From the Dean

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present the 2008-2009 Annual Progress Report for the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Richmond. Once again, we enjoyed a banner year, made possible by the generous support of our friends and highlighted by the significant accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and particularly of our alumni.

On the pages that follow, we share some of the compelling stories about the people and programs that help make the School of Continuing Studies such a special place. I hope you will take a moment to read about the many and varied accomplishments of these different members of the SCS family.

The year ahead poses many challenges but also presents us with some unique opportunities to serve our community. I am confident of our continued success based on our steadfast commitment to our mission of “enriching lives and careers” and because of your continued guidance and support.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the SCS, I wish you continued success and much happiness.

Sincerely,

James L. Narduzzi, Ph.D.
Dean
Over a decade ago, Patricia H. Gallagher accepted her Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from SCS and realized that it was only the beginning of her academic journey. Since then, she has earned degrees from both VCU and U.Va., yet she remains loyal first and foremost to the University of Richmond.

"From both a personal perspective and professionally speaking, Richmond has made a marked difference in my life. It has provided a well-rounded, comprehensive education and shepherded me through an educational path that has served me well," she explains. "The sense of connectivity among its student body, faculty, and staff makes Richmond unique and lures its alumni to return for educational purposes, professional training, and networking opportunities."

Currently Senior Vice President and Director of Strategic Planning for EVB, a bank headquartered in Tappahannock, Gallagher has served on the SCS Dean’s Advisory Council since its inception seven years ago. “Has it been that long?” she quips. “It certainly doesn’t seem it! The DAC is such a great networking group: everyone on the team brings something different to the table. My involvement has proved to be a wonderful opportunity to work with a forward-thinking, diverse group of alumni and professionals who are dedicated to and passionate about SCS, this University and its mission. It’s gratifying to be a part of these efforts, thinking strategically long term and implementing those strategies.”

A self-proclaimed “advocate of life-long learning,” Gallagher believes that learning does not end with a class or degree. “A good education inspires students and stimulates their appetite for continued intellectual growth,” she says. “It keeps you coming back for more, it opens your eyes, it makes you want to do and see more. I always return to Richmond because the professors are so well-versed and the student body is so engaged. They seem to be on a higher intellectual plane here, always looking for more.”

As an enduring sign of her commitment, Gallagher recently endowed a new gift through the planned giving program. She joins the Charter Associates legacy tradition, a society of dedicated donors who give back to the University through gifting, generous donations of their time, and their loyal allegiance. “I’m delighted to be able to make this gift, and I have wanted to since my earliest involvement with the DAC,” she explains. “I am indebted to the University for the many gifts that it has bestowed upon me. It is my genuine hope that this legacy endowment opens a door for a student to matriculate and delight in a rich, liberal arts education.”

“I see my relationship with Richmond as a lifelong opportunity to be involved, to grow, to give back, and to see the fruits of your labor blossom. Like the proverbial mustard seed, you can come here with a small initial goal and before you know it, you achieve it, and it can grow into a bigger goal, leading you to achieve more,” Gallagher suggests. “I believe my bachelor’s degree has served me so well. I wouldn’t change a thing!”

For Patricia Gallagher, it’s all about giving.
Patricia H. Gallagher, a 1997 SCS graduate, recently endowed a new gift through the planned giving program. A self-proclaimed “advocate of life-long learning,” Gallagher believes that learning does not end with a class or degree. “I'm delighted to be able to make this gift,” she explains. “I am indebted to the University for the many gifts that it has bestowed upon me.”
Define greatness
Then strive for better
Chief of Virginia’s Division of Capital Police gives 2009 Commencement address

Col. Kimberly S. Lettner, chief of Virginia’s Division of Capital Police and University of Richmond alumnus, told the university’s School of Continuing Studies graduates to strive for achieving the good in all areas of their lives, instead of greatness in just a few.

“In order to achieve a better balance in our lives, we might be better off striving for quite good..., ” she said.

Lettner, a 2006 graduate of Continuing Studies, worked for the Virginia Department of State Police for 21 years before joining the Capitol Police as chief in 2007.

She said she understood the graduates’ struggles and sacrifices on the road to graduation. An admitted perfectionist, Lettner said she had a profound moment while rigorously studying for one of her final exams—that greatness was not necessarily the best objective for her. Instead of continuing to study that day, she decided to pull weeds in her flower garden.

“Here’s what I realized—if the pursuit toward one thing is so great, what else is being sacrificed?” she said. “Being great in the classroom does not make one great; being great in the workplace does not make one great. What about your families, your spiritual life, your friends, your colleagues?”

Lettner discussed the balance of work, family and education as an essential element of the graduates’ success, emphasizing that the challenge of balance was not over.

