The Power of Personal Philanthropy

Winter 2007

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When Randy and Mark Gordon were boys, they spent their summers camping, fishing and otherwise enjoying nature on the 343 acres along the James River in Charles City County, Va., at the YMCA’s Camp Weyanoke, which was led by their father, Raymond Lee Gordon Jr.

Today, that same piece of land is home to the Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University. In 2000, Inger Rice, the widow of former U.S. ambassador to Australia Walter L. Rice, donated the parcel to the university for educational and research purposes.

In late September, just a couple of weeks after Raymond Gordon passed away, a 5,100-square-foot research pier was dedicated at the center in his honor.

“It’s unusual that a structure of this significance would bear the name of someone like my father,” Dr. Randy Gordon, chairman of the Rice Center board of trustees, said at the dedication event. “He represents an Everyman’s father. He instilled strong values in us. He was a people person. As a teen in Galax, he saved his pennies he earned on a paper route, and he bought a bedroom set. He slept in it till the day he died. Now we are giving it to my son. That shows what kind of man my father was.

“This pier is dedicated to all the fathers and mothers who have those strong values and work hard and are never recognized.”

VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., reflected on Raymond Gordon’s love for the property and what it had offered to generations of children.

“He is watching us and will continue to watch what goes on at this facility,” President Trani said.

The pier, which was developed in partnership with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, provides boat access to the original river channel, a secure boathouse and a 400-square-foot floating platform that gives researchers and instructors direct river access for sampling, monitoring and class activities.

“We regard this pier as the front door to the Rice Center,” said Thomas F. Huff, Ph.D., VCU’s vice provost for life sciences. “This will enable us to do the environmental research that will bring us national standing.”

With funding of $850,000 from public and private sources, the facility also includes two boathouses, each with three slips. One boathouse will be used by VCU, the other by the fisheries department. An attached floating dock can accommodate visiting boats and the loading of research equipment.

Dr. Randy Gordon serves as chairman of the Rice Center board of trustees. The center’s pier was dedicated in September 2006 in honor of his father, Raymond Lee Gordon Jr.

Rice Center pier dedicated to ‘Everyman’s father’
President Trani emphasized the venture’s collaborative nature, with participation from the DGIF and Charles City County, among others.

Col. W. Gerald Massengill, then-interim director of the DGIF, echoed those sentiments. “The relationships that will surely develop with the scientists and scholars of the Rice Center can only lead to great things for our department, our commonwealth and our country,” he said. “This endeavor is about the future.”

Soon, the DGIF will have its own state-of-the-art building, which is now under construction, at the Rice Center, with a staff of at least 20 reporting to the site daily and 40 others working out of it.

Fulfilling a promise President Trani made to Charles City County when the project began, Rice Center scientists interact with county residents by offering teacher training workshops and welcoming K-12 students to the site for various activities, such as building warbler boxes for research projects. In addition, students from throughout Virginia participate in summer science programs at the center.

Rice Center Director Leonard A. Smock, Ph.D., sees those educational and research opportunities as paramount. “We really don’t know much about large rivers because we can’t put on hip boots and walk across them. We need access to them. Now that’s a reality,” he said. “Hundreds of students now have hands-on experience because of the Rice Center. Many of them have never walked in the woods or been on a lake. Having the natural world explode before them … that’s part of what the Rice Center is all about.”

Now that the Rice Center’s “front door” is open, the fundraising focus will shift to the education building, which is needed to allow for the expansion of the center’s already strong academic side.

To make a gift to the VCU Rice Center, contact Catherine Dahl, director of development and special programs for VCU Life Sciences, at (804) 827-7372 or ccdahl@vcu.edu.

Grant funds used to study bay, river

In September, the Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences received a federal grant to study the predator and prey interactions of fish-eating birds and fishery resources in the Chesapeake Bay and the James River.

The grant, which is expected to total nearly $360,000 over three years, is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Chesapeake Bay Office and will support research on the complex ecological relationships among increasingly abundant avian predators and economically important fishery resources.

Virginia Commonwealth University researchers will work with scientists from the College of William & Mary’s Center for Conservation Biology and the University of Virginia’s Department of Environmental Sciences. They will study interactions among several species, including osprey, bald eagle, Atlantic menhaden and American shad.

