

CONNECTIONS

VCU School of Nursing Alumni Magazine

FALL 2020

ONE Day at A Time

Navigating the Impact
of COVID-19



ALSO INSIDE:

CELEBRATION
Class of 1970
Celebrates 50th
Anniversary

INNOVATION
Partnership Between
SON and Innovation
Gateway

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Connections, published bi-annually, is the official magazine of the VCU School of Nursing. Comments and letters may be directed to the editor.

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Action University 130508-02

Message from the Dean

The year 2020 has been filled with health and social issues that will forever change our lives and will have a lasting impact on our work. We have all been greatly affected by the pandemic, economic strain and the tragic deaths of George Floyd and other Black citizens which triggered subsequent protests against racism and calls for social justice. These three separate but interrelated issues have created unprecedented challenges, requiring us to respond with courage, optimism and resilience.

Core to our mission is the education of the current and future nursing workforce and research to advance the health and wellbeing of the patients we serve. Despite the challenges and disruptions, we will continue to offer a quality education to our students, conduct research and deliver our community-based service activities.

The pandemic of 2020 and the collective support to address social inequities represent an opportunity for improvement. Never has there been a more opportune time for students to fully grasp the concepts associated with public health and determinants of health. Never has there been a better occasion for students to witness firsthand innovation and the adaptability of nurses and their ability to lead within health care. And never has there been a better opportunity to engage our faculty, students, staff and alumni in conversation and action to intentionally address social inequality and racism. Although topics such as race, unconscious bias, privilege and social justice are uncomfortable topics to discuss, we must push past the discomfort and shift from affirming support to meaningful action with impact. We know we need to do more, and these efforts will be among the highest of priorities in the years to come.

I take great pride in the response of our faculty, staff and students during this extraordinarily stressful time. They have remained positive in the face of uncertainty and have adapted to rapid and continuously evolving information. I am in awe of our colleagues at VCU Health System and other health care partners in the way they have responded to the pandemic and their commitment to helping us resume the clinical education of our students. Our partnerships have never been stronger.



Dean Giddens (2nd from left) with undergraduate students and Tammy Williams, the undergraduate program director, at VCU Medical Center.

Things continue to be different now that we are in the fall semester – what we call our “new normal” – and it is unlikely to change anytime soon. We will wear our masks, wash our hands, practice social distancing, limit the size of in-person gatherings, rely on virtual technologies, and continue to adapt in other areas as needed. We will also continue to support each other, celebrate our accomplishments and advance the profession of nursing.

Indeed, the year 2020 has been the most challenging and rewarding of my professional career thus far, and I could not be more proud and grateful for our VCU School of Nursing community.

Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
Doris B. Yingling Endowed Chair



Dr. Carla Nye (at front right), director of the master's program, and students in NURS 508 at the Virginia State Capitol during the Virginia Nurses Association's 2020 Lobby Day.

School of Nursing Receives HRSA Award to Help Expand Nursing Faculty

VCU School of Nursing received a \$196,637 Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). NFLP is a one-year funding opportunity designed to increase the number of qualified nursing faculty by supporting doctoral students who are committed to becoming nurse faculty. Debra Barksdale, Ph.D., FNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, ANEF, FAAN, associate dean of academic affairs, is program director for the NFLP award. Loans will be provided to nursing students who will receive up to 85% loan cancellation in exchange for full-time post-graduate employment as nurse faculty.



Debra Barksdale

Nursing Scholarships at VCU Will Nearly Double Thanks to Donations

A new \$3 million gift, combined with a \$2.5 million commitment from last year, will allow VCU School of Nursing to nearly double the number of need-based scholarships for undergraduate students. Philanthropists William E. Conway Jr., co-founder and co-executive chairman of The Carlyle Group, and his wife, Joanne, provided both gifts to support the school's efforts to address the nursing workforce shortage.

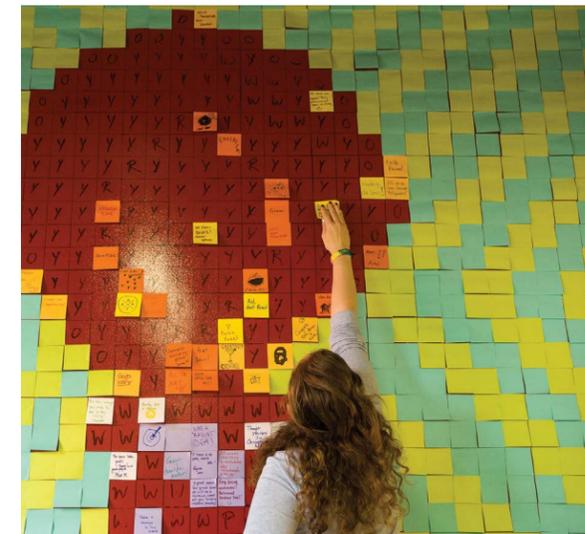
The school will be able to offer partial and full scholarships to more than one-third of its undergraduate students — about 150 students per year. The scholarships will be available for financially eligible students enrolled in the traditional B.S., accelerated B.S. and RN to B.S. programs, including those who are co-enrolled in nursing programs at Southside Virginia, Rappahannock and John Tyler community colleges. In addition, two full scholarships will support B.S. to Ph.D. students interested in careers as faculty.

VCU School Of Nursing Rises Among Top Nursing Graduate Programs Nationwide

VCU School of Nursing rose sharply in the nation's best nursing graduate programs rankings released in March by *U.S. News and World Report*. The school's master's program rose to No. 33 in the nation after previously being listed at No. 53. This ranking puts the School of Nursing among the top 10% of nursing graduate programs in the nation.

VCU's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, already listed in the top 50, climbed to No. 37 after being ranked No. 44 previously.

New Graduate Certificate Trains Those Interested in Developing Products and Solutions to Health Care Challenges



A new certificate program at VCU will make it simpler for those with an interest in innovation to develop products and solutions to challenges facing the health care industry. The Graduate Certificate in Health Care Innovation is a joint program offered by VCU's School of Nursing and da Vinci Center for Innovation. The certificate will provide opportunities for students to advance their knowledge and skills at identifying problems and implementing solutions to foster high-quality, safe and accessible health care.

The graduate certificate program, open to those who have earned a bachelor's degree, enrolled its first class in fall 2020. Its multidisciplinary curriculum will prepare students for leadership roles on interdisciplinary teams and will cover topics including problem identification, product development, user analysis, prototyping, quality and safety testing, marketing, supply-chain management, and commercialization.

The online and in-person hybrid program consists of 12 credit hours and can be completed in one year full time and two years part time for students not seeking an additional degree. Degree-seeking graduate students at VCU can also apply to enroll in the certificate program.

School of Nursing Receives NIH Grant to Study an App for Pregnant and Postpartum Women

The School of Nursing received a \$2.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to build on use of a promising app-based approach for preventing and reducing perinatal depressive symptoms. Patricia Kinser, Ph.D., WHNP-BC, RN, FNAP, FAAN, associate professor, is the principle investigator of the five-year project. The web-based intervention "Mama Mia" has been developed and tested in Norway. Kinser will lead a team in building on this work by evaluating an adapted version through a multi-site randomized controlled trial in a large group of diverse women in the U.S. If successful, the project has the potential to change self-management of perinatal depressive symptoms because it is practical, internet-based and low-cost.



Patricia Kinser

One Day at a Time

Navigating the Impact of COVID-19

It's not as though people typically plan for a global pandemic. Since March 2020, life as we know it has changed in ways the world could not imagine.

The School of Nursing has faced innumerable challenges to continue its mission in the face of the pandemic. The magnitude of response needed to mitigate risk has required flexibility and resilience.

A "new normal" began to emerge in mid-March when the potential impact of COVID-19 made itself known, prompting VCU to make the tough decision

delivery with two programs (Ph.D. and DNP), an M.S. concentration (NOLS) and the RN-B.S. track offered online. Of course, the move to suddenly reconfigure courses typically taught in person wasn't without substantial effort by the faculty and the school's information technology and online learning staff.

"A tremendous amount of work occurred in a very short timeframe to make this shift," says the dean. "I have to commend our team for their tireless efforts."

