




VCU

CONVOCATION

2020



September 10, 2020
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts

38th Annual Faculty Convocation Program

Welcome

Gail Hackett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Remarks

Michael Rao, President

Presentation of Awards

University Award of Excellence

Nicholas P. Farrell, Ph.D.

College of Humanities and Sciences

Presented by Jennifer Malat, Dean

College of Humanities and Sciences

Distinguished Scholarship Award

Maryanne M. Collinson, Ph.D.

College of Humanities and Sciences

Presented by Jennifer Malat, Dean

College of Humanities and Sciences

Distinguished Teaching Award

Linda E. Zyzniewski, Ph.D.

*Presented by Jennifer Malat, Dean
College of Humanities and Sciences*

Distinguished Service Award

Peter Avery Boling, M.D.

College of Humanities and Sciences

*Presented by Peter F. Buckley, Dean
School of Medicine*

Outstanding Early Career Faculty Award

Katharine Moore Tibbetts, Ph.D.

College of Humanities and Sciences

*Presented by Jennifer Malat, Dean
College of Humanities and Sciences*

Outstanding Term Faculty Award

Ray W. Shepherd, M.D., FCCP

School of Medicine

*Presented by Peter F. Buckley, Dean
School of Medicine*

Closing Remarks

Peter F. Buckley, Interim Senior Vice President
for VCU Health Sciences and CEO, VCU Health System

For social media coverage, or to share photos
or memories from the event, use #VCUconvocation.





UNIVERSITY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The University Award of Excellence recognizes a faculty member who has performed in a superior manner in teaching, scholarly activity and service. This award is one of the highest honors the university can bestow on one of its faculty and is awarded only to an exceptional individual.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Distinguished Scholarship Award recognizes an outstanding scholar who has demonstrated a pattern of productive scholarly activity, which has been recognized nationally or internationally, as appropriate. Traditional research, creative endeavors and other scholarly activity are included in this category.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

The Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes an outstanding teacher. This may be evidenced by being an inspiration to students; by utilizing stimulating techniques, materials and methods designed to promote learning; by outstanding attention to the development of curriculum, learning materials and teaching strategies; by serving in a teaching capacity outside the classroom and university; or by any combination of the above.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes a faculty member who has performed superior service to the university, the profession and/or the wider community. This may be evidenced by activities which extend beyond normal expectations, unique contributions or long-standing leadership and impact on the university and beyond.

OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER FACULTY AWARD

The Outstanding Early Career Faculty Award recognizes a full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty member (rank of associate professor and below) who has been in rank at the university, or at another institution, for a total of five years or less, and has achieved superior accomplishment consistent with the Quest for Distinction and in the areas of teaching, research and scholarship, and service. This award was established in 2016.

OUTSTANDING TERM FACULTY AWARD

The Outstanding Term Faculty Award recognizes a full-time faculty member (rank of instructor and higher) who has at least three consecutive years of employment at the university, and has achieved superior accomplishment consistent with the Quest for Distinction and in the areas of teaching and service. This award was established in 2016.

For more information, please visit president.vcu.edu/nominations.

UNIVERSITY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

NICHOLAS P. FARRELL, PH.D.

College of Humanities and Sciences

Nicholas P. Farrell, Ph.D., is a graduate of University College Dublin. He obtained his Ph.D. from Sussex University and completed postdoctoral fellowships at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia. He is professor of chemistry in the College of Humanities and Sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University. In November 2017, he was designated University Professor, which recognizes faculty members who “teach or conduct research that crosses discipline boundaries and have an established prominence in multiple fields of study, with national or international recognition in at least one field of study.” Previously he was the Distinguished Research Scholar of VCU for 2003-2004. Farrell has had extensive international collaborations, and in 2013 the Brazilian Academy of Sciences awarded the prestigious honor of naming him a Corresponding Member. These members are “foreign researchers with recognized scientific merit who have provided relevant collaboration to the development of science in Brazil.”