The research will be conducted primarily in the section of the river fronted by the Rice Center. This area supports significant populations of fish-eating birds and migratory fishes and has been the focus of recent conservation efforts by state and federal biologists.
Gifts bring international art exhibition to light

In September, seven emerging stars in the international art world created dynamic new sculptures and installations for the “Artificial Light” exhibit at Virginia Commonwealth University’s Anderson Gallery.

Presented in partnership with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and curated by John Ravenal, the Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art of VMFA, the exhibit then traveled to the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art in December. The exhibit was timed to open with 2006 Art Basel Miami Beach, which is considered the most important art show in the U.S. and has become a cultural and social highlight each year. The Miami exhibit will be on display until Feb. 18.

The project also incorporated the artists into VCU’s School of the Arts with residencies, lectures, studio visits and substantial student involvement during fabrication and installation.

“It’s an amazing experience for our students to work closely with international artists in the production of work for our gallery exhibits,” said Richard E. Toscan, VCU’s vice provost of international affairs and dean of the art school. “Equally amazing is the invitation of a public art school to participate in what is arguably the most important art fair in North America. Our presence at Art Basel puts us on display in front of the international collecting community.”

Generous gifts from Truland Systems, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Martin Bucksbaum Family Foundation, the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Robert Lehman Foundation and Marion Boulton Stroud supported “Artificial Light.” Members of the School of the Arts’ Pollak Society and other annual fund donors as well as special friends of the VMFA were treated to a preview of the exhibit and a reception on Sept. 14 at the Anderson Gallery.

For more information about supporting VCUarts programs, contact Thomas C. Burke, executive director of the VCU Foundation, at (804) 828-3958 or tcburke@vcu.edu.
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Education campaign focuses on inclusive care

More parents entering the work force means more young children with developmental delays and disabilities are being cared for in center- and home-based settings. “Children with disabilities, however, have special academic and social needs that may not be fully addressed by caregivers in many of these programs,” said Mary Lynn White, inclusion program specialist with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, an affiliate of Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Education.

Often, she explained, the providers are not adequately trained to support the needs of or to provide developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for children with disabilities. This leads to a reluctance by the centers to accept these children, she said.

To combat this growing problem, the partnership has embarked on the “Include Me” campaign, a three-year initiative to raise $600,000.

“The goal of the campaign is to transform the preschool culture by increasing the abilities and comfort levels of care providers, which subsequently will pave the way for all children to have a good beginning,” White said.

The funds will be used to provide training and technical assistance to eight Richmond-area child care programs a year for five years. Work with the first group, which included the Weinstein JCC, began in January 2006 with a generous grant from the Jackson Foundation. At the end of the five-year training period, about 40 child care centers and their providers, who serve about 3,200 children, will be equipped to give inclusive care.

Training focuses on critical topics related to the inclusion of young children with disabilities, especially sensory, developmental and behavioral challenges, and on ways to modify the environment and materials to better meet children’s needs, White said. Toys, books and other materials are provided to the programs depending on the needs of the children served.

“With programs such as those fostered by the partnership, we are able to have our son in a program where he can interact with other typically developing children, rather than be isolated based on his disability,” said Keith Chapman, whose 3-year-old, Davidson, has cognitive and physical disabilities and attends the JCC. “This program has created a path to his individual freedom.”

For more information about the partnership or the “Include Me” campaign, visit www.vcu.edu/partnership. To make a gift to the campaign, contact William A. Tinsley, director of marketing and development for the Partnership for People with Disabilities, at (804) 828-8243 or watinsley@vcu.edu.

At the Dora L. Lewis Family and Child Development Center at the Weinstein JCC, Davidson Chapman, 3, is given the opportunity to play alongside typical peers.
Scholarships allow med student to help others

As a child living in Rangoon, Burma, Myo Thwin Myint saw firsthand the importance of having access to sufficient health care.

When 14-year-old Myint and his family moved to the U.S. in 1995, he made it his mission to ensure that everyone has access to adequate care.

As a student at Mills E. Godwin High School's Science, Mathematics and Technology Specialty Center, Myint started on the path to becoming a physician. When it was time to pick a college, Myint based his choice on many factors, including what would be best for his family. Myint chose Virginia Commonwealth University partly so he could stay close to home and help his family tackle ongoing language and financial obstacles. He also was lured by the biomedical engineering program offered by VCU's School of Engineering.