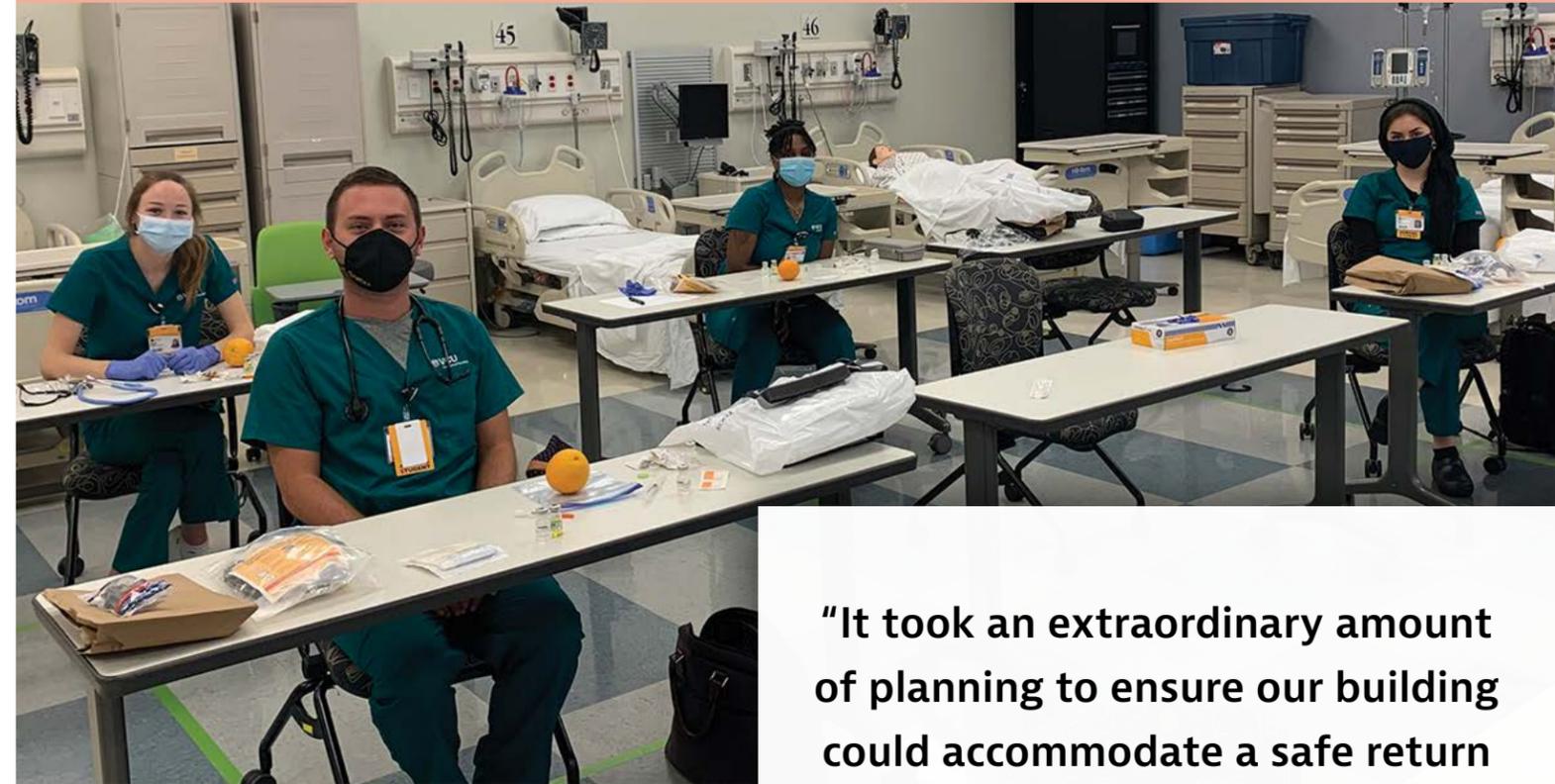
The school's ability to adapt so quickly proved fortunate for Savannah Andrews, an accelerated B.S. student on track to graduate in December 2020, who found herself called home early from a spring break trip to Ireland and Spain.

Returning to school proved easier than returning to the States, as Andrews was able to keep up with classes online throughout quarantine. "The professors were absolutely awesome!" she says.

Although didactic course content could logically be delivered online, the bigger concern was how to continue clinical education. Clinical learning experiences were prioritized for graduating seniors and graduate students to ensure an on-time graduation, while such experiences were canceled for the rest of the students until the school could bring them back into the clinical learning sites.

Debra Barksdale, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Nursing Alumni Endowed Professor and associate dean of academic affairs, notes that all of the senior pre-licensure students were able to complete their clinical requirements.

The use of other technology proved to be a valuable approach for students to complete their hours. Family Nurse Practitioner master's student Tomaris Smith said he and his fellow master's candidates succeeded in completing their requirements through the use of telehealth.



"It took an extraordinary amount of planning to ensure our building could accommodate a safe return for our students and employees."

— Jean Giddens

Of the telehealth, Smith says, "I owe much of my progress to the faculty's ingenuity in creating technology-driven clinical experiences in the environment of COVID-19 restrictions."

Supplementing the remainder of his own clinical hours by way of phone and Zoom collaborations, he adds, "Not only did I learn essential primary care management techniques, I learned how to build connections with patients using technology in a new way."

Smith was among the graduates in the School of Nursing's Virtual Commencement Celebration, held in lieu of the traditional in-person program in May. A highlight was remarks by Ernest Grant, Ph.D., president of the American Nursing Association.

Another School of Nursing event impacted by COVID was Reunion Weekend. In place of an in-person event, the School of Nursing held a virtual coffee chat and town hall to engage alumni. Because these events were so successful, the Development Office continues to host other virtual events (additional information can be found at nursing.vcu.edu).

Return to campus: summer and fall

Toward the end of the spring semester, information was changing almost daily. Despite continued

uncertainty, the School of Nursing had to determine the best and safest ways to bring nursing students and employees back to campus for the summer and fall. To purposefully craft its plans, the school organized a Return to Learn team that would coordinate the implementation of university-wide guidelines, for a phased return.

Before returning to campus, students, faculty and staff across the university completed required online training on new safety measures and received individual Return to Campus kits that included masks, hand sanitizer and cleaning solution.

Campus preparations also consisted of safety measures within all buildings, including the School of Nursing. Modifications that have been made within the school include directional signage for "traffic" flow, hand sanitizer dispensers in all areas and visual floor markers to indicate six-foot spacing for classroom tables and chairs. The school also installed a contact-



(L to R) Faculty members Daphne Terrell, Michelle Legg and Tammy Williams were on hand to provide safety kits as students entered the front lobby of the school.

to move to remote learning and pause face-to-face research activities – except for critical projects that had direct benefit potential, like certain clinical drug trials, for the foreseeable future.

Fortunately, notes Dean and Professor Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, the School of Nursing was in a good position to shift all courses to a remote learning format, since it is among VCU's leaders in online

One Day at a Time

less kiosk in the lobby to check everyone's temperature when entering the building.

"It took an extraordinary amount of planning to ensure our building could accommodate a safe return for our students and employees," Giddens says. Scheduling students' clinical placements proved to be an even greater challenge than building adjustments, since there was a massive backlog to address. The school organized a three-phased plan for 350 spring students and 200 summer students to complete their clinical hours between mid-June and the first week of August.

Working closely with health care partners, most notably VCU Health, proved to be a key factor leading to the success of this plan. "We are so grateful that VCU Health was incredibly flexible in accommodating our students, despite having its own heightened protocols due to the pandemic," Giddens says.



A virtual coffee chat was held with alumni back in April.

"This clearly highlights the importance of a strong academic health system partnership."

In Phase I, juniors and graduate students who were unable to complete clinical hours in the spring term returned, starting in June, to satisfy their requirements at VCU Health and various agencies.

Starting in July, Phases II and III saw students enrolled in summer courses completing clinical learning and simulation experiences at the school's Clinical Learning Center and hospital-based clinical experiences.

"This was a daunting task, but everyone had a shared commitment to maintain continuity in the progression of our students," Giddens says proudly. "Several of our faculty volunteered to teach additional clinical sessions this summer outside of their typical teaching assignments to help our students complete their clinical hours," she adds.

Summer plans also included reactivating the school's research activities that were suspended in March, posing challenges in completing studies and applying for future funding. Organized in four phases by the VCU Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation, in collaboration with the associate deans of research, the research plan called for reopening the School of Nursing's projects either during Phase II (mid-June) or Phase III (mid-July), depending on the research type and location of recruitment, says Suzanne Ameringer, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, who served as interim

associate dean of research, scholarship, and innovation at the time.