“Your efforts to balance [your lives] does not cease today because you are graduating,” she said. “You must continue to seek and achieve balance in relationships with your family, friends and colleagues while also reserving time for personal growth, increased spirituality and successful work.”

Student speaker Vincent C. West, who received his bachelor of liberal arts degree, said the university was a “cauldron in which we poured our effort, sweat and angst as we strove to acquire the level of education and knowledge required for us to successfully compete in a challenging workforce.” But he encouraged his classmates to keep learning.

“This marks the conclusion of one phase of our education, but not the end of our education,” he said.
Three years ago, the mother-daughter team behind Breathe Easy Décor enrolled in the Interior Decorating certificate program, and "it really clicked." Armed with the enthusiastic encouragement of program instructor Marilyn Mills Creech, Martha and Amanda Slone began doing consultations for friends even before they had completed the program. Now they’re officially full-service interior decorators who provide eco-friendly options to their clients.
Mother-daughter decorating team helps clients to breathe easier.

For Martha and Amanda Slone, running a thriving interior decorating firm is all in the family.

Three years ago this mother-daughter tandem selected the Interior Decorating Certificate Program offered through the Office of Community and Professional Education at SCS “as a bonding opportunity,” according to Amanda, the daughter half of the team. A few years back, Martha had put her physical therapy career on hold to tend the home fires, but as an empty nester she was exploring other options. Amanda was in the midst of her undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia when she chose to accompany her mother to the decorating classes. “We wanted something we could do together, in person, rather than online,” Amanda explains. “We were looking for something fun and engaging, without a focus on grades. This choice turned out to be perfect – I began looking forward to each class, even though it was more than an hour’s drive each way for me from Charlottesville.”

Her mother Martha agrees. “After we started taking those first few classes just for fun, it really clicked with us,” she says. “We had already decorated our own houses and apartments and enjoyed working on decorating class projects together. Starting Breathe Easy Décor seemed the next logical step.” Armed with the enthusiastic encouragement of program instructor Marilyn Mills Creech, the Slones began doing consultations for friends even before they had completed the program. “Marilyn taught almost all our classes, and she was an inspiration,” Martha remarks. “She’s super positive, super supportive, and she had no doubt that we would be successful. She was also very intrigued and excited by the eco-friendly niche we were pursuing.” Amanda, who designed the business’s website, adds, “I have a technological bent, particularly working with 3D program models, and Marilyn was always willing to take a look at my latest discovery and happy to share it with the other students.”

Both the Slones consider the coursework they studied to be instrumental to their success. Amanda cites the color theory and furniture arranging classes as being the most advantageous when meeting new clients. “The training allows us to size up a room immediately and make suggestions right off the bat,” she elaborates. Martha takes a more practical tack. “I found the business classes invaluable,” she admits. “They aren’t the fun stuff, but they are absolutely necessary!”

While Breathe Easy offers expertise in the burgeoning “going green” movement, the Slones point out that they are full-service interior decorators with eco-friendly options, not an eco-only firm. “We also emphasize that you can be ‘eco’ by reusing and repurposing what you already have,” says Amanda. “We focus on integrating existing furnishings into the whole,” elaborates Martha. They have found that many clients are interested in being environmentally friendly but need help in achieving that goal. “Of course, we do tons of research on eco trends, constantly learning about new products on the market,” Martha continues. “But we don’t limit ourselves,” Amanda concludes for her. “We also give options to those just looking for basic decorating.”

That seems to be a theme for this family: what one partner starts, the other is able to finish. Amanda clarifies, “We’ve found that we have very distinct styles and strengths, but we always manage to come together.” Martha goes on, “We pride ourselves on listening to our clients and responding to their needs and wants. We have complementary skills, so we reach common ground and respect each other’s strengths.”

This equilibrium is a crucial part of their approach. “It’s a delicate balance when your partner is your mother. But she truly is my best friend,” confides Amanda. “We do make an effort to keep the halves of our lives separate – we make time for lunch as just lunch, with no work allowed.” And the daily variety helps. The mother/daughter team does not limit projects only to residential work: they have just completed a makeover for the Richmond Animal League, a no-kill shelter in Chesterfield County. They firmly believe in the importance of helping the community and local businesses in any way possible. “Each of our jobs has been totally different, which keeps it fun and interesting – never the same-old, same-old,” says Martha. Amanda sums up, “We share the duties and we always have fun. It’s always a new experience.”