“I always had an interest in medicine, biology, math and engineering, thus biomedical engineering was the perfect undergraduate major for me,” Myint said.

Recognized as one of the top entering freshmen in 2000, Myint was awarded an elite Presidential Scholarship, which provides for full in-state tuition, fees, and room and board and is renewable for three years based on academic performance. This lessened his financial burden, but Myint still worked multiple part-time jobs to help with his and his family’s expenses.

“I am very grateful and honored to have received the scholarship because it meant a little less time working and a little more time on my education,” he said.

After Myint’s second year at VCU, he was accepted into the School of Medicine via the Honors Program’s Preferred Applicant Track in Medicine.

Myint’s program of study was on course, but he still wanted to make an impact on the community. Because one of his favorite aspects of VCU is its diversity, Myint chose to make a difference in that arena. “I believe it is invaluable what I have learned from others outside of classes,” he said.

During his freshman year, Myint and a group of his peers serving on the Student Government Association’s Human Relations Committee put their heads together to reinvent the Intercultural Festival in a bid to celebrate the diversity at VCU.

“Of course, when we started brainstorming ideas, we didn’t know that VCU used to have the ICF, but we noticed different cultural activities by the student organizations,” Myint said. “We thought having a venue for all the student organizations, not just the ones with enough support to put on their festivals, would be a celebration of VCU’s diversity.”

Napoleon Peoples, Ph.D., director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, said he noticed a sense of focus and commitment that he rarely saw in undergraduate students when he met Myint in 2001.

“He has the type of energy and, when committed to an idea, will give it 110 percent of his time,” Peoples said. “Myo had the desire to make the Intercultural Festival one that would grow and flourish.”

Myint, now in his third year at the VCU School of Medicine, juggles his studies, professional development and on-campus participation. In addition, Myint, who should finish medical school in 2008, was awarded the renewable J. Ives Townsend Medical Student Scholarship in the fall of 2004.

“I was told that it is almost impossible to receive a scholarship while attending medical school,” Myint said. It makes sense that it’s impossible “because everyone is brilliant,” he explained.

“This scholarship showed that all of my efforts to overcome obstacles and all that I have given to VCU and the community was not overlooked. It is another validation that I am on the right path.”

For information about making a gift to the School of Medicine, contact Tom Holland, associate dean for development, at (804) 828-4800 or tehollan@vcu.edu.
Million-dollar gifts benefit schools and students

This fall, Virginia Commonwealth University had many friends to thank. Among the names on the ever-growing list: VCU alumnus Dr. W. Baxter Perkinson Jr., Richmond businessman Sam Kornblau and longtime supporters C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright.

Dr. W. Baxter Perkinson Jr.

Giving $2.5 million to VCU’s School of Dentistry earned Perkinson, who received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the school in 1970 and owns the largest dental practice in Virginia, another distinction: He made the biggest gift in the school’s 113-year history.

“Dr. Perkinson’s support of VCU continues to be extraordinary,” said VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D. “His generous contributions of time, energy and financial gifts have made a significant impact on this university becoming a world-class research institution.”

The gift will be used to advance the School of Dentistry’s clinics, labs and technology as well as to recruit top faculty and students. In honor of the gift and his many years of service to the school and the university, the VCU Board of Visitors voted in November 2006 to name a new dental school building, slated to begin construction in summer 2007, in Perkinson’s honor.

The new, 55,000-square-foot, four-story building on Leigh Street will connect the existing Lyons and Wood dental school buildings. It will include clinics, classrooms, a conference center and research space.

Perkinson serves as vice president of the VCU Health System Authority and has been rector of the Board of Visitors. Three of his four children and a son-in-law earned dental degrees from VCU.

“For much of my life, my involvement with VCU and the School of Dentistry has been a big part of who I am and what I do,” he said. “I am thrilled to be able to make this gift and give back to a place that has given so much to my family and me.”

Previously, Perkinson and his wife, Elaine, have given generously in support of the dental school, including the Clinical Simulation Laboratory, as well as student-athlete scholarships and the VCU Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences.
Sam Kornblau

A transformational $2.5 million gift from Kornblau will establish a real estate institute in the VCU School of Business. The Board of Visitors voted in November 2006 to name the new initiative The Kornblau Institute.