"Our faculty and students have been incredibly patient and creative in figuring out how to keep the science moving forward," she says.

For the fall semester, School of Nursing didactic courses are following the university's prescribed format that classes with more than 50 students will be taught online. Although it's still unknown how the pandemic will ultimately unfold, students are completing clinical experiences at multiple health care settings.

"We're counting on everyone to do their part to keep our campus safe," Giddens says. "It's everyone's responsibility to follow social

distance and safety measures so that we can continue providing the exceptional learning experiences our students deserve."

It is unrealistic to think that this pandemic won't continue to change our lives, according to Giddens. "We know things are constantly shifting and we are ready to pivot, making the necessary adjustments to keep moving forward," she says.

"This has clearly been a defining moment," she adds, "and we have shown we're up for the challenge."

Helping to Assess and Decrease the Effects of COVID-19

The pandemic has presented opportunities for students, faculty and staff to contribute to making a difference in several ways, including studying its impact on health conditions, volunteering to serve on the front lines and helping to prevent the spread of the disease.

In a research example, Patricia Kinser, Ph.D. (B.S.'03/N, M.S.'04/N, Cert.'04/N), associate professor, is

leading a team School of Nursing researchers in examining the impact of COVID-19 on pregnant women and new mothers. Another research project, led by Lathika Mohanraj, Ph.D. (Ph.D.'08/M; B.S.'14/N), assistant professor, is studying the impact of the pandemic on stem-cell transplantation patients. Through the Richmond Health and Wellness Program, Pam Parsons, Ph.D., GNP-BC, FNAP, associate dean for practice and community engagement and the Judith B. Collins and Joseph M. Teefey Distinguished Professor, is working on a project examining the impact of COVID-19 on older adults.

Also, three nursing students joined VCU da Vinci Center and Health Innovation Consortium teams to help explore solutions to five key challenges presented by the crisis: ventilators, personal protective equipment, repurposing community facilities to extend patient care, access to COVID-19 testing, and improving social-distancing compliance. Two of the nursing students were on winning teams.



Clare Shanley (left) with a colleague at North Central Bronx Hospital.

Three other students went the remarkable route of answering the call for nurses in COVID-19 hotspots. Casey Herrera delayed completion of her FNP master's degree to join other nurses and physicians caring for patients in New York, as did Jeannette Kim, a master's student in nursing administration and leadership who was deployed to one of the hardest-hit nursing homes in Washington state.

Clare Shanley also joined other health care professionals in caring for patients in New York before she graduated with an FNP master's degree in May. When interviewed by Richmond area television stations, Shanley said, "Being part of this pandemic and taking care of these patients could be one of the most important things I ever do in my career."

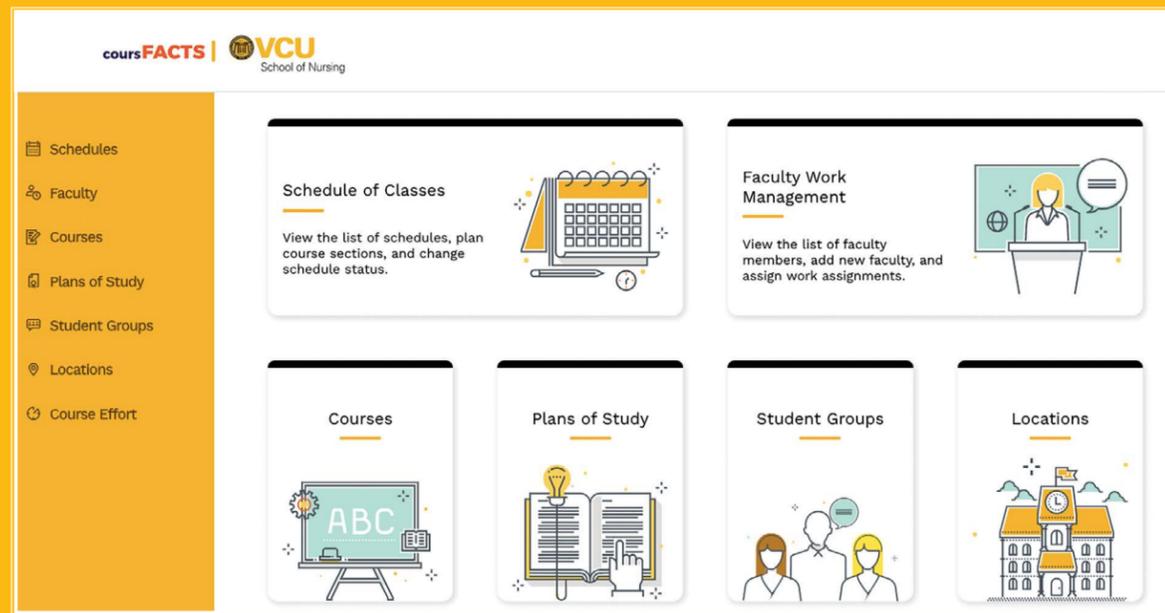
School of Nursing faculty, staff, family members and friends also joined widespread efforts to create and provide cloth masks for more vulnerable community members, particularly residents and participants of the Richmond Health and Wellness Program and the VCU Health Hub at 25th. Kathie Falls (M.S.'95/N), RHWP director of clinical operations, reports that the original goal to make at least 350 masks was far surpassed.

In support of VCU Health, Dean Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, says, the School of Nursing "cleared out our closets, literally!" Personal protective equipment donations from the school to VCU Health included 3,000 sanitary wipes, 400 fluid-resistant face masks, 780 personal protective gowns, 175 N95 surgical masks, 280 face protection goggles and 7,500 gloves.

The Anatomy of Invention

School of Nursing debuts innovative course-scheduling software

In most cases, necessity actually is the mother of invention. It's certainly true of coursFACTS, cutting-edge software that simplifies and speeds up academic course scheduling.



The coursFACTS software improves scheduling of classes and management of faculty workload.

The brainchild of VCU School of Nursing Dean Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, coursFACTS – or the idea for it, rather – originated while she was serving as associate dean for academic affairs at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing.

“I was struck by the amount of time involved in getting our own unit-level schedule ready for the university,” she recalls. “It felt like a three-ring circus.”

When she arrived at the VCU School of Nursing, Giddens found an even more complex and disjointed course-scheduling procedure in place. As she had previously noted, too many individual spreadsheets involving too many people resulted in inaccuracies and inefficiencies.

The idea

At Giddens’ suggestion a new process and solution was explored. It was clear there was a need for

an integrated database affording prospective, as opposed to reactive, planning.

Thus began the search for a solution that would keep track of courses and cohort needs as well as future curricular changes. Incorporating the faculty work plan – and a three-year trajectory – would set it above and apart from existing software.

Once Giddens’ prototype was complete, VCU Innovation Gateway stepped in.

The pitch

“Whenever a faculty member is developing a product that has potential,” Giddens explains, “Innovation Gateway becomes involved to help determine the potential for a commercial product.”

Brent Fagg is a licensing associate with Innovation Gateway, part of the VCU Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation. Once an invention

disclosure has been filed, he says, faculty are asked to explain the project in their own words, why they think it’s of value and how much they want to be involved.

One newly developed software was trying to do something similar, Giddens says, but was missing a few key components. “So we knew this idea for our own software would be a unique application.”

Innovation Gateway needed to identify a firm that could frame a customized solution for the problem she had described and make it adaptable to other schools.

With the help of an outside sales lead firm, CIENCE, Innovation Gateway initiated interviews with other universities to find out who could use a product like this once it was on the market. “They did a phenomenal job,” Fagg says. As did Katharine Wise, he says, who was hired as an in-house sales and marketing lead.

Research suggested that the new product would be a good match for larger universities with more complex systems.

The build

A request for proposal was issued, noting that a discovery phase – and flexibility — would be key. Of about 20 bids, SingleStone, a Richmond-based technology consulting firm, had the most compelling bid.

“In discovery, the big objective is to sit down and find out exactly what you want your product to do,” says Fagg, who typically works with software and copyright cases. “SingleStone spent about two months entrenched with people who really understand what’s important and what’s not, what’s necessary versus what’s nice to have.”

“We often just license a patent and that’s it,” Fagg says. But this project required more attention up-front.