The broad impacts of his research are to expand the frontiers of the understanding of the role and utility of inorganic complexes in biology and medicine. His major research is on platinum-based anticancer agents, on which he is acknowledged as a leading international authority. Almost 50% of all cancer patients will receive a platinum-based drug during chemotherapy. The first genuinely structurally novel platinum drug to enter human clinical trials in 30 years — Triplatin, BBR3464 — arose from his research, and is still the only example of a non-cisplatin drug to enter

clinical trials. This advance altered the paradigm for structure-activity relationships, discovered new DNA binding modes for small molecules and suggested novel approaches to the design of clinically useful platinum drugs.

Farrell has published over 300 refereed papers and reviews, and he is the recipient of more than 60 patents worldwide for his inventions.

He has extensive experience in all aspects of technology transfer — from concept to clinical practice application — that he offers in service of organizations, colleagues and other researchers.

Farrell’s philosophy is that science does not exist in a vacuum and neither should scientists. He has served as chair of the Department of Chemistry, where he introduced new interdisciplinary cross-campus Ph.D. programs. From 2005-2015, he was a Jefferson Science Fellow at the U.S. Department of State, where he continues to serve as a U.S. member of the steering group of the U.S.-Ireland Research and Development Partnership.

“Dr. Farrell’s record of research, teaching, and service is one that exhibits innovation, inclusiveness, outreach, and relevance to real-world problems, especially in the area of human health,” says Donald Young, Ph.D., former interim dean of the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. “His tireless work over decades at VCU has brought attention and prestige to the university and unparalleled learning experiences for his students.”





DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD MARYANNE M. COLLINSON, PH.D.

College of Humanities and Sciences

Maryanne Collinson, Ph.D., is the John B. Fenn Professor in chemistry at the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. Her research spans the traditional disciplines of analytical, inorganic and materials chemistry, and incorporates various aspects of nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Collinson's scholarly work — more than 100 peer-reviewed submissions — has been published in prestigious, high-impact journals and has been cited more than 200 times per year by other scholars. Besides her peer-reviewed publications, Collinson has been invited to present her research at a number of national and international conferences and is a regular contributor to those in the field of analytical chemistry. In addition, her research innovation and creativity have been recognized by the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society, which honored her with its Distinguished Research Award in 2017. The College of Humanities and Sciences honored her with its Distinguished Scholar Award in 2010.

Throughout her career, Collinson has maintained an extensive record of funding — from university, local, state and national sources — as the principal investigator to

support basic research in the chemical sciences, including in 1996 when she was the recipient of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award at the beginning of her academic career. Her funding also shows a significant variety in her projects and collaborative research, and she is currently funded through two NSF grants, which is a testament to the strength of her scholarship.

In addition, Collinson is an active and dedicated member of the Department of Chemistry. She led its Graduate Recruitment and Admissions Committee from 2005 until 2017 and now serves as interim associate chair of chemistry. She is an invaluable mentor to early-career faculty and has committed herself to helping ensure their success through career support and development.

"The depth and breadth of Dr. Collinson's research is a strong foundation upon which she and other scientists can build," says Donald Young, Ph.D., former interim dean of the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. "Her contributions to the field of chemistry are unquestionably important and have brought prestige to VCU and its chemistry program."

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

LINDA E. ZYZNIEWSKI, PH.D.

College of Humanities and Sciences

Linda Zyzniewski, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Psychology at the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. Her training as an experimental social psychologist informs her teaching and administrative responsibilities in framing information in a way that is meaningful to others. It is her thoughtful approach that has garnered success for those students, who in turn have consistently described her as an exceptional teacher.