The institute will focus on research broadly related to commercial and residential real estate. These issues often benefit from an interdisciplinary approach and include such concerns as land use, housing and commercial development.

“The real estate institute will leverage the expertise we have across the university,” President Trani said. “Sam Kornblau’s vision for the institute is in lockstep with VCU’s mission as a leading urban research institution.”

For his part, Kornblau said he is especially pleased that the institute will provide independent research for entities planning growth.

“Hopefully, this gift will see something much bigger than I’ve started,” he said, explaining that he hopes it will serve as an impetus for other industry leaders to offer funds for research in commercial and residential real estate and related interests.

For nearly 60 years, Kornblau has been in the real estate business, building single-family homes, shopping centers and apartment communities. He is chairman of SAMCO Development Corp.

C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright

As President Trani nears retirement in 2010, the Wrights wanted to do something to honor his presidency.

With a $1 million gift, the couple created the Eugene P. Trani Scholars Program, which will provide full tuition and fees to exceptional, deserving undergraduate students.

“Dianne and I are excited to have the opportunity to once again support Virginia Commonwealth University and to honor VCU President Eugene Trani and his indelible imprint, not just on VCU, but also on the city of Richmond and the state of Virginia,” Mr. Wright said.

The Trani Scholars will be selected annually by a blue-ribbon committee chaired by the president of the university and composed of former members of the Board of Visitors. A member of the Wright family also will participate in the selection. This committee will determine the criteria for the Trani Scholar recipients and determine how many will be awarded each year. The first Trani Scholars will begin classes at VCU in the fall of 2007.

“The faculty, staff and students at VCU join me in thanking the Wrights for this generous gift and for their tireless support of the university over the years,” President Trani said. “I am humbled and honored to have the program carry my name.”

To date, the Wrights have given $13.5 million in gifts and pledges supporting VCU, including $1.5 million to the VCU Massey Cancer Center and $350,000 to establish the Wright Scholars in Cardiology. A $10.5 million gift in April 2002 to the School of Engineering Foundation kicked off a $65 million fundraising campaign. In 2000, the Wrights established the C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Freshman Merit Scholarship Fund, providing financial assistance to an incoming Virginia resident pursuing a career in engineering.

For more information about making a donation to VCU, contact Anne D. Jacobson, associate vice president for university advancement, at (804) 828-1223 or adjacobson@vcu.edu.
After a national search, the Medical College of Virginia Foundation has hired William P. Kotti as its president. Kotti also will serve as the chief development officer for Virginia Commonwealth University’s MCV Campus.

“The deep heritage and sustained commitment to the highest levels of research, scholarship and community service at VCU’s MCV Campus attracted me to this position. I am proud and honored by this appointment, and I look forward to working in partnership with the university and MCV Campus leadership, the foundation trustees, the alumni and the outstanding development team to help bring the program to new levels of success,” Kotti said. “My family and I are excited about becoming members of the VCU family and the Richmond community.”

Kotti most recently worked as associate dean for resource planning and development for the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University, where he managed the school’s effort to raise $275 million. He started his new duties at the MCV Foundation on Jan. 8.

“Mr. Kotti demonstrated the qualifications, experience, enthusiasm and personal characteristics that we feel will provide the MCV Foundation with the leadership and expertise to guide our organization throughout the future years,” said Dr. Ruth W. Campbell, chair of the MCV Foundation board of trustees.

As president of the MCV Foundation, Kotti will manage the foundation, which serves as the repository for most of the private gifts received by the MCV Campus schools and centers. As the chief development officer for the MCV Campus, Kotti will work closely with Dr. Sheldon M. Retchin, vice president for health sciences and chief executive officer of the VCU Health System, Peter L. Wyeth, vice president for university advancement, and the deans and development directors on the campus to develop a long-range fundraising plan.

“Bill makes a fabulous addition to our senior leadership team on the MCV Campus, and I look forward to working closely with him on advancing all the schools and programs on the medical campus. There is much to do on this campus, and Bill will be a great help in guiding me on the role private philanthropy should play in the fulfillment of our ambitious plans,” Retchin said.

In addition, Kotti will serve as a primary resource for planned giving programs on the MCV Campus, will partner with other development directors on the campus to raise higher levels of private support and will serve as the liaison between the foundation board and the university administration.