Having taken the risk to strike out on their own, both the Slones are eager to offer advice to those mulling over a new direction. “This was a huge shift from my previous career, but taking that first decorating class was a real ‘aha’ moment for us,” Martha says. “I would advise that whatever you do, put a spin on it to make it uniquely yours and stand out from the crowd.” Amanda agrees, adding, “Loving what you do is a huge part of being successful at a given career. It’s all about finding your passion and what better way than a career that helps people to love coming home?”
Thank you to the 2008-09 Dean’s Advisory Council
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Landscape Design program graduates ten in spring ceremony
Ten students from the School of Continuing Studies Landscape Design program received the University of Richmond Landscape Design Professional Certificate at a graduation ceremony held July 9, 2009, at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.

The Landscape Design program awards the Landscape Design Professional Certificate, a non-credit professional designation, to students who complete all 17 courses. The program takes between three and four years to complete, and students who earn the Professional Certificate must maintain a B average for all courses attempted in the program.

For students who have earned a bachelor’s degree, receiving the Professional Certificate is adequate preparation for starting an advanced degree in Landscape Architecture through a partnership with Virginia Tech.

Graduates and instructors, along with their families, were invited to attend the ceremony, which was preceded by a casual picnic dinner. SCS Dean Jim Narduzzi and Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Education Director Randee Humphrey addressed the graduates and their families during the ceremony.

Graduates who earned the Professional Certificate are pictured above, from left to right: Eve Roemhildt, Avery Crain, Mickey Harris, Maggie Burgess, Pamela Deligiannis, Joel Voron, Alison McPhee, Russell Combs, Zsolt Frecska and Katharine Hoffman.

Center for Culinary Arts wins local award
The Center for Culinary Arts, under the culinary talent of center coordinator Chef Martin Gravely, won the Peoples’ Choice Award at the second annual Broad Appétit food festival held in Richmond in June. Approximately 80 vendors representing restaurants and catering companies from the greater Richmond area vied for the coveted People’s Choice Award. Event organizers estimated 18,000 attended the food and art festival. On Chef Gravely’s winning menu were grilled jumbo shrimp with red curry, shoestring beets and sesame cucumber salad.
Students travel to Peru to examine health care policy from a global perspective.

From May until July, 2009, two groups of UR students travelled to Peru to participate in a multi-facted summer study abroad program led by Rick Mayes, associate professor of political science. Each group spent four weeks examining health care in the U.S. and international public health and human rights, earning credit for PLSC 365—Health Care Policy, Politics (and International Public Health).

The students also examined what makes us sick, what keeps us healthy, and what it would take to give good health the upper hand in developing countries. Over the past 150 years, major breakthroughs in public health have enabled humans to live longer, healthier and more productive lives. Clean drinking water, modern sanitation and good nutrition—along with the development of highly effective vaccines and antibiotics—have increased average western life expectancy by an unprecedented 35 years. Unfortunately, the benefits of public health have yet to be extended to many of the poorest nations in the developing world.

Classes were supplemented by daily opportunities to volunteer in a local orphanage and an elementary school for poor Peruvian children run by missionaries. Students also traveled to Machu Picchu, one of the seven Wonders of the World, and Sacred Valley, which included Pisac Incan ruins.
Bill and Linda Ventura met at UR in 1963, and they’ve spent a lifetime holding the University dear to their hearts. Linda finished her degree through SCS in 2004, youngest child Bill is a 1992 UR graduate, and daughter Lisa completed the Culinary Arts Program Certificate. After years as undergraduates, as adults and alumni returning to school, and now as Osher members, the Venturas have experienced so much of what the University of Richmond has to offer.
The trouble was, Margie’s car wouldn’t start. It was a frigid day at UR in January 1963, and she desperately needed to get to class. Her friend and classmate Bill Ventura offered to give her a lift, but the cold had immobilized his car as well. In desperation, she called her friend Linda, who volunteered to chauffeur her. Bill gallantly offered to keep them company on the short trip, and eight months later, Linda and Bill were married.

From that fortuitous beginning, the Venturas have made a point of keeping the University of Richmond prominent in their lives. In fact, both of them agree it was “love at first sight” upon seeing the campus for the first time. “I’m from Bluefield and grew up in Lexington,” says Linda, “and ever since I visited UR at age twelve, it was the only place I thought about and could imagine attending.” Bill hails from New Jersey, and he was taking a swing through the South as a high-schooler considering collegiate athletic programs. “We stopped by Richmond on our way back,” he recalls, “and I fell in love with the place.”

A football player and track-and-field athlete, Bill majored in History with a Biology minor while balancing a demanding athletic schedule. After graduation, he embarked on a thirty-year pharmaceutical industry career which took the Venturas to Maryland, Texas, New Jersey, Colorado, and Hong Kong before they jumped at the opportunity to return to Richmond. Linda had studied Theatre initially, eventually majoring in English. But after the wedding, she missed out on her final semester as the couple packed up and shipped out to Baltimore. They didn’t come back to stay until 1991.