In her 18 years in the department, Zyzniewski has enriched the experiences of students through innovations in the psychology curriculum and experiential learning opportunities for students. She spearheaded an effort to offer special courses to junior and senior psychology majors to introduce students to the world-class research being undertaken in the department. Since these courses began in the fall 2013 semester, 18 different faculty across all ranks have offered 26 distinct spotlight courses with much success. Under her guidance, the department also launched the first Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program for psychology majors. This internship placed highly motivated students in faculty labs for a structured research experience. Zyzniewski met with

the students regularly around issues of professional development, and the students presented their work in the fall at a poster session in the department.

Zyzniewski has also created an exceptional learning environment for graduate teaching assistants. Those she has worked with have noted not only Zyzniewski's enthusiasm, skillful mentoring, and effective modeling as having a profound, lasting effect on the course of their teaching journeys, but also her insistence on providing the space to let TAs find their own "teaching voices" and the obvious joy she displays while teaching.

"As her students and mentees go out into the wider world and, especially, take what they've discovered about being teachers and learners to other institutions and students, Dr. Zyzniewski's impact will be multiplied many times over, to the benefit of uncountable people in the field of psychology and beyond," says Donald Young, Ph.D., former interim dean of the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences, in describing Zyzniewski's impact. "The university couldn't ask for a better legacy from one of our teaching faculty."





DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD PETER AVERY BOLING, M.D.

School of Medicine

As professor of internal medicine and chair of geriatric medicine within the VCU School of Medicine, Peter Boling, M.D., has built a legacy of service. He chose the primary care medicine residency at VCU in 1981 once he completed medical school. He then took a faculty position in 1984 and started the health system's house calls program. That program pushed him into the Richmond community and the world of geriatric medicine.

For almost 40 years now, he has championed high-quality, compassionate and cost-effective care for older adults and provided a community-based learning experience for all VCU medical students. Boling's commitment to serving not only older adults but also the next generation of doctors prompted him to design a new 30-hour preclinical curriculum for medical students and develop a four-year longitudinal geriatric medicine course, including a web-based interprofessional capstone case exercise for 600 health professions students each year. He also created an annual Forum on Aging and a Geriatric Student Interest Group, and he created and has overseen required house calls and nursing home visits for all medical students as part of a new interprofessional aging curriculum for students in multiple VCU professional schools.

Boling has worked to foster system change and to invigorate geriatric education and interprofessional team care at VCU. He has been a leader in planning and implementing primary care services, and has served

as chair of divisions, various committees, boards and planning groups, including the Strategic Planning Task Force to expand VCU primary care services. He was instrumental in developing Commonwealth Care of Virginia, a 180-physician Independent Physician Association, serving as president, board member and liaison to the VCU Health System. In 2019, Boling was appointed as the health system's director for post-acute care services based on his record of excellence in leading clinical care initiatives that reduced barriers for and gaps in long-term care, ambulatory geriatric primary care and transitional care for citizens throughout the region. Over the years, Boling has established a strong VCU Division of Geriatric Medicine with 25 faculty members, combining the downtown and VA Medical Center campuses and providing a comprehensive spectrum of clinical services to older adults across the health system and in the community; created a center for team-based geriatric care; and successfully championed changes in national payment policy to foster restoration of house calls to American medical practice.

"Dr. Boling's service has advanced patient-centered, value-based health care and enhanced the quality of life for older persons across the U.S.," says Peter Buckley, M.D., interim CEO of the VCU Health System and dean of the School of Medicine. "His legacy is a national model for sustained and exceptional service, innovative teaching to support excellence in clinical care, community engagement and national impact."

OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER FACULTY AWARD KATHARINE MOORE TIBBETTS, PH.D. College of Humanities and Sciences

Katharine Tibbetts, Ph.D., is an associate professor in her fifth year at the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences Department of Chemistry. Her research is in the field of ultrafast spectroscopy and femtosecond laser chemistry as applied to the control and understanding of the dissociation dynamics of molecules and ions in the gas phase, and in synthesis of novel nanomaterials with unique catalytic properties in condensed phases. She investigates how light both breaks and makes chemical bonds, and she joined the department with a strong record of publications from her graduate and postdoctoral studies.