SingleStone takes a “four-headed monster” approach to discovery, says Gray Hollins, solution lead for application development. Four team members, each with specific expertise in problem-solving, are assigned.

For the School of Nursing, Victoria Griffin served as user experience designer. Put simply, she says, “We craft the overall experience ... me in the beginning, probing the dean and administrators on what their problems were, then putting it into a design, making sure it met their needs, went above and beyond and was accessible.”

Once the crux of the problem was identified, Griffin says, design and development began. The full nine-month process included coding testing – lots of testing – with School of Nursing end users.

“Working with the dean and administrators was a lot of fun,” Griffin says. “It was my favorite project! They really picked up on technology fast and trusted us as the experts in the room.”

Hollins agrees. “The collaboration was exceptional on both sides, and I think the results are indicative of that. This is one project where we had that attention from the team.”

The outcome

With final testing completed in December, expectations were high for licensing the new product to other colleges and universities. Unfortunately, Fagg says, COVID-19 put a damper on sales. Most universities make budgeting decisions early in the year; many had been forced to freeze their budgets. “We are marketing coursFACTS now,” Fagg says. “We are also generating new sales leads and conducting demos. But with the COVID closures, many of the schools are slower to respond and looking at this as a



Brent Fagg, licensing associate with Innovation Gateway.

future purchase.”

In the meantime, coursFACTS already has proved beneficial for the School of Nursing, which implemented it in January, since faculty workload can be rebalanced much faster.

That’s because coursFACTS can capture and visualize individual faculty members’ service-related and committee work, clinical practice and research-related activities. Having this information in one place not only helps to better manage workload and activities in general but contributes toward improved course planning and projections.

Its users are delighted. “It actually increases accuracy and reduces confusion in scheduling,” Giddens says. “It saves a lot of hours.”

“Our department chairs and scheduler have said over and over how amazing it is. They provided input into how this might work, so everyone had a good buy-in.”

In a nutshell, as SingleStone notes, “The complexities of scheduling don’t have to be so complex anymore.”

To learn more about coursFACTS, contact Brent Fagg at bfagg@vcu.edu or call (804) 827-6089.

Around the SON

Suzanne Ameringer Named the Florence E. Elliott Professor



Suzanne Ameringer, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, a professor who recently served as interim associate dean of research, scholarship, and innovation, has been named the Florence E. Elliott Professor. The professorship is named after its benefactor, who served as a nursing arts instructor at the St. Philip School of Nursing from 1940 to 1943. Ameringer joined the VCU School of Nursing faculty in 2007. In addition to teaching, she conducts research focused on improving symptom self-management in adolescents and young adults with sickle cell disease and cancer.

Langston Center Inducts Inaugural Affiliate Scholars

The VCU Langston Center for Innovation in Quality and Safety inducted 18 interprofessional experts in innovation, quality and safety in its inaugural cohort of Affiliate Scholars. The scholars, a diverse group of individuals from universities and health systems regionally, nationally and internationally, will offer strategic advice to Langston Center programs. They will also engage with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Richmond Chapter and identify health challenges of patients and populations to generate improvement strategies through creative support of scholar peers. To view the list of scholars, [visit nursing.vcu.edu/langston-center](http://visit.nursing.vcu.edu/langston-center).



Theresa Swift-Scanlan



Pam Parsons

Our Newest AAN Fellows

Pam Parsons, Ph.D., GNP-BC, FNAP, associate dean of practice and community engagement, will be inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing this fall during AAN's annual conference to be held virtually. Selection as an AAN Fellow is one of the highest honors in nursing. Suzanne Ameringer, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, professor, and Theresa Swift-Scanlan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, director of biobehavioral laboratory services, were inducted as Fellows in fall 2019.

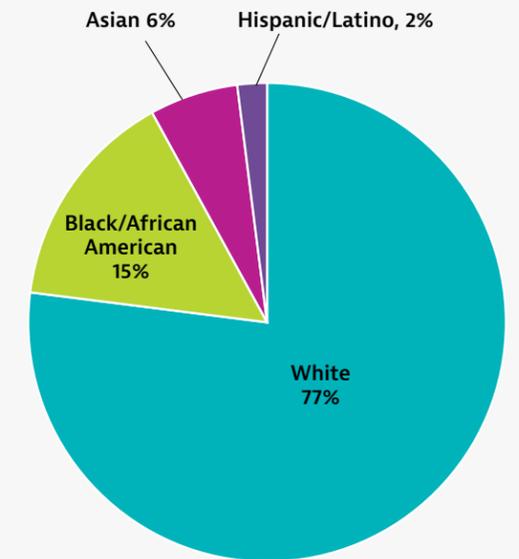
SON Quick facts

DID YOU KNOW?

96%

of our Nurse Practitioner graduates passed the ANCC certification exam on their first attempt in 2020!

Faculty Diversity
53 full time or nearly full time

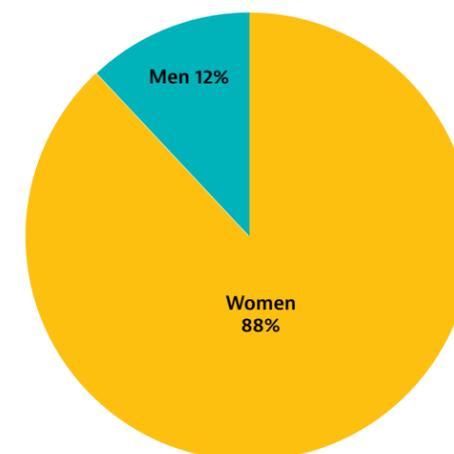


8 No. of faculty who are American Academy of Nursing Fellows

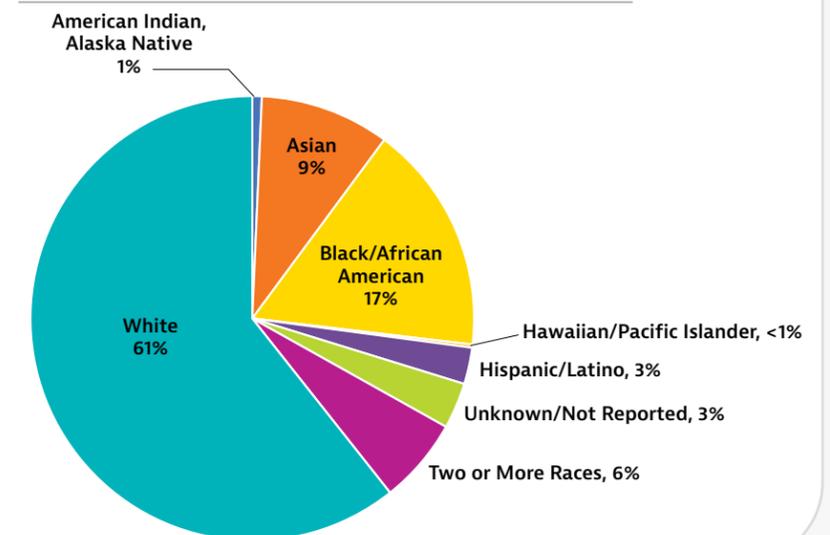
531 undergraduate students

336 graduate students

Students



Fall 2019 Enrollment Diversity



New Faculty and Staff 2020



Kimberly Battle, Ph.D., FNP-BC, is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She most recently served as a nurse practitioner at CVS Health

Minute Clinic and an adjunct assistant professor at Morgan State University. She earned a B.S. in nursing from Hampton University, an M.S. in nursing (family nurse practitioner) at Georgetown University, and a Ph.D. in nursing at the Catholic University of America.



Fabiana Bowles, M.S.N., RN, is a clinical instructor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She most recently served as a didactic and clinical faculty

member at Arizona Western Community College. Bowles earned both a B.S.N. and M.S.N. from the University of Phoenix.



Leigh Ann Breckenridge, DNP, FNP-BC, M.S.N., RN, is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She most

recently served as a family nurse practitioner at VCU Health and has previously taught at the University of Memphis School of Nursing. She earned a B.S.N. at Mississippi College, an M.S.N. (clinical nurse specialist-child parent nursing) at the University of Kentucky, a family nurse practitioner post-master's certificate from the University of Memphis, and a DNP from the University of Alabama.



Scott Delano is executive administrative assistant for both the Office of Research, Scholarship, and Innovation and the Langston Center for Innovation in Quality and

Safety. He most recently served as a tasting room associate at Austin Street Brewery in Scarborough, Maine. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Southern Maine.