But even before the Venturas returned to Richmond, the University was never far from their minds. “We absolutely love Richmond,” says Bill. Linda remarks, “We always maintained our ties here and kept in touch with our classmates.” Keeping up the family tradition, youngest child Bill is a 1992 UR graduate, having played football as a Spider. Now he’s in the pharmaceutical business — truly following in his father’s footsteps — while daughter Lisa completed the Culinary Arts Program Certificate offered through SCS. Then once Bill and Linda moved back for good, the next chapter in their Richmond odyssey unfolded.

“I had wanted to finish my degree forever, and I didn’t need many more hours, but I just never seized the opportunity,” Linda explains. “Finally, Bill convinced me to take a look at SCS. ‘Oh, I’m too old,’ I protested, and I was truly terrified. But everything fell into place and it’s the most wonderful thing I’ve ever done! Short of my children and husband, of course,” she adds, patting Bill’s arm. “Coming back to UR through SCS was thrilling for me. It brought me into the 21st century: now I can relate to my seven grandkids. SCS is such a hidden jewel, and I can’t praise it enough.” In 2004, forty years after her intended graduation date, Linda Ventura received her University of Richmond diploma.

That was the just the beginning, as the Venturas quickly made up for lost time. Both are members of the Richmond chapter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and now Linda even teaches classes for the organization. “Osher keeps us on top of things and our minds sharp,” Linda says. She’s also served on the Friends of Boatwright Memorial Library executive council on and off over the past nine years, currently as president. Bill has donated time and expertise to the Osher Institute advisory council since 2005, its second year on the Richmond campus. They both attend Spider football and basketball games religiously, and the University seems to be an important part of their life. In mock horror, Linda is quick to correct that notion. “It is our life!” she exclaims. “We don’t ever stray very far away. Why would we leave? We’d just keep coming back here all the time!”

In all seriousness, Linda enthusiastically praises the University. “It’s been a wonderful association,” she says. After years as undergraduates, as adults and alumni returning to school, and now as Osher members, the Venturas have experienced so much of what the University of Richmond has to offer. Linda sums it up best when she says, “It’s not just a place where we went to school — we’re so blessed to have it instrumental in our lives.”
Winston named distinguished alumnus for 2009

W. Joseph Winston has received SCS’s Gibb Family Distinguished Alumni Award for 2009.

Winston graduated from the School of Continuing Studies in 1971 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in business and marketing. He is the founder and president of Doctor of Techno Marketing, a marketing and promotional products company in Richmond.

A native of Richmond and graduate of Douglas Freeman High School, Winston worked many years for Owens Corning in the home-building industry before he founded Doctor of Techno Marketing. He was awarded the Sales Manager of the Year award for a manufacturer by the National Association of Home Builders, the largest advocacy group for builders in the nation.

Winston is very active in Richmond’s business community. In 2007, he chaired the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce Total Resource Campaign, which exceeded its fund raising goal of two million dollars. He is former chairman of the Henrico County Business Council and a member of its Board. Winston is a former member of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors.

A longtime supporter of the School of Continuing Studies, Winston has served on the Dean’s Advisory Council, of which he is outgoing chair. Winston and his wife, Diana, recently established a scholarship for students in the Teacher Licensure Program.

SCS’s Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 1995 by the SCS Alumni Association to recognize one outstanding individual for their contributions to alma mater. In 2003 Andrew Gibb, ’83, and his family endowed the award.

Studying abroad becomes reality for adult students

With spouses, children and jobs to juggle, adults pursuing college degrees usually see study abroad — increasingly recommended for traditional undergraduates — as a distant dream.

But the non-traditional students at University of Richmond’s School of Continuing Studies can participate in international education by taking a course that includes a week-long component at Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico’s leading private university.

Sensitive to adult students’ challenge of balancing academics, career and family, the school recently offered two semester-long courses with a classroom-online hybrid structure that provides maximum flexibility. Then, the seven-day trip gave students brief but intense immersion in Mexican culture and business.

The two classes — Human Resource Management in Latin America and Introduction to Mexican History, Culture and Business — served degree-seeking students from the human resources management, leadership studies and liberal arts departments. Ability to speak Spanish was not required, but Patricia Strait, professor of human resource management, offered Spanish language preparation that would help students get the most out of the journey.

Strait says the importance of offering study abroad to adult degree-seeking students is intensified by the fact that they are already living and working in a global marketplace.

“Many of our adult students encounter customers and employees who speak other languages and come from other countries,” she says. However, fewer than half of them had ever traveled outside the United States.

