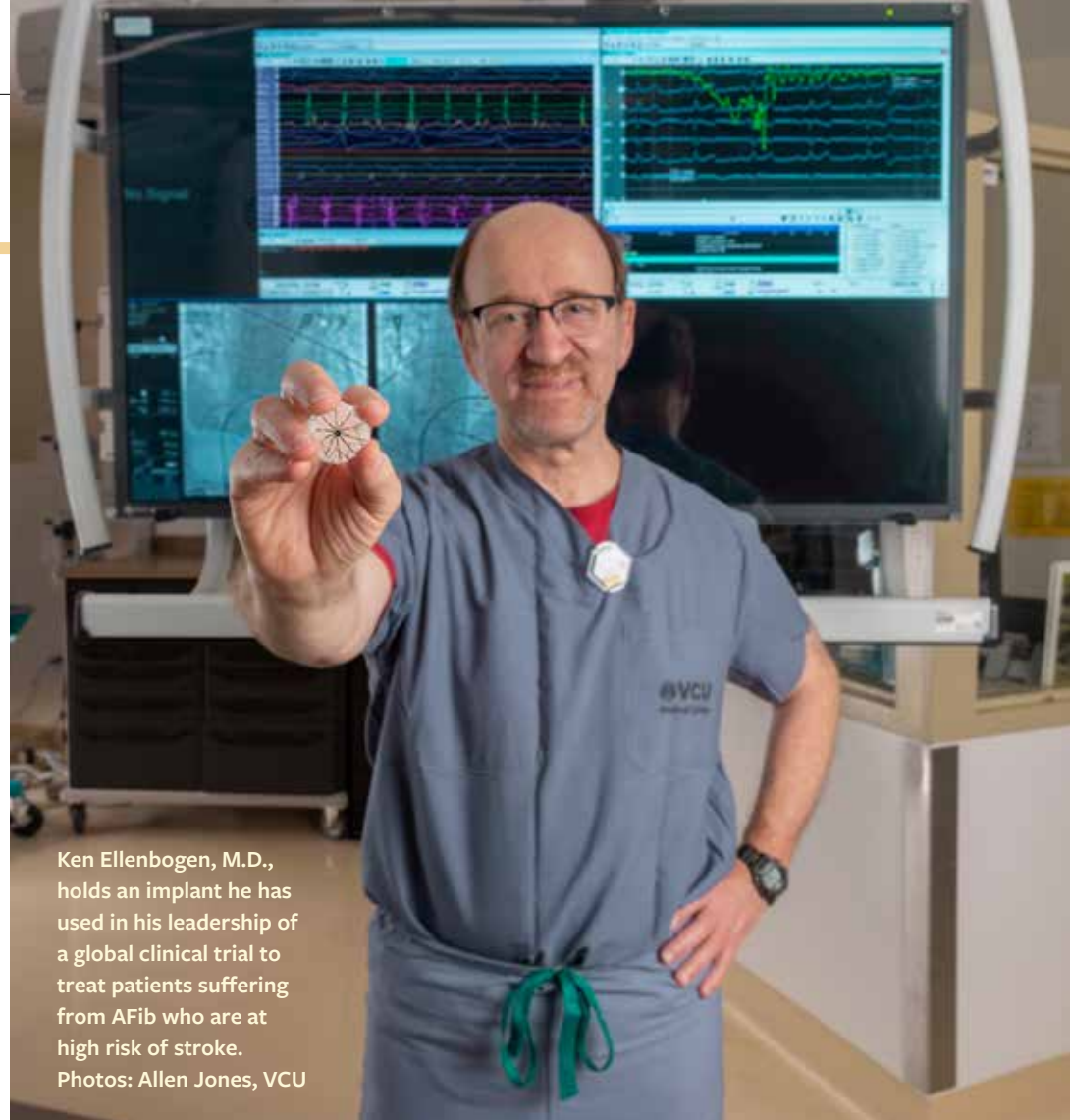
On the day before Christmas, and the day his first grandchild was born, Dr. Ellenbogen performed an urgent ablation on Shebelskie to restore his normal heart rhythm.

“It was transformative,” Burton said. “Within two weeks of the ablation, Mike was back to normal — biking, rowing and heading up a major trial.”

A LEGEND IN THE FIELD

Dr. Ellenbogen’s nearly 40-year career at VCU Health is full of stories just like Burton and Shebelskie’s, which is why it was fitting that friends, grateful patients, colleagues and others raised more than \$2.4 million with the help of matching funds from the VCU Glasgow Endowment to establish the Kenneth A. Ellenbogen Chair in Cardiology in the VCU School of Medicine.

Led by Burton and Pauley Heart Center Advisory Board Chair Roger Boevé, the new endowment will enable Pauley to recruit an associate or full professor-level faculty member with expertise in cardiac arrhythmias. In addition to the chair, pending approval from the VCU Health System Authority board, part of the gifts will name the Electrophysiology Lab in Gateway Hospital in honor of Dr. Ellenbogen.



Ken Ellenbogen, M.D., holds an implant he has used in his leadership of a global clinical trial to treat patients suffering from AFib who are at high risk of stroke. Photos: Allen Jones, VCU

The named chair and lab are acknowledgments of the influence and impact Dr. Ellenbogen has made, not just in individual lives at VCU Health, but worldwide in the field of cardiac electrophysiology.

Dr. Ellenbogen, who has held the Martha M. and Harold W. Kimmerling, M.D., Chair in Cardiology since 2018, has served as editor or on the board of nearly all the leading industry journals in his field. He has published more than 250 scientific reports, 140 book chapters and is the editor or co-editor of five textbooks on cardiac electrophysiology. As such, the American College of Cardiology recently described him as a “legend in the field.”