“Bill brings an extensive wealth of senior development leadership experience to VCU. He will help us position the schools and programs on the MCV Campus to raise the needed private support for the university priorities on that campus,” Wyeth said.

Kotti earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina. He is currently completing studies for a Ph.D. in higher education administration with a special concentration in the development-advancement field and leadership.

Chartered in 1949, the MCV Foundation assists campus schools, departments and centers in their efforts to sustain excellence in education, research and patient care.

Contact Bill Kotti at (804) 828-9734 or wpkotti@vcu.edu.
Fund rewards contributions in pediatric dentistry

When children miss school for health reasons, tooth decay or its complications is the No. 1 cause. Access to oral health care for underserved children compounds the problem.

“Oral health and systemic health are interrelated, but most people don’t make that connection. They don’t realize that a cavity can cause facial swelling or greater health problems,” said Dr. John Unkel, chairman of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Subsequently, he sees a tremendous need to prepare dentists who can provide children the dental treatment they need.

Unkel’s vision to address this need is through retention of excellent pediatric dentistry faculty. He sees it this way: excellent faculty will train excellent pediatric residents and dental students, who in turn will provide excellent care to children for years. To reward and retain faculty, he established the VCU Pediatric Dentistry Faculty Endowment. The Nunnally Charitable Lead Trust agreed with this vision and made a $250,000 gift to the endowment.

“We realized that access to dental care is lacking, especially for those without insurance, and thought this program would enhance access to that care,” said Karen N. Buchanan, vice president at Wachovia, which serves as trustee. “This is just a really great, beneficial program.”

The intent of the endowment is to acknowledge and reward extraordinary contributions in children’s oral health by faculty in the areas of research, clinical education and service.

“The state doesn’t give out incentives for outstanding work, so the endowment provides a way to reward outstanding accomplishments,” Unkel said.

Over the next three years, Unkel hopes to encourage alumni and friends to match dollar for dollar the generous gift from the Nunnally Trust. In 2009, he plans to make the first faculty award and honor the Nunnally Trust at the annual conference of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and Pediatric Medicine.

“With the generous assistance of the Nunnally Trust and matching gifts from alumni and friends, we expect ultimately to make a difference in improving the oral health of children in Virginia,” Unkel said.

To make a gift to the School of Dentistry, contact Ed Kardos, director of development, at (804) 828-0324 or egkardos@vcu.edu.

Dr. John Unkel often takes his message about the importance of oral health on the road. In 2005, he joined dental students, dental hygiene students, and faculty members and residents from pediatric dentistry to share information at a Special Smiles event, which was part of the Special Olympics.
In other giving news . . .

- The Richard & Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust donated $10,000 to Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Allied Health Professions to establish the ElderFriends Program in the Department of Gerontology. The new program is designed to provide companionship and outreach that isolated elders in Richmond, Va., desperately need.

- VCU Children’s Medical Center received several gifts aimed at helping fulfill the vision of creating an endowed chair for pediatric endocrinology. The long-term goal is to establish a children’s diabetes center within VCU Children’s existing Pediatric Endocrinology Clinic, which is the only one of its kind in Central Virginia. Henrico County donated $141,750, Chesterfield County gave $100,000, and Hanover County contributed $25,000.

- During the past several months, the schools of Business and Engineering received gifts from several local corporations and foundations. The business school has successfully met the challenge issued by the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, raising $1 million to match the gift from the foundation. In addition, electronics giant Circuit City pledged $250,000. Richmond-based NewMarket Corp., the parent company of Afton Chemical Corp. and Ethyl Corp., made a $1 million pledge to the School of Engineering. In addition, the school received a $100,000 pledge from Boehringer Ingelheim Chemicals, based in Petersburg, Va.; a $50,000 grant from the Garland & Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation; and $10,000 from the Bob & Barbara Williams Foundation. The two schools are eagerly awaiting the completion of the new Monroe Park Campus expansion, which will allow business and engineering students to live and study together.

- The Institute for Women’s Health received a $34,600 grant from the Philip Morris Employee Community Fund to develop services for domestic and sexual violence victims. Through this support, a hospital-based advocate position can be established to provide assistance in identification, treatment and referral for post-assault care of victims at the VCU Medical Center emergency room. The grant also includes funds to support the renovation of existing space in the ER to create a specialized, dedicated area for forensic exams that is private, safe and comfortable for victims. The Philip Morris Employee Community Fund is a workplace-giving program managed, administered and supported by employees of Philip Morris USA.