Through lectures by Mexican faculty, visits to businesses and excursions to historic sites, the students were introduced to labor laws in Latin America. They were surprised by distinct gender roles still observed in the Mexican workplace, as well as some companies’ choice to pay employees seven days of wages for a six-day work week.

A meeting with U.S. consular officials explained the reality and the hype about dangers to Americans abroad and encouraged students to explore job opportunities internationally.

“Several of my students told me that they had never considered looking outside Virginia, and now some from the group are pursuing further international education and employment,” Strait says.

The School of Continuing Studies plans to offer at least one international study opportunity every spring, given the positive response of the inaugural trip’s students.

“Students are already contemplating who they prefer as roommates,” says Strait, who is scheduled to lead a student group to Spain in the spring 2011.
Teacher Education Institute participants witness signing of Virginia Holocaust education bill

Students in summer 2009’s Teacher Education Institute enjoyed the privilege of witnessing Virginia Governor Tim Kaine sign into law the Virginia Holocaust Education Bill. The thirty-three teachers enrolled in the Institute, titled “Questions of Conscience: Teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide,” observed the signing at the Virginia Holocaust Museum. The new law requires teachers to include specific Holocaust lessons in middle school and high school. According to Kaine, the state will send lessons to teachers over the Internet to keep down the costs of adding the new curriculum.

The Teacher Education Institute, a partnership with the Virginia Holocaust Museum, is a five day course designed to assist middle and high school teachers in expanding their knowledge of the Holocaust and other genocides. It provides them with excellent tools necessary to teach such sensitive subjects to their students.

The course addresses many sections of the Virginia Standards of Learning for history, English, civics, economics, biology, art and music. Teachers have the opportunity to delve into a wide range of topics, from the history of anti-Semitism and the rise of Hitler and the Nazis to defining genocide in the contemporary era.

Robert S. Kelley, Ed.D., has received SCS’s Itzkowitz Family Distinguished Faculty Award for 2009

Kelley joined the School of Continuing Studies in 1985. He is an adjunct faculty member in the undergraduate and graduate Human Resources Management programs. His professional areas of expertise include growth and operations planning, retail operations, food merchandising, productivity, human resources, organizational culture, change management, and service delivery.

Kelley earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Florida State University in 1977. In 1988, he earned a Master of Education degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. In 1991, Kelley took a hiatus from teaching to pursue his doctoral degree in education, which he received from The College of William and Mary in 1998.

Kelley is president and principal consultant of Pure Culture Consulting, a boutique leadership and organization consulting firm he founded in 2004, which specializes in helping CEOs to create and execute growth strategies. Prior to founding Pure Culture Consulting, Kelley spent seventeen years at Ukrop’s Super Markets. He joined Ukrop’s in 1987 as vice president of human resources and later became vice president of operations. During his tenure at Ukrop’s, Kelley led the effort to develop a high-performance service culture that has been featured in numerous books, articles, and television shows.

Kelley has also been a featured speaker at international, national, state, and local conferences for many organizations, including the Food Marketing Institute, the National Grocers Association, and the Society for Human Resource Management.

Established in 1977, this award recognizes the teaching achievements of an adjunct faculty member, and selection is determined by a vote of current SCS students. Named in honor of Fred Itzkowitz, ’75, president of SLI Insurance Company, the award was endowed by Itzkowitz and his family in 2006.

The SCS Alumni Association–SCS SGA Scholarship is now endowed

In the fall of 2007, the SCS Alumni Association and SCS SGA joined forces to establish the SCS Alumni Association–SCS Student Government Association Scholarship. It is the shared mission of these organizations to help students achieve their educational goals. Through the tireless fundraising efforts of both groups, including the 2009 SCS Golf Tournament, the scholarship became endowed this past year and began paying out scholarships in 2009-10.
The Year in Review

September 2008
Professor Taylor publishes article on 2nd Amendment
Professor Porcher Taylor, chair of the Paralegal Studies program, co-authors an article with University Police Captain Beth Simonds titled “Lock & Load? The 2nd Amendment Arrives on Campus” in the September/October issue of Campus Safety magazine. The article addresses the recent Supreme Court decision in the case of District of Columbia v. Heller that protects the rights of District citizens to own firearms and exercise self-defense. Taylor and Simonds discuss the possible ramifications this decision may have on the practice of banning firearms from college campuses.

Dr. Roberts addresses local rotary club
Dr. Daniel Roberts, chair of the Liberal Arts program and executive producer of “A Moment in Time,” provides the keynote address for the Mechanicville Rotary Club’s celebration of its 16th anniversary.