“Ken came along at a time in cardiovascular medicine when

more the plumbing side of things was being emphasized — pipes that are supplying the heart muscle,” said Greg Hundley, M.D., director of the VCU Health Pauley Heart Center and the George W. Vetrovec Chair. “Not a lot of people were focused on the wiring system.”

Dr. Ellenbogen is director of cardiac electrophysiology and pacing at VCU Health. His academic, clinical and research efforts include an interest in newer, more effective ways to perform ablation and to develop methods for ablation of atrial fibrillation. He is involved in the development of new types of pacemakers and exploring the role of pacemakers in treating congestive heart failure and

atrial fibrillation. In this work, he has a highly successful record of attracting both public and private funding and has served as principal investigator on over 100 funded grants and contracts.

His body of work has led to worldwide recognition among his peers.

“Ken is a giant in the field of electrophysiology and cardiology,” said Vig Kasirajan, M.D., the Stuart McGuire Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery. “When you go anywhere in the world and mention ‘Ellenbogen,’ people know who he is. And his contributions to this institution are just simply immeasurable. His tireless work against cardiovascular disease must be recognized, so I think this chair is a fitting honor for him.”

Thanks to Dr. Ellenbogen’s wide-ranging influence, there will be countless families and individuals like Burton and Shebelskie around the world whose lives will benefit from his pioneering work.

In May, when the newly named chair and lab were announced, Burton told Dr. Ellenbogen, “Mike and I will never forget you giving us his life back.”

If you are interested in making a donation to the Ellenbogen Chair, please contact Carrie Mills, senior director of development in the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at 804-828-0423 or carrie.r.mills@vcuhealth.org.



Rick Burton and Mike Shebelskie (left) have dinner two years after Ken Ellenbogen, M.D., (above) performed an emergency ablation on Shebelskie that restored his normal heart rhythm and enabled him to return to his active lifestyle. The two played a major role in establishing the Kenneth A. Ellenbogen Chair in Cardiology at VCU Health.

TOTAL RAISED THIS YEAR
ON THE MCV CAMPUS

\$169.4
million

MCV CAMPUS TOTAL IS

71%
*of total raised
for VCU*

NEW PLANNED
GIVING EXPECTANCIES

\$10.9
million

GRATEFUL PATIENT
GIVING THIS YEAR

\$26.7
million

Financial Commentary

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022, contributions across the MCV Campus totaled \$169.4 million, representing 71% of funds raised across all of VCU. New planned gift expectancies account for \$10.9 million of the total campus fundraising.

The MCV Foundation's endowment portfolio declined by -6.0%, underperforming the custom benchmark's return of -2.8% during the fiscal year. Due to the benefits of diversification and good manager performance in private investments and absolute strategies, the MCV Foundation portfolio significantly outperformed the -14.0% return from the benchmark constructed of

passive index strategies invested 70% in global equities and 30% in fixed income. Over the longer term, the portfolio's annual return of 9.2% remains above the 7.9% annual return generated by the custom benchmark since January 2012.

Through the MCV Foundation, donors have established more than 1,900 funds in support of the health sciences programs, health care professionals and patients of VCU Health. Now, more than ever, the foundation is honored to partner with you in supporting the leading care, transformational research and formative education that are saving lives around the world today and in the future.

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended June 30, 2022 | Amounts in thousands

Assets

Operating investments

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,819
Short-term investments	101,066
Total operating investments	114,885

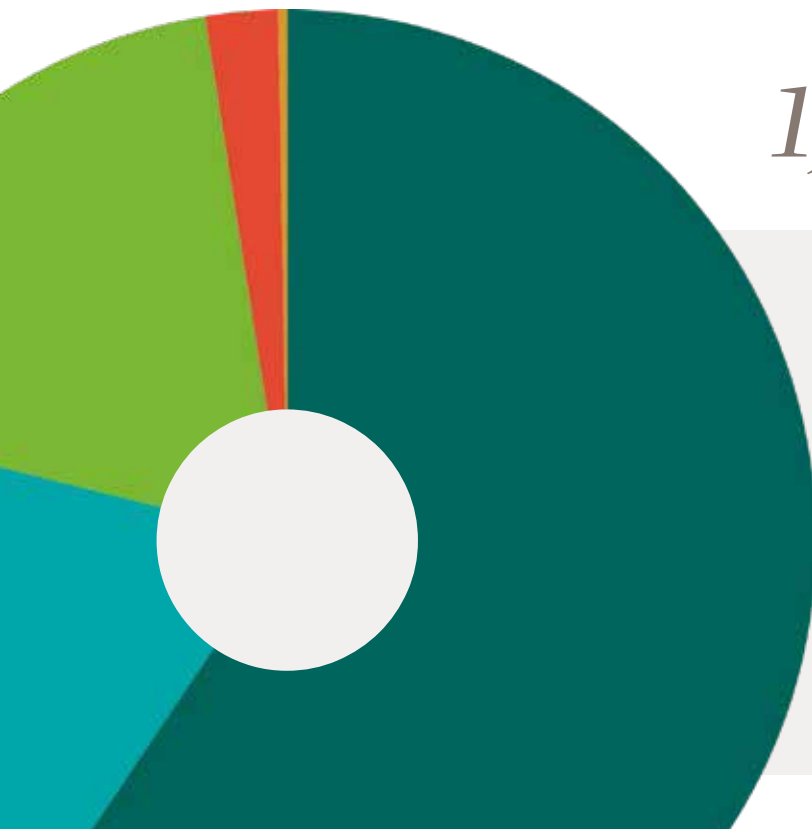
Endowment long-term investments	692,383
Funds held for others	2,077
Other assets	18,614
Total assets	\$827,959

SCHOLARSHIP, RESEARCH, PATIENT PROGRAMS AND OTHER FUNDS

As of June 30, donors had accounted for **516 endowed scholarships**. Through these endowed scholarships, students from the four schools and one college on the MCV Campus had access to **\$2.9 million** in funding and support that ranges from full tuition to modest support to help with expenses. In addition, **39 current fund scholarships** allowed the foundation to provide more than **\$2.3 million** in financial assistance to students on the MCV Campus last academic year.



TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL ENDOWED FUNDS	NEW ENDOWED FUNDS IN FY22
1,941	1,199	36



Financial Highlights

For the year ended June 30, 2022 | Amounts in thousands

Disbursements totaling \$29.7 million by program

59.7%	Education, research and general	\$ 17,763
19.4%	Faculty salaries and support	5,773
18.4%	Scholarships and awards	5,469
2.4%	Other programs and services	714
0.1%	Indigent patient care	28

This is a condensed version of the MCV Foundation's FY22 audited financial statement. Our independent auditor issued an Unmodified Opinion on the complete financial statements, which can be obtained by writing or calling the MCV Foundation office, or by visiting our website.

1838: A Campaign for Medical Student Scholarships

For a mother working to become a physician while balancing the time and financial obligations of raising a family, scholarships mean everything.

For a man who was born and raised in developing Nigeria, who wants to improve health care access because he knows the consequences of its absence, scholarships mean everything.

This year, the VCU School of Medicine celebrated stories like these — those unfolding now and countless more yet to be written — to recognize the successful completion of its 1838 Scholarship Campaign.

Launched in 2013 and named for the year in which the school was founded, the 1838 Scholarship Campaign raised more than \$27 million, created 78 new endowed scholarships, and expanded 50 existing scholarships for medical students.

“The need for scholarships is growing because the cost

of medical education is going up,” said Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, M.D., senior associate dean for admissions at the School of Medicine, former MCV Foundation board member and an alumna of the medical school. “You’re looking at these students owing \$250,000 to \$300,000. Having these scholarships allows them to graduate with less stress and less debt.”

Before the 1838 Campaign, one full-tuition scholarship was available at the School of Medicine. Today, thanks to the campaign’s donors, there are 13 full-tuition scholarships and 11 half-tuition awards.

Donor support is already helping to reduce student debt, reward student excellence and recruit top students who will thrive on the MCV Campus.

“Scholarships are so much more than just a number. They mean the world to students who receive them,” said Rachel Easter, Class of 2023, who is raising a daughter while she attends medical school. “Being able to focus on my studies and not on how much I’m going to have to repay allows me to focus on the work that I need to do right now.”

And that emotional support begins even before students arrive.

“I wouldn’t be here today if not for the support of others.”

ABDUL EKIYOYO, M.D., CLASS OF 2022



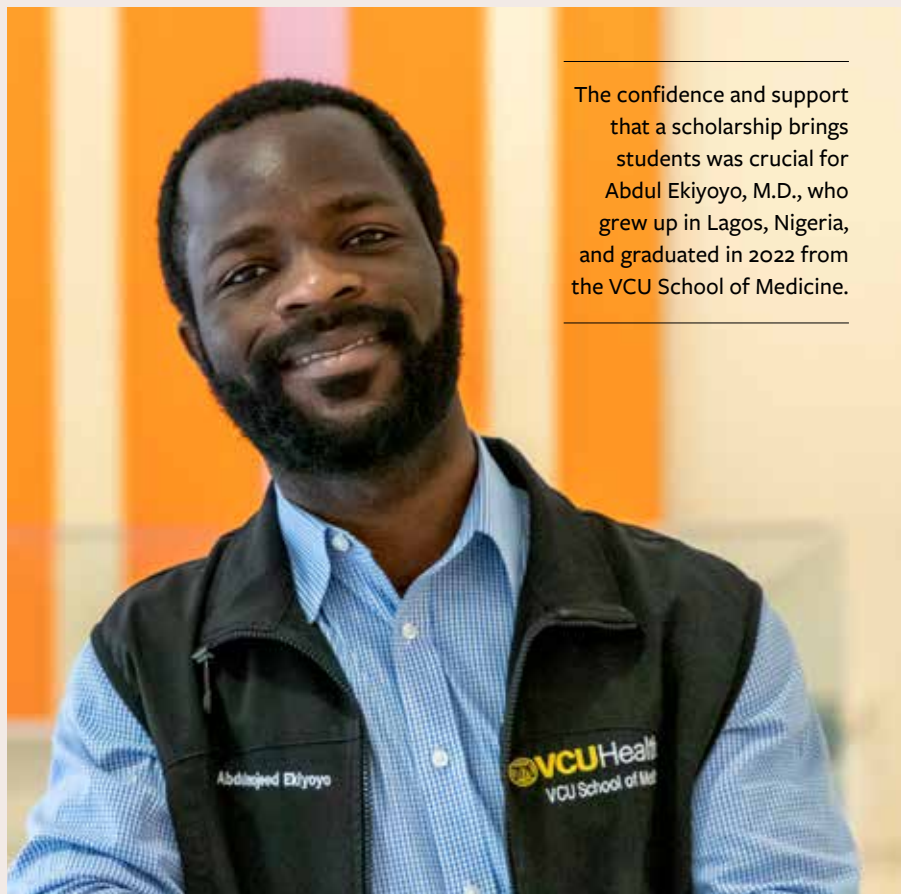
Scholarships made it possible for Rachel Easter, Class of 2023, to change careers and enter medical school in her late thirties while parenting a young daughter.

“Scholarships make you more confident in your skills, knowing that people saw your application and saw your potential and your worth,” said Abdul Ekiyoyo, M.D., a 2022 graduate who grew up in Lagos, Nigeria. “I wouldn’t be here today if not for the support of others.”

For all scholarship recipients, that feeling of gratitude shines through and drives them.