Crystal Edds-McAfee, DNP, CPNP, is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Nursing. She most recently served

as an assistant professor at Georgia Southern University and as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Georgia Emergency Associates. She earned an associate degree in nursing from Kennesaw State University, a master's in nursing (child health) from Georgia State University and a DNP from Georgia Southern University.



Alex Fisher is the program promotion and pre-admission specialist in the Office of Student Success. He most recently served as the digital marketing manager at the Virginia Interfaith Center

for Public Policy. He earned a B.S. in business administration from High Point University and an M.A. in public relations and advertising from DePaul University.



Nancy Husson, DNP, RN, CHSE, is an assistant professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently served as a professor of nursing at J. Sargeant

Reynolds Community College. She earned a nursing diploma from Lancaster General Hospital School of Nursing, a B.S.N. from the University of Texas at Arlington, a school nursing certification from Millersville University, an M.S.N. in nursing education from Alvernia University, and both a post-master's certificate in informatics and a DNP degree from Vanderbilt University.



Michelle Legg, M.S.N., RN, is a clinical instructor in the Department of Adult Health and Nurse Systems. She most recently served as an adjunct faculty member at the VCU School of

Nursing and as a nurse clinician III at the VCU Health System. She earned a B.A. in American studies from Mary Washington College, a B.S. in nursing from VCU and an M.S. in nursing (nursing educator) from George Washington University.



Kate Ray, M.S., RN, PMHNP, PMHCNS, is a clinical instructor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems. She most recently served as a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Kenner

Army Health Clinic at Fort Lee. She earned a B.S. in psychology from Virginia Tech and both a B.S. and M.S. in nursing from VCU School of Nursing.



Amy L. Salisbury, Ph.D., RN, PMH-CNS, BC, a leading nurse scientist and clinician, is associate dean of research, scholarship, and innovation.

She most recently served as an associate professor at the Alpert Medical School at Brown University and a clinical nurse specialist at Women & Infants' Hospital in Providence, R.I.

Salisbury's research and clinical interests include neurobehavioral development, fetal and infant development, sleep development and disorders, perinatal and infant mental health, prenatal exposures, autism, and child psychopathology. Through her work, she has developed a standardized protocol for fetal neurobehavioral assessment combining ultrasound recorded fetal behaviors and fetal heart rate monitoring, called the Fetal Neurobehavioral Coding System (FENS).

Salisbury has been published in numerous journals and other publications and has presented nationally and internationally. She earned a B.A. in psychiatry with a neuroscience concentration from Clark University, a diploma in nursing from St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing, an M.S. in child and adolescent psychiatric nursing from the University of Rhode Island, and a Ph.D. in biobehavioral sciences, developmental psychobiology from the University of Connecticut. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in child psychiatry at Brown Medical School/Rhode Island Hospital.

Selected Faculty Publications

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St. Philip School of Nursing Marks its 100th Anniversary

One hundred years ago during racial segregation, the Medical College of Virginia established a separate nursing school to train Black women to be nurses for the newly opened St. Philip Hospital that served the local Black community.

From its start, the school had the same rigorous academic and clinical standards as MCV's White nursing school. Despite having to work with second hand equipment as well as overcome other obstacles brought on by segregation, St. Philip graduates went on to successful careers in nursing, including in public health, hospital administration, the military, education and so on. These trailblazers were in

high demand and achieved many "firsts" in their various roles. Due to decreasing enrollment and desegregation, St. Philip closed in 1962, having graduated 791 Black nurses since opening. The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the St. Philip School of Nursing. The school's remarkable legacy is a significant part of the VCU School of Nursing's history.

We invite you to learn more about the St. Philip School of Nursing. A feature story about the school's history is available on the [VCU website](#) and a video of St. Philip alumnae sharing their stories is available on the School of Nursing's [YouTube channel](#). In addition, a display in the School of Nursing's Heritage Room features the stories of six alumnae and their career path after St. Philip.



Graduating classes of 1923 and 1924.



The Class of 1959 poses for a photo on the MCV campus.



A clinical class in 1961.

St. Philip School of Nursing opened on Nov. 1 in the new St. Philip Hospital on Marshall Street

The first commencement exercise was held on June 12; The St. Philip Alumnae Association was organized

The first class of students enrolled in the Public Health Nursing course; St. Philip School of Nursing was registered by the Regents of the University of New York in June

The St. Philip Nurses Club of New York was organized

St. Philip School of Nursing was registered by the National League of Nursing Education

The first alumnae homecoming was held May 13-14 in the Egyptian Building

District of Columbia Area Chapter of the St. Philip School of Nursing organized on March 19th; Newport News-Hampton Chapter of the St. Philip Alumnae Association formed

The Ida G. Wilson Memorial award was established to recognize the salutatorian in the graduating class

The Tidewater Chapter of the St. Philip Alumnae Association formed

The Philadelphia Chapter of the St. Philip Alumnae Association organized; St. Philip School of Nursing held its last commencement on Sept. 12 and the school closed

VCU dedicated a historic marker in front of the Egyptian Building on the MCV Campus in honor of the St. Philip School of Nursing

1920

1924

1931

1936

1937

1942

1950

1951

1952

1955

1960

1961

1962

2008

The new dormitory and education building, St. Philip Hall, opened on Nov. 10. Located on the ground floor of the building, the educational unit was equipped with a science laboratory, a nursing arts laboratory, an auditorium for lectures and recreation, office space, laundry facilities and a kitchenette



A capping ceremony in 1944.

St. Philip School of Nursing was accredited by the National League for Nursing

The Board of Visitors of the Medical College of Virginia voted to close the St. Philip School of Nursing; The Tuskegee Chapter of the St. Philip Alumnae Association formed



St. Philip alumnae (left to right) Mattie Kearney Ward, Pauline Reese Jones-Tate, Mallie Lee Benson Washington, Arlethia Vaughan Rogers, Vivian Harris Bagby, and Miriam Thompkins Bailey enjoy a moment at Reunion Weekend 2018. The six alumnae are featured in a St. Philip display in the school's Heritage Room.



The class of 1970 in their school uniforms.



The class of 1970, along with Dean Jean Giddens, at Reunion Weekend 2015.

Class of 1970 Celebrates 50th Anniversary and Gift Milestone for the School

The year 2020 marked the 50th anniversary for members of the Class of 1970. Since this year's Reunion Weekend was canceled due to COVID-19, inhibiting the recognition of the class in person, the School of Nursing would like to highlight the efforts of this extraordinary group of alumni.

Many members of the Class of 1970 have donated to the school over the years. The first fundraising effort as a group began in 2005 for the \$3 million School of Nursing Building Campaign.

The class members raised more than \$25,000 and were recognized with a Class of 1970 classroom named in their honor on the school's second floor.

In 2015, class members began raising funds for a Class of 1970 gift to be completed for their 50th Reunion.

That gift was designated for the School's Clinical Scholars Fund, a dean's discretionary fund focused on recruiting and retaining excellent clinical faculty.

The goal was originally \$70,000 for '70.

By Reunion 2015, the class had donations and pledges of more than \$58,000.

Since then, classmates have continued to donate and the total has now reached \$101,510.67 for the class' anniversary this year.

"I'm thrilled that our class is making this gift to the school—an exceptionally generous group of women—helping insure that future VCU nursing students will have the same clinically excellent faculty members that we did!" says Barbara Dunn (B.S.'70/N), class leader.

Class of 1970 Donors to the Clinical Scholars Fund:

- Wilsie Paulette Bishop
- Diane Houston Bommer
- Barbara Stewart Brown
- Janet Nolan Brugh
- Carolyn Pierce Buckelew
- Patricia Belton Cushnie
- Pamela Kavanaugh Douglas
- Barbara Dunn
- Gerry Williams Ellis
- Mary Nininger Green
- Sharolyn Bailey Heatwole
- Brenda Smith Jackson
- Diane Kelsey Hice
- Eva Layne Johnson
- For Jeanette Kissinger
- Barbara Limandri
- Katherine Atkinson Love
- Bennie Davis Marshall Lundy
- Bonnie Johnson Mee
- Jane Long Mendez-Picon
- Gail Midkiff
- Pamela Chitwood Moore
- Theresa Morris
- Catherine Flynn Naumann
- Rebecca "Becky" Patterson
- Linda Pearson
- Susan Reinheimer
- Brenda Jacobs Roup
- Susan Chadwell Shearer
- Susan Berger Skolochenko
- Sandy Long Sperry
- Betty Moore Williams
- Ann Friel Yeo

Class Notes

We want to hear what you are doing!

