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PROGRESS

Growth and momentum marked this year at Virginia Commonwealth University and nowhere has it been more evident than on the MCV campus. The 12 million dollar Robert Blackwell Smith Jr. Pharmacy/Pharmacology Building was dedicated, a new parking deck was opened, additions were completed to the Supply and Distribution Building and the Massey Cancer Center, and the renovation of North Hospital should be completed by next fall.

VCU is not only upgrading its patient care and teaching facilities but also its reputation in research and development. The National Science Foundation ranked VCU 71st in the nation in federally funded research and 46th in medical science research. This amounted to more than 30 million dollars in grant support last year.

The strength of VCU and the School of Basic Sciences has been recognized by our designation as the lead institution in biotechnology for the Center for Innovative Technology. The Clinical Research Center for Periodontal Disease is one of only three such centers in the United States. Also, VCU was selected as one of only three universities nationwide to implement an educational program to improve management skills of nurses with top executive potential. Medical researchers on the MCV campus have made important contributions to a variety of health problems ranging from eradicating childhood cancers to rehabilitating the severely head injured.

All of these accomplishments have been made in a period of federal funding cutbacks and concern about rising health care costs. As the state and national economy recovers, we should now expect more realistic support for higher education, more specifically for our university. The health care industry is undergoing alteration as it never has before, and a number of issues must be addressed if we are to continue as a center of excellence. It is abundantly clear that we must be ready to adapt to some changes and equally as clear that, by adapting, we must still maintain the quality of our teaching and service. With the new vice president for health sciences and two new deans, the administrative structure of the MCV campus will be in place; and we will be ready to develop realistic plans for the future — plans which will enable you, as health care professionals, to meet the medical challenges of tomorrow.

Edmund F. Ackell, D.M.D., M.D.
President
Those having torches will pass them on to others.
— Plato
Hard work don't hurt anybody.
— Owen Davis
The perfect friendship is that between good men, alike in their virtue.
— Aristotle
Let each man keep his heart at ease: No man dies of that disease.
— Francis Beaumont
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Medical College of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University
Now that life is returning to normal and I am no longer besieged by those anxiety-ridden, staccato gasps that had taken over my breathing pattern, I am able to reflect upon my year as editor of the 1985 X-RAY.

There were times when I could not see the light at the end of the tunnel and I had to wonder if I was in the right tunnel or if I was in a tunnel at all. It seemed like a long time trying to meet graduation requirements, yearbook deadlines, and maintain some semblance of personal life. There was an end to the tunnel; the light at which, shining brightly, you now hold in your hands.

Looking at the completed project, it pleases and somehow amazes me that this is not just a yearbook, but an archive of faces, times, and places. These are memories that from time to time we will reflect back on.

Serving as editor has been a learning experience through which I have become more familiar with my own abilities and limitations and with the idiosyncrasies and compassions of others; lessons I am unlikely to forget. I am happy to have had this experience and am a better person thanks to it. I wish only the best in PROGRESS to all of you in the coming years.

Sincerely Your 1985 X-RAY Editor,

Morgan E. Norris III, Dentistry 1985

I would like to express thanks and appreciation to the following people:
Karen Alderman
Don Ark
Mark Barry
Marie Bredologos
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Laurie McDennis
Mr. John Perry
Carlyn Phucas
Bill Sammons
Pam Sibley
Susan Tedjo
Vinnette Thompson
Cathleen Travers
Class Photographers
The Medical College of Virginia Student Government Association is an active and vital facet of our university. The SGA not only functions for our students but also for MCV as a whole. The benefits of participating in SGA activities are valuable. I urge all students to expand their interests outside the classroom. Your education will be enriched and your friendships lasting.

William E. Crutchfield II — President
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forth to meet the shadowy future
without fear, and with a manly
heart."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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