“There are people out there who really care about education and make it a priority in their lives,” Easter said. “What it enables me to share with my daughter is that no mountain is insurmountable. And I hope that will encourage her to take paths that she might be scared to take — because there are people out there who will help.”

If you are interested in making a gift to support students at the VCU School of Medicine, contact Priscilla Cash, senior director of development, at 804-827-4933 or priscilla.wiggin@vcuhealth.org.



The confidence and support that a scholarship brings students was crucial for Abdul Ekiyoyo, M.D., who grew up in Lagos, Nigeria, and graduated in 2022 from the VCU School of Medicine.



Love of Teaching, Patient Care Inspires Endocrinology Professorship

Change was inevitable during the 44 years David F. Gardner, M.D., worked on the MCV Campus, from the buildings where he taught or the equipment he used in his classrooms, to the ideas and methodologies pertaining to science, research and medicine.

Regardless of what happened around him, however, two constants were steadfast in Gardner's life: his love of teaching and his dedication to patient care.

Now, he's grateful he can provide an opportunity for others to be as fulfilled as he was.

He has established the David F. Gardner, M.D., Professorship in Endocrinology to help attract or retain a faculty member in the Division of Endocrinology within the VCU School of Medicine.

"This is a form of payback," said Dr. Gardner. "I feel blessed that the two things I wanted to do — teach and see patients — I was able to do in a very supportive environment."

Dr. Gardner's career on the MCV Campus began in 1978. His main area of expertise was thyroid diseases. Among other recognitions, he's been honored

with the VCU School of Medicine Faculty Teaching Excellence Award and the MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award.

Though he retired in 2016, Dr. Gardner, professor emeritus, remains active in the endocrinology program. Outside of VCU Health, he volunteers at Richmond's Health Brigade, formerly the Fan Free Clinic.

Dr. Gardner said today's medical students are more technologically savvy. They're also working in more sophisticated environments. But he's encouraged by what he sees as a familiar trait in the next generation of clinicians — that same love and dedication to treating individuals that captured him years ago.

"To feel a patient's pulse, talk to the patient — there's always been that anticipatory excitement of direct patient care," he said, referring to students' latter years of education when they get beyond lectures and classroom instruction. "Even though things around me changed, sitting in the office with a patient, face to face, hearing their story — that's what I enjoyed most, and those things haven't changed."



David F. Gardner, M.D., professor emeritus, celebrates with Trey Wickham, M.D., associate professor at the VCU School of Medicine and the inaugural holder of the Gardner Professorship in Endocrinology. Photo: Eric Peters, MCV Foundation

If you would like to support endocrinology at the VCU School of Medicine, please contact Priscilla Cash, senior director of development in the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at 804-827-4933 or priscilla.wiggin@vcuhealth.org.

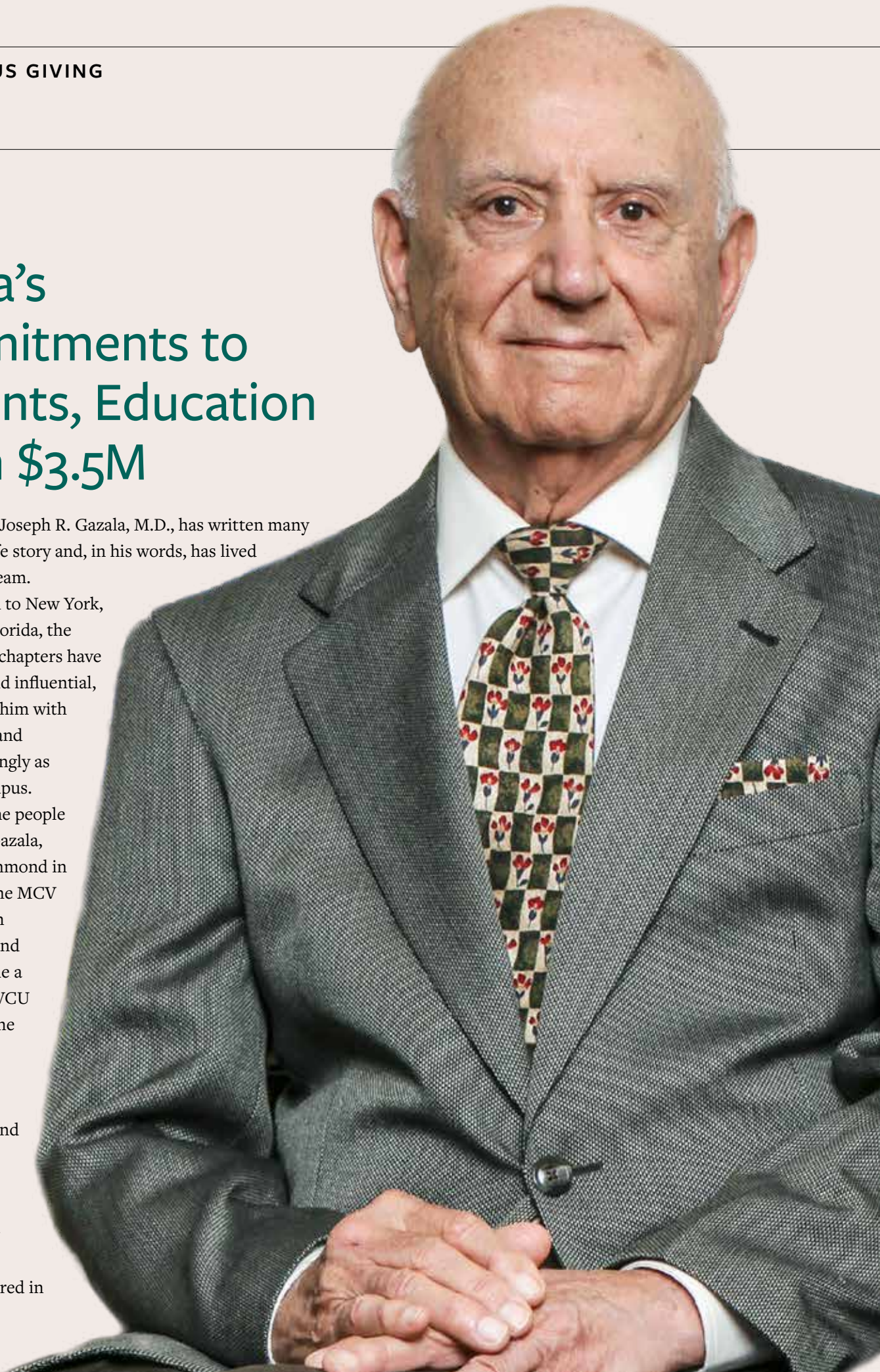
Gazala's Commitments to Students, Education Reach \$3.5M