Upon arriving at VCU, Tibbetts quickly got to work establishing a state-of-the-art laboratory and assembling a very active research group that completed an impressive body of work, which has been reported in many highly visible publications, including leading journals in physical chemistry and chemical physics. Tibbetts has also facilitated collaborations with several physics and chemistry laboratories within VCU, at the physics department at Florida A&M, as well as Princeton and Temple University chemistry departments. Overall, her research has received widespread recognition at both the national and international levels.

In addition, her vision and expertise continue

to strengthen VCU programs in the area of molecular physical chemistry and in the interdisciplinary field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. Tibbetts is equally adept at strengthening the learning experience of students. She has taught multiple courses, and her students appreciate both her depth of knowledge and her ability to unravel the complexities of quantum chemistry, spectroscopy and coherent dynamics. Through her mentoring efforts within the ACS SEED program, which promotes female, minority and economically disadvantaged students, she has hosted multiple high school students in her lab since 2017. She is currently hosting two high school students who are working on independent study projects.

“Dr. Tibbetts epitomizes the type of scholar-teacher universities seek,” notes Donald Young, Ph.D., former interim dean of the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. “[She] is respected by other scholars for the exceptionalism of her work and loved by her students for her in-depth knowledge and ability to simplify difficult topics to increase their understanding and success in the classroom and the laboratory. Achieving both of these things at such an early stage in her career is simply phenomenal.”





OUTSTANDING TERM FACULTY AWARD

Ray W. Shepherd, M.D., FCCP

School of Medicine

Ray “Wes” Shepherd, M.D., is a professor of internal medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care and also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Surgery. He completed his residency and fellowship at VCU Medical Center followed by an additional fellowship in interventional pulmonology at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Mass. He currently serves as the director of interventional pulmonology and as the vice chair for ambulatory operations for the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Shepherd’s clinical practice is diverse, including attending in the Medical Respiratory Intensive Care Unit, the interventional pulmonology procedure consult service, general pulmonary clinic, and as part of the multidisciplinary Chest Tumors Center at VCU Massey Cancer Center.

His major focus and passion over the last 16 years has been the creation and growth of the Interventional Pulmonology program. Not only is the program one of the preeminent in the country, it is the most comprehensive IP program in Virginia, filling a specialized niche for many complex patients throughout the state. Shepherd has introduced numerous new innovative technologies to VCU Health System, and the IP program has grown significantly with the recruitment of multiple faculty, research and the creation of an IP fellowship now in its 11th year.

Shepherd is a member of many professional societies and has given numerous lectures at national and international meetings and courses. He has served on the board of

directors for the American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology and also on the national steering committee for the Interventional and Chest Diagnostic Procedure Network of the American College of Chest Physicians. He was an author of the first national board exam in IP and has been involved heavily in the formalization of this new subspecialty. He is involved in teaching at all levels, from the M2 year through pulmonary fellowship and has several active Institutional Review Board projects and numerous published articles and abstracts. He has served on multiple division, departmental and school committees, including as chair of the Invasive Procedure Committee. He has been recognized by Richmond Magazine as a “top doc” in pulmonology for the last 10 years, recently received Distinguished CHEST Educator recognition by ACCP, and is a previous winner of the VCU Health System’s Distinguished Clinician Award.

“Dr. Shepherd is described by colleagues and patients as hard-working, collaborative, patient, humble and compassionate. He is accessible and professional with everyone he encounters,” says Peter F. Buckley, M.D., interim CEO of VCU Health System and dean of the School of Medicine. “[His] work advances the VCU Quest 2025 mission and goals, through his demonstrated commitment and achievements in raising VCU’s national prominence in the field of interventional pulmonology, and his steadfast dedication to supporting the success of learners at all levels.”

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

For a list of past award recipients, please visit
president.vcu.edu/nominations.

Cover: Graphic depiction of the Monroe Park
Campus (left) and MCV Campus

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