Dean Narduzzi featured in journal article
Dr. James L. Narduzzi, Dean of the School of Continuing Studies, and Mary Bitterman, President of The Bernard Osher Foundation, are interviewed in an article titled “The Bravest of the Brave: A Conversation with Mary Bitterman and James Narduzzi” in the Fall 2008 edition of Continuing Higher Education Review. The article highlights support offered to the “bravest of the brave,” those older students who return to the classroom to earn a bachelor’s degree, by The Bernard Osher school, success

Dr. Strait selected to present paper in Athens, Greece
Dr. Patricia Strait, chair of the Human Resource Management and Leadership Studies programs, is selected to present a research paper at the International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at the University of Athens, Greece, in July 2009. Strait’s paper is titled “An Exploration of Five Theories to Explain and Manage the Unethical Behavior of Public Employees.”

Dr. Green’s supercourse “Lecture of the Week”
Dr. Walter Green, chair of the Emergency Services Management program, has been preparing lectures for Supercourse: Epidemiology, the Internet and Public Health hosted by the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public Health. Supercourse includes roughly 3,500 lectures by 1,300 academics, clinicians and researchers from around the world, including Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, and Harvard University. Green’s lecture on identifying hazards, finding hazards and analyzing hazards, titled “Hazards, Risks, Threat, etc. An Examination of Some Key Terms . . . ,” is selected as the lecture of the week.

October 2008
SCS student featured in faith Q&A
Anjum A. Ali, a School of Continuing Studies student pursuing a certificate in Paralegal Studies, is featured among other Richmonders in an October 12, 2008, article titled “Special Report: Faith and Politics” in the Richmond Times-Dispatch. The feature, which took the form of a question and answer session, offered Ali and others an opportunity to discuss the role religion plays in politics and the presidential election.

Dr. Kitchen first speaker in environment series
Dr. David Kitchen, Associate Dean, offers the opening lecture in the 2008-2009 Global Environment Speaker Series (GESS). His talk is titled “Some Like It Hot: Welding the Cracks Between Climate Science and Policy.”

November 2008
Professor Taylor recognized for writing legislation
Professor Porcher Taylor, chair of the Paralegal Studies program, is recognized for his significant role in drafting legislative language for the recently-signed Higher Education Act (HEA). A news article entitled “Higher Ed Opportunity Act Includes Whistleblower Protection” in the online edition of Campus Safety Magazine highlights Taylor’s pivotal role in developing a whistleblower provision for the legislation.

Teacher prep program earns accreditation
The University of Richmond’s Teacher Licensure Preparation Program, run jointly through the School of Arts & Sciences and the School of Continuing Studies, receives accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). TEAC voted unanimously to accredit the university’s teacher preparation program, putting forth no stipulations and citing no weaknesses in the program, which is highly unusual and a testament to the strength of the program.

Weekend College student juggles school, success
Angela Harris, a School of Continuing Studies student working toward her Bachelor of Liberal Arts through Weekend College in Danville Community College, is spotlighted in an article titled “Children’s Author to Hold Book Signing in Danville This Weekend” in the Danville Register Bee. Harris, who is a married mother of two, recently published a children’s book, Night Light, and has been busily promoting the book through television and radio appearances and book signings.

Professor Ron Smith published in VCU journal
Ron Smith, adjunct associate professor of English and Writer-in-Residence at St. Christopher’s School, has two of his poems, “Edward Teller’s Leg” and “Flashes,” published in a recent edition of Blackbird, a journal of literature and the arts. The issue also includes a review of Smith’s latest book of poetry, Moon Road. Blackbird is a collaborative effort of the English department at Virginia Commonwealth University and New Virginia Review.

December 2008
Dr. Strait addresses police academy graduates
Dr. Patricia Strait, chair of the Human Resource Management program, is the graduation speaker for the 49th Henrico Police Academy graduating class. The subject of Dr. Strait’s address is effective leadership.
January 2009

SCS students serve on Library committee

Kory Mohr, a School of Continuing Studies student earning a Bachelor of Applied Studies degree in Information Systems, is asked to serve on the University of Richmond Libraries’ Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC). Mohr joins SCS senior Amy Myers in representing SCS students on the advisory committee.

March 2009

Dean’s Advisory Council member receives industry award

Stephen Story, UC’91, member of the School of Continuing Studies Dean’s Advisory Council and president of James River Bus Lines, receives the United Motorcoach Association Vision Award from the United Motorcoach Association.