1970s

Ann P. Yeo (B.S.'70/N) retired as a Certified Nurse Midwife and as a volunteer faith community nurse. She sat for the national exam to be board certified as a holistic nurse.

Catherine Courtney (B.S.'70/N, M.S.'77/N) has the first endowed faculty position at the Rappahannock Community College named after her (Catherine Mooklar Courtney Endowed Nursing Professorship). She was the founder and first director of RCC's nursing program.

Deborah L. Wagus (B.S.'72/N) has moved to Parhump, Nevada. She is enjoying the peaceful desert valley with beautiful mountain views.

Gloria H. Scarabelli (B.S.'76/N) retired from WellStar North Fulton Hospital in November 2019.

1980s

Erin T. Reeve (B.S.'78/CHS; B.S.'80/N) received an M.S.N. in nursing education in 2014 from Chamberlain College of Nursing and an M.S.N. in leadership and management in 2018 from Walden University.

2000s

Pamela G. Budd (B.S.'00/N) completed her doctorate in healthcare systems management in February 2020.

Kirstin B. Adams (B.S.'06/N) completed her M.S.N. FNP from the University of South Alabama in December of 2015. She is a board certified nurse practitioner working as a locum tenens.

Portia B. Buchongo (B.S.'08/N) is currently pursuing a doctorate in health services research at the University of Maryland College Park.

Jack I. Spencer (B.S.'09/N) has coauthored a book in the Springer Publishing Fast Facts series entitled: "Fast Facts about substance use disorders: What every nurse APRN and PA needs to know." New York, NY: Springer Publishing. He is currently a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner at the STAR Health Center at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He also works in a private practice focusing on psychotherapy and medication management in Manhattan.

Mary K. Bennett (B.S.'09/N; M.S.'13/N) married Jeffrey Bennett on October 13, 2019.



Paul A. and Veronica H. Gross Achievement in Nursing Award



Award Winner:
Linda Talley (B.S.'88/N)
Vice President and Chief Nursing officer, Children's National Medical Center

The Paul A. and Veronica H. Gross Achievement in Nursing Award was created to recognize and pay tribute to the value of an undergraduate educational degree and experience in professional nursing, coupled with a graduate degree forming a foundation to award leadership and achievement in one's field. The award recognizes a professional registered nurse affiliated with either VCU academic schools on the MCV/VCU campus, or with an accredited post graduate institution's graduate studies program. The recipient has made substantial contributions to their institution, health care industry, community, nursing education or within the entrepreneurial marketplace.

Outstanding Nurse Practice Award



Award Winner:
Sue Ellen Pinkerton, Ph.D. (M.S.'73/N)
International Nursing Consultant and Author, Retired Chief Nursing Officer and Nursing Educator

This award honors a School of Nursing graduate who exemplifies an innovative, collaborative and scholarly approach to his or her practice and contributes to the development of others.

Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award



Award Winner:
Danny Mallory (B.S.'15/N)
Registered Nurse, Acute Care Surgery, VCU Health System

This award honors a recent (within the last 10 years) School of Nursing graduate who has demonstrated excellence in his or her nursing career, has been identified as an emerging leader or has made a significant contribution to the profession.

Outstanding Nurse Alumnus Award



Award Winner:
Sarah Farrell (Ph.D.'95/N)
Development Executive, U.S. Higher Education, Apple

This award honors outstanding contributions of graduates of the School of Nursing and is presented in recognition of a successful nursing career. The recipient is recognized as a leader and expert who has contributed to health-related groups and has impacted the nursing profession with creativity and innovation on a local or national level.

Outstanding Nurse Service Award



Award Winner:
Dr. Paula Saxby (M.S.'85/N; Ph.D.'92/N)
Deputy Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

This award honors School of Nursing alumni who have shown outstanding leadership and service to the community, the school or the university, or professional or community organizations.

1940s

- Joyce S. Brown (St.P.'49/N)
- Sarah B. Evans (Cert.'44/N)
- Sarah E. Faber (B.S.'44/N)
- Doris P. Fisher (B.S.'48/N)
- Sara E. Gehr (B.S.'44/N)
- Nancy L. Hignite (B.S.'43/N)
- Mary L. Johnson (B.S.'47/N)
- Ann O. Jones (B.S.'49/N)
- Ruth C. Parker (St.P.'45/N)

1950s

- Irene R. Cain-Rowley (St.P.'51/N)
- Sylvia W. Herweyer (B.S.'59/N)
- Mary Q. Hock (B.S.'55/N)
- Nancy H. Inman (Dipl.'53/N)
- Lillian E. Johnson (St.P.'51/N)
- Bernice P. Ramer (B.S.'54/N)
- Helen A. Stokes (St.P.'51/N; M.Ed.'76)
- Shirley F. Wampler (B.S.'59/N; M.S.'76/N)
- Romona P. Williams (B.S.'53/N)

1960s

- Margaret B. McDonald (B.S.'61/N)

1970s

- Marylou W. Downs (M.S.'77/N)
- Ruth H. Ferguson (M.S.'79/N)
- Ann W. King (B.S.'72/N; M.S.'77/N)
- Cynthia S. Malkin (M.S.'75/N)
- Sharon L. McConnell (B.S.'71/N)
- Virginia C. Tierney (M.S.'75/N)
- Anne C. Wall (B.S.'70/N)

1980s

- Deborah D. Heath (B.S.'83/N)
- Laura A. Larrick (B.S.'83/N; M.S.'99/N)
- Jeanne M. Lusk (B.S.'85/N)
- Sandra J. Taylor (M.S.'82/N)

1990s

- Richard M. Williams (B.S.'94/N)

2010s

- Vicki Tedeschi (B.S.'12/N; M.S.'17/N)



In Memory of Ann Hamric

Professor Emeritus Ann B. Hamric, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, an internationally renowned leader in advanced practice nursing and nursing ethics, passed away in February. Hamric served as professor and associate dean of academic programs at the VCU School of Nursing from 2011 until her retirement in 2015. Prior to her VCU appointment, she served as a professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing for 12 years and as an associate professor at the Louisiana State University School of Nursing for four years. At VCU, Hamric enhanced the School

of Nursing's academic programs by leading the launch of a new online format for the Ph.D. program and the modification of master's degree concentrations to meet industry demands. She also led curriculum development and the launch of the school's Doctor of Nursing (DNP) program. Recognized as a trailblazer in nursing and nursing education, she contributed significant scholarly works to the nursing profession.

Getting to Know

Ingrid Pretzer-Aboff, Associate Professor and Senior Nurse Researcher

Ingrid Pretzer-Aboff, Ph.D., RN, a leading nurse scientist, joined the VCU School of Nursing in July 2017. She is co-leading a study funded by a \$434,715 grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation to test the use of vibration therapy to improve gait and balance in patients with Parkinson's disease. She is also co-director of the School of Nursing's new Graduate Certificate in Health Care Innovation being offered jointly with the VCU da Vinci Center.

A fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, Pretzer-Aboff is a member

of the Movement Disorder Society, the American Geriatric Society, Sigma Theta

Tau and the Virginia Nurses Association. She is co-founder and former director of the Parkinson's Clinic at the University of Delaware Nurse Managed Primary Care Center.

Pretzer-Aboff earned a B.S. and M.A. in nursing from New York University, a post-master's certificate in cardiopulmonary clinical nurse specialist from the University of

Delaware and a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Maryland.



1. What drew you to the VCU School of Nursing?

At first, I was drawn to VCU School of Nursing because of its location. I enjoy working with a diverse population and have heard great things about the school. After I met with Dean Jean Giddens, faculty and staff, I absolutely knew this was where I wanted to teach and continue my Parkinson's research. The school has a well-established infrastructure for research and teaching that includes so many facets that I have not previously enjoyed, all under one roof! I felt (and still do feel) like a kid in a candy store. I am surrounded by people who believe in and who are passionate about what they are doing.

2. Which of the courses you teach excites you the most and why?

I particularly enjoy teaching health assessment class. It excites me most when I see the students evolve over the semester from being hesitant to ask patient questions or when learning new techniques to being confident and proficient in their health assessment skills. You can see it in their eyes in their actions. I so enjoy when they "get it"!

