Provost's Report to VCU Faculty Senate -- Nov. 29, 2022

Celebrating VCU Faculty

- **Jonathan Issacs, M.D.**, professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the School of Medicine and chair of VCU Health's Division of Hand Surgery, is the recipient of the 2022 Billy R. Martin VCU Innovator of the Year Award. The honor is in recognition of his development of Nerve Tape, a tiny biologic wrap used to repair severed peripheral nerves. The device received clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration earlier this year.

- At a recent meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, **Tyson Baird**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Center for Integrative Life Sciences Education; **Bailey Jones**, an alum of the VCU forensic science master's degree program; and **Laerissa Reveil**, also an alum and a current doctoral student in the Department of Pharmaceutics in the VCU School of Pharmacy, received awards for their research. All three worked in the Forensic Toxicology Research lab of **Michelle Peace, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Forensic Science, and were supported by National Institute of Justice grants.

- **Paul Rucker**, curator for creative collaboration for the VCU School of the Arts and a VCU Institute for Inclusion, Inquiry and Innovation (iCubed) Arts Research Fellow has received a $2 million grant from the Mellon Foundation and Art for Justice Fund to create Cary Forward – a multidisciplinary arts space, interpretive center, artist/researcher residency and archival lending library that aims to address false narratives and preserve and promote the omitted histories of race and gender - in Richmond.This project will support the development of creative collaborations connecting VCU and surrounding communities.

Universitywide Recognition

- VCU was recently recognized by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) with a special innovation designation as one of 80 "Innovation & Economic Prosperity" universities. The designation is in recognition of efforts in support of economic engagement through innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development and community development.

- U.S. News and World Report now lists VCU among the top 20% universities in the world. VCU tied at No. 439 out of 2,165 public and private institutions in the U.S. and more than 90 other countries. The rankings are based on 13 indicators that measure universities' academic research performance and their global and regional reputations.

Leadership Updates

- **Marlon Levy, M.D., FACS** has been named interim senior vice provost for health sciences and CEO VCU Health System. A transplant specialist, Dr. Levy is the David M. Hume Endowed Chair and Professor in the School of Medicine.

- **Tomikia LeGrande, Ed.D**., vice president for strategic enrollment management and student success, has been named the [sole presidential finalist at Prairie View A&M University](). She will remain at VCU until April 2023. The search for the next vice president will launch in the coming weeks.

- **Manu Gupta, Ph.D.**, was appointed interim dean of the [VCU Graduate School](), effective Nov. 1, 2022. Dr. Gupta joined VCU in 2008 and is a professor of finance and chair of the Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE) in the School of Business. Under his leadership the department has successfully added an undergraduate degree program and an Executive MBA concentration, strengthened promotion and tenure guidelines, and helped institute the CoStar Chaired Professorship. In collaboration with the School of Business dean's office, Dr. Gupta oversaw the development of the Virginia Credit Union Financial Success Center and collaborated on the development of a partnership with the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) and in strengthening the existing partnership with Christ University, both located in India. He is an active scholar focused on CEO compensation design, law and finance, corporate governance and risk management. More recently, he has been studying financial impacts of blockchain, and real estate valuation. He has published 17 refereed journal articles in leading academic journals of finance and risk management, and has several more in progress. Dr Gupta's research has been recognized at international conferences and he has received multiple teaching awards. He has provided extensive service to the School of Business, VCU and professional organizations. He received his Ph.D. in Finance from Texas A&M University.

Leadership Searches

- **Dean, School of Medicine**:
    - Dr. Susan Parish and Dr. Barbara Boyan, Co-Chairs
    - Campus Visits – in progress
- **Dean, School of Pharmacy:**
    - Dr. Jean Giddens, Chair
    - Campus Visits – completed
- **Dean, College of Engineering:**
    - Dr. Andrew Daire and Dr. Rebecca Heise, Co-Chairs
    - [Webpage]() to post this week with search committee membership and position description.

Important initiatives in progress

Online Strategy Task Force
The Online Strategy Task Force has completed its work and delivered their report. Recommendations are under provost review and will be used to prioritize online educational efforts moving forward. We will share more regarding priority areas in the early part of the spring 2023 semester. Special thanks are extended to the workgroup chairs: **Dr. Elaine Reeder**, High Quality Online Education (VCU Online); **Dr. Karla Mossi**, Student and Faculty Experience (Engineering); **Dr. Jon Becker**, Innovation in Teaching and Learning (Education); **Dr. Shanaka Wijesinghe**, Academic Integrity in Online Exams (Pharmacy); and **Dr. Tracey Gendron**, Marketable Online Credentials (Health Professions).

Update on proposed General Education literacies
Three faculty work groups launched last spring have completed their initial recommendations and advanced them to the general education curriculum committee (GECC). The work groups included: (1) computational literacy, (2) entrepreneurship, and (3) structure of the general education program (to accommodate two additional requirements). The GECC will discuss the recommendations with the workgroups at their December meeting. In spring 2023 the GECC will complete any deliberations/discussions and release the recommendations for university wide vetting and feedback.The recommendations will be revisited by the GECC and workgroups before being finalized for a vote by GECC. If voted to advance, the new recommendations will be advanced for official curriculum review and approval.

New opportunity for faculty publishing
Dr. Mangala Subramaniam, senior vice provost for faculty affairs, invites VCU faculty to submit proposals for a book series on Navigating Careers in Higher Education. Dr. Subramaniam is the editor of the series, which is managed through the Purdue University Press. Details on the series are online. For more information, contact Dr. Subramaniam at subramaniamm@vcu.edu.

Reminder

Campus Safety
The foundation of everything we do at VCU is built on the safety and well-being of our community. RamStrong remains the single point of reference for all of these resources for faculty, staff and students. In addition, the Dean of Students Office provides a Safety and Support webpage that can be quickly accessed by clicking on the VCU Safety icon on all VCU computer desktops.

Upcoming Events for Faculty

Friday, Dec. 2, 2022	**Just Write Session** 9:00am-12:00pm Scott House. in-person	Coming together can increase our mutual sense of accountability--and it makes writing feel a little less lonely! For more information and to register >>

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022	**VCU's December 2022 Commencement** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Stuart C. Siegel Center	Faculty are encouraged to attend the university wide Commencement in regalia to support our graduates and their families. FACULTY REGISTRATION FORM (Form includes details). For questions, email UNIVevents@vcu.edu

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