SCS graduate named 1st Year Teacher of Year

Ryan Hirtz, a December 2008 graduate of the Teacher Licensure Program, is named First Year Teacher of the Year for her school, Fair Oaks Elementary in Henrico County. Hirtz completed her student teaching at Dumbarton Elementary School during the Fall 2008 semester, and she was hired in December to teach fifth grade at Fair Oaks to help alleviate overcrowded conditions. Although other first year teachers are working at Fair Oaks, Hirtz’s teaching skills earned her this honor despite her brief tenure at the school.

Osher Institute honors “2nd Half Champions”

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute acts as an in-kind co-sponsor, with Wachovia Securities and the Richmond Times-Dispatch, for an event honoring five “2nd Half Champions,” so honored for achievements these individuals accomplished after reaching age 50. The ceremony was held March 19, 2009, in the Landmark Theatre.

Weekend College students form 5K team

Members of the extended School of Continuing Studies community, through the Danville Weekend College program, form a Weekend College – Danville team to participate in the Danville Downtown Association Shamrock 5K Run/Walk. Site Coordinator Stephanie Ferugia, a current student, an applicant and a professor made up the Weekend College team and had the opportunity to spread the word about the School’s Weekend College program in Danville.

April 2009

SCS faculty recognized for their years of service

The School of Continuing Studies recently recognized adjunct faculty for their years of service to the University. Twenty-one faculty representing 155 years of services were honored at a reception on April 3, 2009.

Adjunct faculty celebrating five years of service include: Laura Earle, Christopher Faigle, Marcia Gibson, Carolee Hall, William Hall, Roger Hovis, James Lamham, III. Steven Lapinski, Jana Leonard, Donna Levy, Michael Lowery, Daniel Taber, Jacques vonBechmann, and William Wheeler.

Adjunct faculty celebrating 10 years of service include: Gayle Childers, Daniel Hocutt, Donna Shumate, Lee Stevens, Wayne Tennent, and Ronald Witcher.

Jean Moorefield was recognized for 25 years of service and given a University medallion commemorating the milestone.

Professor judges and discusses poetry

In the April 2009 issue of Richmond magazine, Ron Smith, adjunct associate professor, and his fellow judges are featured in the cover article announcing the first James River Writers/Richmond Magazine Poetry Contest. In March, Smith had conducted a workshop at Chesterfield County’s Main Library titled “Poetry in the 21st Century: What Poets Today Need to Read and Write.”

Culinary Arts instructor wins national award

Chef Glenn Pruden, C.E.C, University of Richmond’s Executive Chef, Assistant Director of University Dining, and Culinary Arts Program instructor, is honored by the United Fresh Research & Education Foundation during the organization’s 2009 convention in Las Vegas. Pruden receives the organization’s 2009 Produce Excellence in Foodservice Award in the category of Business in Industry and Colleges.

May 2009

Professor’s lecture airs on C-SPAN Book TV

A lecture by Christopher Catherwood, visiting professor, titled “Winston Churchill: The Flawed Genius of World War II” and co-sponsored by the University of Richmond Office of International Education and School of Continuing Studies Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, premieres on C-SPAN’s Book TV series. Catherwood also published a book of the same title as his lecture.

June 2009

Center for Culinary Arts wins local award

The Center for Culinary Arts wins the People’s Choice Award at the second annual Broad Appétit food festival held in Richmond. Approximately 80 vendors representing restaurants and catering companies from the greater Richmond area vied for the coveted People’s Choice Award. Event organizers estimated 18,000 attended the food and art festival.

Licensure grads named outstanding educators

Several recent graduates of the School of Continuing Studies Teacher Licensure Program are honored by Henrico County Public Schools as outstanding educators for 2009. Andrew “Drew” Baker was named the Henrico County First Year Teacher of the Year, a county-wide award. School-Level Teacher of the Year recipients include Tom Adair, for Twin Hickory Elementary School, Lorrie Binns for Carver Elementary School, Anne Coward for Dumbarton Elementary School, Ryan Hirtz for Fair Oaks Elementary School, Allegra Mather for Tuckahoe Middle School, and Denise Robson for Tuckahoe Elementary School.
June 2009
Dr. Kitchen receives NASA funding

Dr. David Kitchen, associate dean and director of summer programs in the School of Continuing Studies, has received funding from NASA for a proposal titled “Creation and Dissemination of an Interdisciplinary Undergraduate General Education Course on Climate Change.” The National Aeronautics and Space Administration funded the proposal in the amount of $149,500. Dr. Kitchen will spearhead contributions from the University of Richmond.

Faculty, staff quoted in online learning article

An article about online learning in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, “Online Learning is Gaining Credibility,” highlights the School of Continuing Studies as a local university offering degree programs entirely online. The article quotes Dr. Walter Green, Emergency Services Management (ESM) program chair; Bo Harris, ESM program coordinator; and James Campbell, SCS marketing director. Each highlights something prospective online degree-seeking students should keep in mind when selecting an online degree program.