3. Describe your research and what led you to this area of focus?

My research focuses on increasing physical activity, optimizing function, and improving quality of life for people living with Parkinson's disease. I have worked with patients with movement disorders for over three decades and I know that there are non-medical and non-surgical activities that can improve their lives. My research started with the development and testing of a self-efficacy-based exercise program that involved speech, occupational, and physical therapy components with education. I am happy to say that the program still exists today in southern Delaware. Presently, I am working on a study funded by The Michael J. Fox Foundation that uses vibration stimulation to help people with Parkinson's disease walk more smoothly. My next study will focus on freezing of gait, a most



Dr. Pretzer-Aboff is working with a vibrating device to help Parkinson's patients walk more smoothly.

debilitating symptom of Parkinson's that has been described by patients as the feeling that their "foot is stuck to the floor and they cannot move." What led me to this area? I saw a need for people with Parkinson's disease; they needed help dealing with their disease and the impact it had on their lives.

4. What do you hope to accomplish with your research?

I hope to improve the lives of people with Parkinson's disease. I want to develop and test programs, interventions, and treatments so that they can get out of the house, remain independent for as long as possible and enjoy their lives with families and friends. I want to reduce the burden of their disease on their lives.

5. What's something you are passionate about outside of work?

Above all else, I am passionate about having time with my family. We are fortunate to have technology help us stay connected during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Philanthropy Update

Message from the Senior Director of Development

Dear Friends,

Heading into 2020, the Year of the Nurse, I felt so proud to work for the School of Nursing, serving our alumni and donors. With all that has changed around us, I am humbled as I read stories of nurses who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, making great sacrifices and demonstrating how their education has enabled them to be leaders and innovators during this unprecedented time.

Now, more than ever, we see nurses providing health care worldwide, and we see how important it is to increase our nursing workforce. We were fortunate to have the opportunity during Nurses Week 2020 and as part of our Moments of Pride series to highlight what alumni enjoy about nursing and how their education prepared them for their career, especially in situations like the current pandemic. I encourage you to view their stories on our website's blog under the moments of pride category. While these are only a few examples, please know that we are proud of all of you and the tremendous difference you are making.

We realize that you have many choices when it comes to the organizations you support. Please know that now, more than ever, we so appreciate each of the contributions that you have made, and will continue to make, to VCU and our school. Your generosity to our school led to us raising nearly \$6 million last fiscal year. Our 2020 report of gifts on page 31 offers a breakdown of support for each priority.

The generosity and commitment of our alumni and friends are part of what makes our school so remarkable! When we get through this, we will be stronger than ever.

Warm regards,



Pamela Lowe
Sr. Director of Development



24th Annual Cabaniss Society Event Recognizes Donors

The School of Nursing's 24th Annual Sadie Heath Cabaniss Society reception recognized donors who have made significant contributions to the school. More than 100 alumni and friends attended last fall's event held at the Country Club of Virginia.

The Sadie Heath Cabaniss Society is a leadership annual giving group named in honor of Cabaniss, who is widely recognized as the founder of the school.

School of Nursing Dean and Professor Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, thanked donors for supporting the school's initiatives. She also provided an update on key accomplishments from the past year as well as activities at the school.

"We're able to achieve so many milestones and advance as a leader in academic nursing because of your continued support," Giddens told donors.

Pamela Lowe, senior director of development of the School of Nursing, joined Giddens in presenting a special Cabaniss plate to the newest members of the Distinguished Cabaniss Society. The society includes donors who have made a commitment of \$1,000 or more for the first time between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Honorees in attendance included new distinguished member Sue Taylor (M.S.'79/N), Corinne Dorsey (Diploma'54/N; B.S.'65/N), who accepted the plate on behalf of her cousins, new distinguished members Shirley and William Hayes; and new distinguished member Robin Reed (B.S.'06/N).

Other Newest Distinguished Cabaniss Society Members Include:

- Donor representatives from the estate of Rebecca Peebles Bowen – (Mary Dunn Conover and Rebecca Anne Lilley)
- William and Joanne Conway
- Kathryn (B.S.'07/N) and Zach Crowe
- Shirley (M.Ed.'84) and William Hayes (M.Ed.'82)
- Eve (B.S.'68/N) and Thomas Keenan (M.D.'69)
- Patricia Lindsay (B.S.'68/N)
- Deborah and Gary Zimmermann

[Visit the VCU School of Nursing Facebook Photo Album to view more photos from the event.](#)

Langston Center for Innovation in Quality and Safety



The Langston Center for Innovation in Quality and Safety promotes patient-centered, population-focused and cost-effective initiatives designed to improve health care. The Center offers a unique arena of opportunities to advance leadership, quality and safety science, decision and implementation science, and innovation. The Center crosses the boundaries of health care disciplines, promoting innovation, and ensuring quality and safe care.

“Philanthropy is a major driver in making it all work,” says Center Director Michael Bleich, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, FNAP, FAAN. “Our very first innovations grant last year, made possible through a donation, resulted in a patent submission that would enable mobility in Parkinson’s patients. Our Undergraduate Fellows Program is unprecedented. Generous donors funded education for highly capable students who spend 18-months being developed as leaders or researchers in addition to their nursing studies, entering the workforce with these added competencies.”

Crystal Goodwin Community Engagement Fund

The Crystal Goodwin Community Engagement Fund was established with generous gifts from Crystal Goodwin, (B.S. '93/N) to ensure that Pam Parsons, Ph.D., RN, GNP-BC, GNAP, associate dean of practice and community engagement, and the Richmond Health and Wellness Program (RHWP) team could provide needed services to some of the most vulnerable members of the Richmond community, many of whom are older adults and at risk of health disparities. The RHWP team addresses food insecurity, housing stability, advance care planning and access to care.

“Understanding an individual’s daily lived experience is at the heart of RHWP, bringing the heart of caring to home, as we touch individual lives across the lifespan,” says Parsons. “RHWP provides opportunities for students to engage in transformative learning that will influence their professional careers for years to come.”

If you are interested in supporting the Crystal Goodwin Community Engagement Fund, Langston Center for Innovation in Quality and Safety or would like to learn how to donate to the School of Nursing, you may contact Sr. Director of Development, Pamela Lowe, at 804.827.0020 or plowe@vcu.edu.

donor perspective



“The Langston Center is a dynamic bridge between the School of Nursing and nursing within the health

care system. Joint programs push boundaries and open new avenues for practice, research, and care delivery. Because several of us serve as mentors to the Undergraduate Fellows Program we all grow. For us, it is an investment with incredible returns.”

Deb Zimmermann, DNP, RN, FAAN
Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services, VCU Health

donor perspective



“During my experience as a participant in the Leadership Fellows program when I was an undergraduate student, I learned

about the importance of giving back to our communities through volunteering and investing in the School of Nursing. It is through the actions we take to contribute to the growth and progress of our neighbors and community that we truly imbibe the virtue of being a nurse and a leader.”

Ikenna Onyeador (B.S.'19/N)
Clinical Nurse I, VCU Health System

Couple Establishes Scholarship in Memory of Their Son – Kevin Dodge

Donors establish scholarships at universities for a variety of reasons, including as a way to memorialize a loved one and support education. The desire to honor their son Kevin led Jim and Kathy Dodge, along with their daughter Alisa, to establish a scholarship at the VCU School of Nursing in his memory.

Kevin Michael Dodge was pursuing a nursing degree at VCU while fighting a stage 4 lymphoma cancer diagnosis. The Fairfax, Virginia native was diagnosed the summer before he started nursing school, yet he still completed his first semester and made the Dean’s List.

During his illness, Kevin experienced lengthy stays at VCU Medical Center, where nurses quizzed him on medications, procedures and other materials once they found out he was in nursing school, said Kathy. His frequent hospital stays made it impossible for him to continue nursing school beyond one semester. Kevin passed away in February of 2005 after a two-year battle with cancer.

“Kevin fought cancer with the same courage, optimism and quirky sense of humor that were the embodiment of his personality,” recalls Kathy.

To honor him and support the education of future nurses, Kevin’s parents and sister contributed a \$26,000 gift to establish the Kevin Michael Dodge Memorial Scholarship at the VCU School of Nursing. The Dodes also made a \$100,000 bequest in their estate plans to support this scholarship.