At 100 years old, Joseph R. Gazala, M.D., has written many chapters in his life story and, in his words, has lived the American Dream.

From Baghdad to New York, Richmond and Florida, the settings to these chapters have been beautiful and influential, but few have left him with a sense of home and belonging as strongly as VCU's MCV Campus.

"I believe in the people there," said Dr. Gazala, who came to Richmond in 1958, served on the MCV faculty, worked in private practice and eventually became a professor in the VCU School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology. "It is my second home — my second family. I grew up with the department. The department grew up with me."

Dr. Gazala retired in



1989, but has remained connected to campus ever since. Through his retirement years, he began to think about the financial challenges he faced while in medical school in Baghdad, and about how he could help students in similar situations. He was thankful for the life he was able to make for his family in the U.S. and Richmond, and he wanted to help make that life possible for others.

In 2012, he gave \$100,000 to establish the Joseph R. Gazala, M.D., Scholarship for medical students, and in 2018, he established an ophthalmology lectureship. Then, in February of this year, he gave \$1.1 million more to support the scholarship, significantly increasing its annual impact.

“This country needs medical personnel — doctors, nurses, nursing assistants,” Dr. Gazala said. “Students are graduating with debt well over \$200,000, and that’s overwhelming to them. Giving to scholarships is the best thing anybody can do to help medical students graduate.”

In July, building on his prior generosity, Dr. Gazala announced he would give \$2 million more to the school in support of his scholarship, bringing his total giving to nearly \$3.5 million. That generosity will open the door for



Joseph R. Gazala, M.D., visits with the first recipient of his scholarship, Samuel D. Sessou, M.D., a member of the VCU School of Medicine Class of 2017. Photo: Kevin Schindler; Left photo: Skip Rowland

countless medical students over many generations to move closer to realizing their dreams of improving health here and around the world.

“I can’t find anybody or any institution more worthwhile than MCV, because I grew up there and have spent 60 years as part of it,” Dr. Gazala said. “It is my hope, that through my gifts and with a grateful heart for the long life I have been so fortunate to have, that I will be helping to take a great financial burden off of so many young medical students, allowing them to fully focus on becoming the best doctors that they can be.”

If you are interested in contributing to the Joseph R. Gazala, M.D., Scholarship fund or any other scholarship at the VCU School of Medicine, contact Nathan Bick, senior major gifts officer, at 804-827-0387 or nathan.bick@vcuhealth.org.

Recruitment Scholarship Boosts School of Pharmacy

Financial award will attract top applicants with pre-enrollment aid.

Pharmacy school can be stressful enough, but imagine your school closing midway through your training to enter the profession.

That's the challenge Lance Berkowitz faced as a young student at George Washington University's School

of Pharmacy, which closed its doors in 1964. Berkowitz decamped to Richmond with seven of his classmates and finished schooling at the MCV School of Pharmacy. "If it wasn't for MCV, I don't know where we would be," Berkowitz said. "From that point on, because of what they were willing to do for us, I became fairly active at the school."

After finishing his degree in Richmond, Berkowitz and his wife, Fran, moved to Baltimore, where he and his family owned three community pharmacies, one of which opened in 1938. From every type of consult to filling more than 500 prescriptions a day, Berkowitz loved every minute of his career as a community pharmacist and the many people he worked with throughout the years. His stores served predominantly lower-income areas of the city, and he was an early leader in the U.S. for providing infertility and mental health treatments to patients across Baltimore and its surrounding counties. Independent pharmacies are an area of the profession that Berkowitz wants to see thrive, and he initially created a scholarship to honor that tradition by supporting students who wanted to work in this area. "When I talked to leaders at the school, it became very clear how important it is that we continue attracting students to VCU," Berkowitz said. "Out-of-state students, especially, have other choices, and we made a decision to create this scholarship to show potential students that their first choice should be the MCV Campus." Now retired, Berkowitz and his wife recently helped refocus and grow the Lance Berkowitz Independent Community Pharmacy Scholarship at the VCU School of Pharmacy to a scholarship that will help recruit top students amid stiffening competition with mid-Atlantic peers in Maryland and North Carolina.

"Student recruitment is our number one challenge," said K.C. Ogbonna, Pharm.D., interim dean of the School of Pharmacy. "We're very grateful to Lance and Fran for their generosity and the tremendous impact they have had on the school." The recruitment scholarship provides the school the opportunity to offer more competitive tuition to gain parity with other top pharmacy schools in the region. Berkowitz and his wife have also included a generous bequest in their estate plans to grow the fund.

"I won't give up working on behalf of the school," Berkowitz said. "We were fortunate to have the School of Pharmacy take us in, and I will never forget that."



LANCE BERKOWITZ

of Pharmacy, which closed its doors in 1964. Berkowitz decamped to Richmond with seven of his classmates and finished schooling at the MCV School of Pharmacy.