July 2009
SCS courses on fishing inspire feature about lake

A Richmond Times-Dispatch article about the flora and fauna surrounding Westhampton Lake on the University campus finds its inspiration in regular fishing courses offered through the Office of Community and Professional Education at the School of Continuing Studies. Fishing courses that include hands-on experiences on the lake, which are offered by SCS instructor and local guide Mike Ostrander, prompted friend and Times-Dispatch reporter Andy Thompson to investigate the lake for his Urban Oasis series. Thompson’s article is titled “UR lake offers different type of summer school.”

August 2009
UR and SCS participate in free GRTC bus pass program

School of Continuing Studies students who are actively working toward an academic certificate or degree are eligible to apply for a GRTC Transit System bus pass that enables a free bus ride to and from campus. The GRTC bus pass is available to SCS certificate and degree-seeking students. Passes expire July 31 of each year, so eligible students must submit an application annually.

The bus pass program for students is provided by the Offices of Common Ground and Student Development and administered by Parking Services.

Professor Strait to publish article on unethical behavior of public employees

Professor Patricia Strait, chair of the Human Resource Management and Leadership programs, will have published an article titled “Five Theories to Explain and Manage the Unethical Behavior of Public Employees” in volume four, number 4 of the International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences.

The article explores ways to understand and control the unethical behavior of employees through the application of classic ethics theories. Dr. Strait provides this abstract to introduce the paper.

Dean Brown appointed by governor to scholarship award committee

Dr. Patricia Johnson Brown, Senior Associate Dean of the School of Continuing Studies, has been appointed by Governor Kaine to the Commonwealth’s Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Awards Committee for an additional two-year term.

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program and Fund is one of several initiatives resulting from the Commonwealth’s two-year long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. The Program was created by the 2004 Virginia General Assembly to assist persons who were enrolled or eligible to enroll in the public schools of Virginia during Massive Resistance between 1954 and 1964, in jurisdictions in which the public schools were closed to avoid desegregation.
Supporting the School

Your gift, small or large, enables the School of Continuing Studies to fulfill its mission: to enrich lives and careers. The School is committed to providing exceptional programs by passionate faculty and staff with world class student support services. SCS is committed to the values of responsiveness, caring, collaboration, and learning.

Types of Gifts

SCS Annual Fund. Annual Fund gifts, which enhance student life and academic programs, are one-time or recurring gifts of varying amounts that are unrestricted. Because money from the Annual Fund is unrestricted, it can be disbursed on a current-use basis to meet some of the university’s most pressing needs. Though unrestricted, you can designate your Annual Fund gift to SCS. Whether small or large, all gifts in support of SCS are needed and welcomed.

SCS Endowed Gifts. Scholarships, Fellowships or Faculty Chairs are examples of endowed gifts, which enable students to continue their education. These gifts allow donors to recognize exceptional faculty and remember a loved one or a beloved professor.

SCS Planned Giving. A planned gift is a gift made in conjunction with your financial plan, retirement plan or estate plan. Planned gifts typically support scholarships, learning opportunities for students, faculty development, endowed chairs and lectureships, building projects, etc.

Matching Gifts

You can easily increase the impact of your gift to the School of Continuing Studies. Many companies sponsor matching gift programs that amplify the impact of their employees’ personal contributions without increasing the obligation of the individual donor. Most participating companies will match employee gifts dollar for dollar, and some will even double- or triple-match a gift.

Why is your support important to SCS?

Our mission, to enrich lives and careers, is manifested by exemplary service to the metropolitan Richmond community. To do so, our course fees must remain affordable to the general public. Your generosity keeps our courses affordable to the widest possible audience and still maintains the highest quality of instruction. With your gift, we will have the resources to better serve our students and our community.

How will my support make a difference?

Each gift, regardless of size, is valued for what it enables SCS to accomplish, particularly increasing financial aid for deserving SCS students. Each year we have more requests for support, and each year we must generate increased funds for this purpose.

How do I make a gift?

There are several easy ways you can become a part of the SCS mission to enrich lives and careers. The quickest and easiest is by donating online. Go to uronline.net and click on Donate Now.

Matching gifts are an easy way to increase your giving. Contact your human resources department today to see if they participate and for details on how to request a matching gift.

Want to give to the Annual Fund?

It’s quick and easy: (1) Go to www.uronline.net. (2) Select Donate Now. (3) Under Donor Designations select School of Continuing Studies.

To discuss other ways of giving, including creating an endowment, charitable trust, gift annuity, or other options to benefit SCS, contact us at (804) 289-8133 or 287-6684.