The Lake Frederick, Virginia residents are both retired now after careers in sales and the medical field. Jim spent 40 years working for a company that specialized in maintenance, repair and operations products. He was a senior national account manager for federal sales Northeast, from Virginia to the Canadian Border, for the last 12 years of his career before retiring in 2014. Kathy was an account manager for a medical transcription service for 15 years. In her last and favorite job, she served as a medical assistant for a pain management practice before retiring in 2017.



The Dodes’ gift and bequest will make a difference at the School of Nursing for years to come. The scholarship named in Kevin’s honor will be awarded annually to an undergraduate student with financial need and will embrace the principles of diversity and inclusion within the School of Nursing.

“Kevin’s EMT (emergency medical technician) training landed him in the busy ER of an inner-city hospital, where he fell in love with the hands-on, compassionate care of nursing,” says Kathy. “Although Kevin’s nursing dream was cut short by cancer, we hope this scholarship will help other nursing students achieve their dreams.”

Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean and professor, says “we’re very grateful that the Dodge family chose to honor their son in such a meaningful way.”

“This scholarship will make a difference each year for a student struggling to meet their financial obligations in pursuing a nursing degree,” she adds.



Here at Virginia Commonwealth University, people come here from every imaginable walk of life to achieve their dreams, making our student body the most diverse of any university in Virginia. We believe a college degree should be within reach of anyone motivated to pursue one.

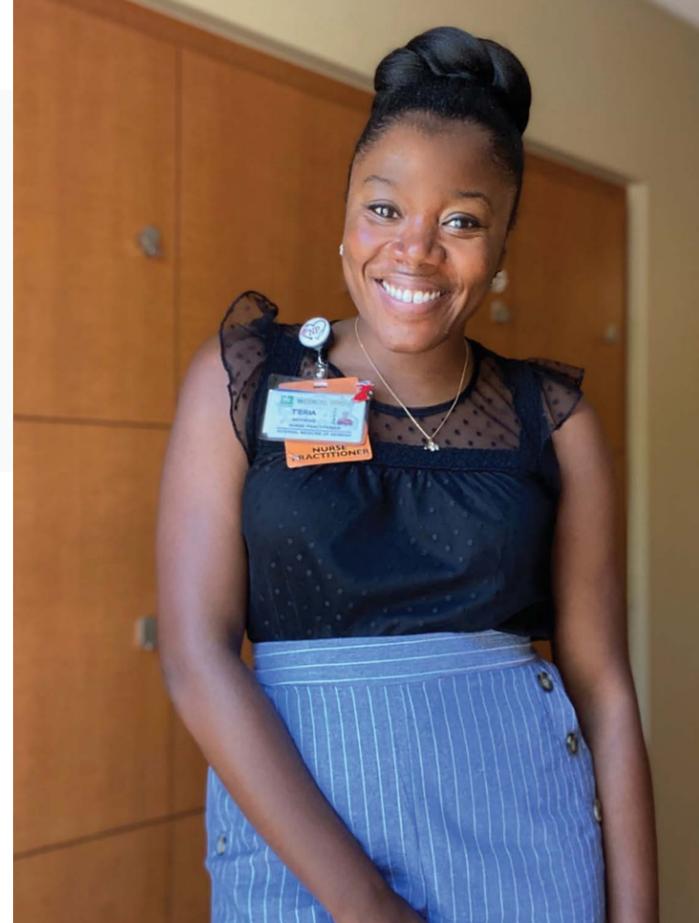
The Invest in Me scholarship initiative is dedicated to raising funds to support our students. These scholarships reward excellence and achievement, open doors to opportunity, eliminate barriers to access and nurture talent.

Here at the School of Nursing, supporting students is more important now than ever. We are aware of students who are facing pandemic-related hardships. Many of our students work while taking classes and are undoubtedly making tough decisions about whether or not they can remain in school or perhaps start a program that they know will advance their career.

Our students today are tomorrow's nurse leaders, innovators and researchers. Your support today is an investment not just in their future but in all of our futures.

"I was so grateful to have received the St. Philip Alumnae Scholarship," says T'eria D. Mathews, FNP-C (B.S.'12/N), who works as a family nurse practitioner at the Riverside Medical Group in the internal medicine and primary care unit in Newport News, Virginia. "Just remembering how this scholarship helped me, many before me and will continue to help multitudes after drives my decision to give back to the VCU School of Nursing."

"My goal is to help an aspiring nursing student reach his/her dreams of contributing to health care just like the St. Philip Alumnae Scholarship helped me," Mathews adds.



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T'eria D. Mathews

2019-2020 Scholarship Statistics:

- Awarded \$1.4 million in scholarship funds to students
- 85% of VCU nursing students who applied for scholarships required financial assistance
- 52 (about 30%) of our 915 nursing students received a scholarship

To make a gift to the School of Nursing, visit <https://www.support.vcu.edu/give/nursing>. Contact Pamela Lowe, senior director of development, for more information on how to make a gift to the School of Nursing at 804.827.0020 or plowe@vcu.edu.

FY20 Report of Gifts

Through the generosity of alumni, friends, and corporations and foundations, the VCU School of Nursing raised nearly \$6 million during fiscal year 2020.

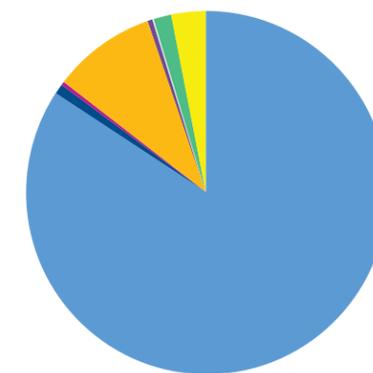
FY 2020



Funds Raised by Source

- Other - 65%
- Corporations and Foundations - 22%
- Friends - 7%
- Alumni - 6%

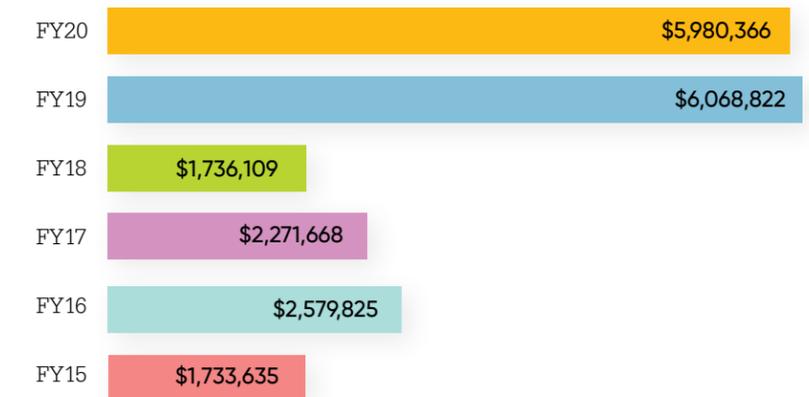
FY 2020



Funds Raised by Priority

- Student Support - 84%
- Community Engagement - 9%
- Annual Fund - 3%
- Langston Center - 2%
- Endowed Professorships - 1%
- Clinical Scholars - .44%
- Research - .32%
- Other - .05%

FY15-FY20 Total Funds Raised



New Endowments

Kevin Michael Dodge Memorial Scholarship

Kathy S. and James H. Dodge Jr.

Dr. Jane Rollins Ingalls Scholarship Fund

Jane Rollins Ingalls and Larry W. Ingalls

June Kyle Longerbeam Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Anonymous

War Heroes' Initiative Scholarship Endowment Fund

The War Heroes' Initiative at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation or The Oscar F. Smith/Marjorie Smith Charles/Angie Newman Johnson Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation

Judith Forehand Starkey Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Judith Forehand Starkey

CONNECTIONS

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of Nursing
Sadie Heath Cabaniss Hall

Box 980567
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0567



Graduate Certificate in Health Care Innovation

- A new program designed for those with an interest in innovation to develop products and solutions to challenges facing the health care industry
- Consists of 12 credit hours online and in-person
- Students will learn prototyping, business model development, intellectual property protection, and design thinking
- Specialized focus areas include problem identification, product development, user analysis, prototyping, testing, marketing, intellectual property protection (patents, copyrights & trademarks) and commercialization opportunities

The deadline to apply for spring 2021 enrollment is October 15, 2020.

To learn more visit: nursing.vcu.edu/programs



VCU

School of Nursing



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