"If it wasn't for MCV, I don't know where we would be," Berkowitz said. "From that point on, because of what they were willing to do for us, I became fairly active at the school."

If you would like to support student scholarships at the School of Pharmacy, please contact Louie Correa, the school's senior director of development at 804-828-3016 or lacorrea@vcu.edu.



“We’re very grateful to Lance and Fran for their generosity and the tremendous impact they have had on the school.”

K.C. OGBONNA, PHARM.D., INTERIM DEAN

Pharmacy students receiving their white coats and taking the Oath of a Pharmacist during the school’s White Coat Ceremony. Photo courtesy VCU School of Pharmacy

Estate Gift Will Inspire Change Through Nursing Professorship

Alumna hopes the professorship will help equip nurses with skills to advocate for health policy changes.

In 2004, a Virginia nursing student was assigned a project: Research the law that prevented nurse practitioners from signing approvals for things like handicapped parking permits or camp physicals. She discovered over 50 citations that stated only physicians could provide a signature. Such a restriction on the nursing practice was delaying patient care, so nursing professionals decided to act. They advocated for legislative change and the signature legislation was born.

That sort of civic engagement, said retired nurse practitioner Diane Walker, should begin in the classroom.

“Students need to understand what regulates their practice and the mechanics of how to create change,” said Walker, who through a bequest has plans to establish the Diane Whitney Walker Professorship in health policy at the VCU School of Nursing. “It is important to teach nurses how to actualize their vision of extraordinary health care.”

Walker completed graduate training at the School of Nursing in 1999. During her time as a student, she joined her professional organization, the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners. She went on, following graduation, to serve as a board member for 11 years. Many hours were spent reviewing legislation that would affect a nurse practitioner’s role in patient care.

“I became more aware, educated and involved as a citizen, and learned how the legislative process works,” Walker said.

She quickly realized that nursing had the potential to make an impact far beyond the confines of patient beds and hospital walls.

“The nursing profession can do so many things with their clinical background that broadly influences patient health,” said Walker. For example, health care professionals who advocate for climate change laws are pointing to the bottom line: “This is ultimately harming people’s health if we don’t fix climate change.”

By creating a professorship that will focus on health policy, students will understand how the legislative process works and learn ways to become



Diane Walker has provided for the creation of a health policy professorship at the VCU School of Nursing to equip future nurses with the knowledge and tools to understand the impact of health policy on the profession. Photo courtesy of Diane Walker



actively involved in shaping the laws that will affect not only a nurse's practice, but also improve patient care.

As an educator herself, Walker would routinely take her nurse practitioner students to meet with legislators and discuss legislation changes. After Walker's teaching tenure was done, a former student shared with Walker that the class truly changed her perspective and made a difference in her life.

When the professorship is fulfilled, Walker hopes that "the class will provide inspiration to the students to make wide-reaching positive change in the world."

If you are interested in supporting the VCU School of Nursing, please contact Pam Lowe, the school's senior director of development, at plowe@vcu.edu or 804-827-0020.

An estate gift from Diane Walker will fund a professorship in health policy at the VCU School of Nursing.
Photo: Tyler Trumbo, MCV Foundation



Chesterfield County, Virginia, native and first-year dental student Hallie Craig received the first Superstar Scholarship from the VCU School of Dentistry. Photo: Eric Peters, MCV Foundation

Dentistry Establishes Largest-Ever Scholarship

Superstar Scholarship offers historic support level to entering D.D.S. students.

For the first time in its 129-year history, the VCU School of Dentistry has created a scholarship for an incoming dental student. The VCU Dental Care/Abrahamian Superstar Scholarship is a significant financial prize, one that represents the first of what some say is a new vision for VCU dental education.

As Virginia's only dental school, the VCU School of Dentistry receives about 2,200 applications annually for roughly 95 spots. The new scholarship recipient will be chosen from among those 95 to receive up to \$50,000 a year for four years. Historically, financial assistance has only been available to VCU dental students once they're enrolled.

This summer, Chesterfield County, Virginia, native and first-year dental student Hallie Craig was named as the first recipient.

"Hallie joining us as our first Superstar Scholar is a remarkable point in time in the progression of VCU dentistry," said Lyndon F. Cooper, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the VCU School of Dentistry, "because it represents VCU's commitment to access for all."

Dental school is among the most expensive professional educations in health care. At VCU, those costs are driven by recruitment and retention of talented faculty coupled with the school's commitment to low faculty-pupil ratios. Additionally, VCU remains at the forefront of rapidly changing industry technology, but doing

so requires additional training and equipment.

"If we are to sustain dental care at the highest level — with the idea that this is going to benefit all people in the Commonwealth — we must ensure that dental education continues to be affordable," Dean Cooper said.

"The Superstar Scholarship allows us to reach out across Virginia for some of the brightest people interested in dentistry," Dean Cooper said. "Efforts to build this scholarship and others mean we will populate this school with the nation's best students and create the nation's best dentists to provide the Commonwealth with the best health care."

As an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech, Craig was able to complete a pre-dental program that, along with various volunteer opportunities, opened her eyes to the impact dentists have on communities beyond root canals and cleanings.

"They are community leaders," Craig said. "They're able to make an impact on this person's self-esteem and self-confidence because they provide care on the basis of how they know the patient as a person."

As for being surprised with a scholarship she never knew existed, Craig said she — and her parents — were speechless.

"The VCU School of Dentistry draws in extremely motivated and extremely accomplished dental students," she said. "I'm excited to develop a community with these people."

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

Loving Gift Is a Legacy of Hope

Larry Loving Sr. and his wife, Christiane, lost two of their four children — both to brain cancer — within three years of each other.

It was a test of his faith, Larry said.