- A $25,000 grant from the Virginia chapter of the March of Dimes to the VCU Medical Center is making it possible for expectant mothers to receive more than just monthly prenatal health checkups. VCU’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is the first in Virginia to offer this new model of care known as Centering Pregnancy, which offers prenatal care to women in a group setting. This approach allows expectant mothers to learn more by sharing their experiences with other women throughout pregnancy.
Kiwanis fund family center

For more than two years, members of the Kiwanis Clubs in divisions 4, 18 and 24 from the Heart of Virginia of the Capital District have worked to raise $100,000 to renovate and furnish a family care center at the Virginia Commonwealth University Children's Medical Center. The new Kiwanis Family Care Center was dedicated Sept. 15, 2006, by Steve Siemens, president of Kiwanis International. The area offers family members of critically ill children a place where they can feel at home — to watch TV, do laundry, take care of business via the Internet or fix a snack without leaving the pediatric floor of the hospital.

The new family care center provides Internet access, among other amenities.

James O’Connell, lieutenant governor of Kiwanis Capital District divisions 18 and 24 (left), joined Nicole Jordan, who served on the Kiwanis Family Care Center steering committee, and Kiwanis Club of Chester member Richard “Rick” Dodson at the dedication ceremony.

Celebrity athletes golf for a good cause

The 12th annual Charles Barkley Celebrity Golf Tournament, held Aug. 28, 2006, at Hunting Hawk Golf Course in Glen Allen, Va., raised $41,000 for the VCU SportsCenter and VCU Athletics scholarship fund. The event, which proved to be the largest in tournament history, featured a variety of other professionals from the sports industry, including NBA veteran Moses Malone, ESPN analyst Tim Legler, ESPN’s NBA reporter David Aldridge, NFL veterans Mark Collins and Toi Cook, and L.A. Clippers player and University of Virginia alumnus Bryant Stith.
Dental students graduate from lab to clinic

On Sept. 29, 2006, second-year dental students and first-year dental hygiene students received their clinical white coats at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry’s annual White Coat Ceremony. The ceremony marks a new phase in the students’ dental education — the move from the laboratory to the clinic. Before the ceremony, parents were given the chance to experience what their children are learning by trying their hands in the new Clinical Simulation Laboratory. The lab is part of the Campaign for Clinical Simulation, a $4 million initiative that has received many generous gifts. The four-year drive will conclude this summer.

Dinner celebrates dentistry donors, friends

The annual Friends of Dental Education Dinner, held Oct. 27, 2006, at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, serves as a thank you to donors and friends of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry for their support. This year, about 200 guests viewed the museum’s exhibits and were treated to student performances as well as dinner. The evening culminated in the announcement of a $2.5 million pledge from alumnus Dr. W. Baxter Perkinson Jr. and his family.
VCU scholarship recipients share their stories

The second annual Medical College of Virginia Foundation Endowed Scholarship Brunch, held at The Jefferson Hotel on Oct. 22, 2006, celebrated donors to and recipients of more than 137 endowed scholarships awarded on the MCV Campus. Bell Gabice, a third-year student in the School of Medicine, and David Dodrill, a fourth-year student in the School of Dentistry, spoke about the financial and emotional impact their scholarships have had on their lives and studies.

On Nov. 16, 2006, VCU President Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., hosted the Monroe Park Campus Endowed Scholarship and Professorship Dinner at the Commonwealth Club. The event recognized more than 280 donors, scholarship recipients and holders of professorships and endowed chairs. School of Mass Communications student Anna Goroncy and School of Engineering student Chad Greene shared their experiences as scholarship winners. The dinner was sponsored by the School of Business Foundation, the School of Engineering Foundation and the VCU Foundation.

Cabaniss Society recognizes nursing donors

The Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing hosted the 12th annual Sadie Heath Cabaniss Leadership Dinner on Oct. 26, 2006, at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. More than 100 alumni, faculty members and friends attended and enjoyed cocktails, dinner and jazz. The Cabaniss Society recognizes donors to the VCU School of Nursing who give $250 annually or have included the school in their estate plans.