First, Noëlle, the Lovings' compassionate second-born, died at 37 of an inoperable brain tumor in 2017, one year after diagnosis. In 2020, their youngest, Philip ("Phil"), passed away at age 32 after a 10-year battle with brain cancer, just two months after the birth of his second child.

The unbearable losses sent shock waves of grief through the family, but following Noëlle's and Phil's deaths, the Loving family — including Noëlle's and Phil's surviving siblings, spouses, beloved nieces and nephews, and a cadre of aunts, uncles and cousins — were determined to create meaning from their loss.

The Lovings founded the Noëlle C. Loving "But Tomorrow" Foundation as a way to continue Noëlle's, and later Phil's, legacy by helping other families in similar circumstances.

"But Tomorrow" is a nod to Noëlle's unwavering, hopeful outlook on life.

"As a child, whenever Noëlle would want something, and we would say 'no,' she would just look at us and smile, and say 'But tomorrow?' and walk away," Larry shared. "She would always say that: 'But tomorrow.' And we would laugh and say, 'Yes, hon, maybe, tomorrow.'"

The foundation, which expanded to include Phil's name after his passing, focuses on advancing quality of life for terminal patients. Together the Loving family and the "But Tomorrow" Foundation committed a leadership gift to name a family lounge at VCU Massey Cancer Center in the Adult Outpatient Pavilion, a state-of-the-art facility that opened in 2021. In the lounge, volunteers provide snacks for patients and their families when they are at the clinic for treatment. Massey also named a space for Noëlle in its palliative care unit, where she worked.

The gift for this family lounge is a way for the Lovings to honor and remember Noëlle and Phil — and to help bring hope and comfort to other families fighting cancer at Massey. It's also a community effort.

"This would not be possible without help from the many wonderful people who have supported our work, to improve quality of life for people who need it more than you will ever know, by donating to the "But Tomorrow" Foundation and to Massey," Christiane Loving said.

If you are interested in supporting VCU Massey Cancer Center's efforts to provide compassionate care, please contact Jasmine J. Davis, senior director of development with the Office of Medical Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, at 804-484-4903 or jjdavis3@vcu.edu.

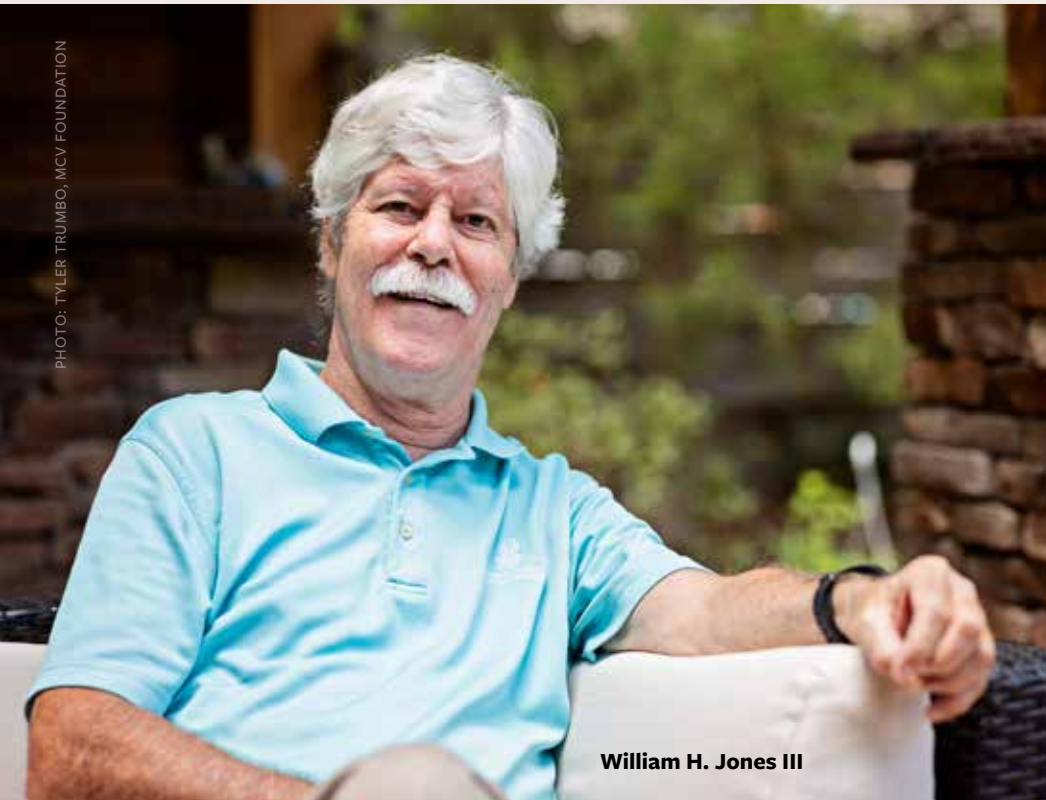


As a nursing student, Noëlle Loving (above left) worked in the palliative care unit at VCU Massey Cancer Center. Their family mourned the loss of Noëlle and her brother Phil (pictured right with son Darius and wife Kate), who died from brain cancer within three years of each other. The Loving family has honored their memory at VCU Massey Cancer Center's clinical space in the VCU Health Adult Outpatient Pavilion. Photos courtesy of the Loving family



A ‘No-Brainer’

Massey’s cancer care inspires charitable gift annuity.



William H. Jones III

William H. Jones III remembers vividly how awful he felt when his only niece Emily was diagnosed with leukemia as a teenager.

“She was the first young person I knew to be diagnosed at such a very young age,” Jones said. “It was heart-wrenching.”

Fortunately, the clinical team at VCU Massey Cancer Center was able to treat Emily’s leukemia through a bone

marrow transplant, and she’s been in remission ever since.

“They saved Emily,” Jones said. “That was my catalyst for wanting to support Massey.”

Retired from a career in investment banking, Jones decided a few years ago he wanted to donate his estate to five charities, and he chose Massey as one of them. As he learned about charitable gift annuities, Jones realized a CGA

would offer a creative way to front-load some of his legacy giving now and receive a guaranteed income for life in exchange for his gift.

“To me, it seemed like a no-brainer,” Jones said. “I wanted to give to Massey, and with a charitable gift annuity I can make my estate gift now and receive income from the annuity. The neat thing is that I’m getting a return on my gift, but I am still ultimately benefiting Massey.”

The process, he said, was easy to navigate.

“Everyone was very pleasant to work with,” Jones said. “I was pleased when Massey shared how interest rates were expected to increase only a few months after I initially contacted them in case I wanted to wait to establish the annuity.”

Jones’s CGA gift will ultimately provide more support for Massey, and he considers it one way of showing his gratitude for their care of Emily and so many other children.

“It’s especially hard to see children suffer, and I feel sorry for those kids and their families,” Jones said. “I just hope that it will help children who are sick or suffering.”

GIFT PLANNING: HOW CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES WORK

A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract between you and the MCV foundation. In exchange for a gift of cash or securities, the MCV Foundation will agree to pay one or two income recipients a fixed sum each year for life. When the gift annuity ends, the remaining balance is used to support the school or program on the MCV Campus that you care about. CGAs are a popular way to make a gift that benefits the MCV Campus in the future — and you today.

Gift annuity rates recently increased and are offering higher payouts than they did just a few months ago. Stock market volatility and low CD rates make CGAs an even more attractive way to support the MCV Campus.

There are a several CGA options to choose from:

IMMEDIATE GIFT ANNUITY

If you would like extra income now, an immediate gift annuity will allow you to take a charitable deduction and begin receiving annuity payments right away. This option is available for income beneficiaries who are age 60 or older.

DEFERRED GIFT ANNUITY

If retirement is a few years off but you could use a tax deduction now, a deferred gift annuity enables you to take an immediate deduction and defer payments until a date in the future. This is a great option for people who are still working and would like to diversify their income stream in retirement.



FLEXIBLE GIFT ANNUITY

If you don't need the income now, but are not sure when you would like for it to begin, a flexible gift annuity gives you the option to delay the start date of payments within a specified term of years. The longer you wait to receive payments, the higher the payout rate and the larger income payments will be.

To see what a CGA would look like for you, please contact Ann Deppman, assistant vice president of planned giving at VCU, at 804-828-7370 or deppmana@vcu.edu for a personalized illustration.



Bertha C.
Rolfe

Bertha C. Rolfe, a lifetime honorary trustee of the MCV Foundation and leader in pharmacy education in Virginia, died March 31, 2022.

Bertha graduated from the Medical College of Virginia's School of Pharmacy in 1947 and began working as a lab instructor at the School of Pharmacy the following year until her retirement in 1981. She was the first female pharmacy instructor on the Medical College of Virginia Campus and one of the few female pharmacists in Richmond at the time.

Bertha received several awards for her dedication to volunteerism and for her support of the School of Pharmacy and the medical campus. She received VCU's Edward A. Wayne Medal in 2001 and the foundation's Eugene P. Trani MCV Campus Leadership Award in 2011. Bertha was also a recipient of the MCV Alumni Association Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award and the MCV Alumni Association Hodges-Kay Service Award for service to the university.

Bertha served as a vice president of the MCV Alumni Association and as its pharmacy division chair, as well as chair of numerous committees. She was a charter member and faculty advisor for Kappa Epsilon, a women's pharmaceutical fraternity, president and chair of the research committee of the Women's Health Advisory Council for OB-GYN at MCV, a member of the School of Pharmacy National Advisory Council, the Massey Cancer Center Advisory Board, and an MCV Foundation board member for 18 years.

"All of us on the MCV Campus are saddened by the death of Bertha Rolfe," said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, president and CEO of the MCV Foundation. "Throughout her remarkable career, Bertha inspired so many of us through her steadfast service and lifelong dedication to both the university and the foundation. She will be remembered for her kindness, compassion and gentle leadership."

Bertha's friends have begun an effort to honor her legacy by endowing a faculty award at the VCU School of Pharmacy. If you would like to make a gift to support the Bertha Rolfe Teacher of the Year Award, please contact Louie Correa, senior director of development at the VCU School of Pharmacy, at 804-828-3016 or lacorrea@vcu.edu.

Trio of Awards Honors Health Professions Alumni

The college celebrates awards for several of its talented alumni.

Marilyn Tavenner is a recipient of VCU's Alumni Star Award, which recognizes outstanding alumni who have made significant contributions in the areas of



humanitarian or professional achievement and community and university service. Tavenner earned her nursing degree

from VCU, followed by her master's in health administration. She served in leadership roles at Hospital Corporation of America and was CEO of Johnston-Willis Hospital. She was tapped to be Virginia's Secretary of Health and Human Services under former Gov. Tim Kaine before serving as principal deputy administrator and then acting administrator for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Sheryl Garland, VCU Health System chief of health impact and the executive director of the VCU Office of Health Equity during the COVID-19 pandemic, is the latest



recipient of the MCV Foundation's Jerome F. Strauss III Award. The award goes to a VCU administrator,

faculty or staff member who's shown extraordinary service and stewardship to MCV Campus alumni, donors or other members of the community to support and advance the mission of the MCV Foundation.

(For more coverage of the Strauss Award, see page 14.)

Donald Romano, a VCU health administration alum and retired health care administrator whose career included time at MCV Hospital, along with his wife, longtime MCV supporter



and former foundation trustee Michele Romano, M.D., received the Edward A. Wayne Medal, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions or provided exemplary services to VCU.

(For more coverage of the Wayne Medal, see page 5.)



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