Brown named nursing dean

Dr. Janet Brown, a member of the nursing faculty since 1976, will succeed Dr. Freda Scales as Dean of the College of Nursing effective July 1. Scales has been the dean since 1982 and resigned to begin a career as a Lutheran pastor. Dr. Brown's area of specialty is health care of older adults and has written articles for many professional journals and made numerous presentations. She received VU's 1998 Caterpillar Award for Excellence in Teaching and is selected for listing in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

College of Nursing receives grant funding

The College of Nursing's grant proposal for a Congregational Health Project has been awarded $28,500. The funding comes from the Ball Foundation Venture Fund through the Independent Colleges of Indiana. "The mission...is to create synergy among VU, Porter Memorial Health Systems, and local church congregations in order to meet some of the community's health needs," said Nola Schmidt, assistant professor of nursing and coordinator of the project. The three goals of the program are to establish a Resource Center for Congregational Health, to provide education for nurses and other professionals about congregational health, and to identify and meet faith-related health needs in the community.

Undergraduate team studies Texas turbulence

Eight VU students involved in the multi-disciplinary Undergraduate Research in Turbulence (MURT) Program traveled to Galveston, TX to study atmospheric turbulence near the Gulf of Mexico. The program is supported by the National Science Foundation and involves five mechanical engineering and three meteorology students. While in Texas, they measured wind speeds and turbulence scales in conjunction with a historical review of the 1900 Galveston hurricane. These VU students are currently the only undergraduate team studying turbulence at this time.

Christ College freshman debates

The 14th annual Christ College debates were held in early April. The 77 first-year students in the honors college practice the art of oral argumentation by the preparation and presentation of oral debates. Members of the audience vote at the end by walking out a door marked "pro" or "con." This year's Resolutions were: "The U.S. Constitution should be amended to revoke the public right to bear arms," "The City of Valparaiso should not allow the display of a Nativity scene on the courtyard square of the city," "The U.S. should recognize the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan," and "All Christian denominations should advocate the ordinance of women."

VU observed by Swedish professors

Two Swedish professors, Dr. Sonia Bentling and Lennart Schon, are spending the semester observing VU's teaching methods. Bentling is a senior lecturer in the Department of Caring Sciences at Malardalen Hogskola and is visiting the College of Nursing. Schon is a lecturer in the Department of Technology and Science at Orebro University and is visiting the College of Engineering. Each of their Swedish schools has about 12,000 students. Bentling said she is looking closely at the freshman Core program and the close working relationships between students and professors. VU was one of three schools chosen for their outstanding undergraduate teaching reputations.
Hall of Fame inductees

Five alumni were inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in February. University Board of Directors member, Richard Beumer '59 (wife Judy Beumer and daughter Kathy Allen are both members of the Guild) of suburban St. Louis, was an all-conference baseball pitcher. Ursula Moser '93, a student at the University of Northern Colorado, was a record-setting swimmer. Rod Poppe '55 of Marengo, IL, was an all-conference football player who became an outstanding coach. Milt Schoon '47 of Janesville, WI, was a standout on VU's "World's Tallest Team" and later went on to play professional basketball. John David Thomas '78, inducted posthumously, was a four-time conference champion in wrestling.

Campus housing expanded and repaired

Due to the growing need for on-campus housing, Linwood Apartments, located south of Guild and Memorial halls, will become a part of undergraduate housing this fall. The University Park Apartments, next to the ARC, have been undergraduate on-campus housing for the past two years. Each contains 16 apartments that house 31 students, including a member of the residence life staff. The $225,000 approved by the University Board of Directors will be used to buy furniture, repair the exterior, and connect the apartments to data lines, as well as repair safety railings and walkways at both apartment areas.

Chapel organ cover story

The Chapel of the Resurrection's Reddel Memorial Organ was the cover feature of the January 2000 issue of the The Diapason, an international monthly publication devoted to the organ, the harpsichord, and church music. Lorraine Brugh, Kruse Organ Fellow and University Organist, wrote a description of the organ for the feature.

VU receives $45,000 research grant

Dr. Marcia J. Bunge, associate professor of humanities and theology in Christ College, will direct a $45,000 grant awarded to VU. The grant is from the Louisville Institute's Christian Faith and Life Sabbatical Grants Program for Dr. Bunge's project "The Vocation of Parenting: A Critical Retrieval of Christian Thought." The grant will support her sabbatical for next year. Her study aims to provide a theological view of parenting that speaks to the questions and concerns of contemporary Christians. Dr. Bunge came to VU in 1997. Her major areas of study are the history of Christian thought and contemporary issues in the church.

Congratulations!

- Gov. Frank O'Bannon has named Judge Nancy Vaidik (VU '77, '80) to the Indiana Court of Appeals. She worked as Porter Superior court judge before beginning her new appointment February 7th. Judge Vaidik was the speaker at the Guild's Graduating Women's Celebration in 1999.

- Dr. Eric Johnson (VU '87), (Elizabeth Tracht, Dr. Johnson's wife, is a member of the Valparaiso chapter of the Guild) was selected as the Frederick F. Jenny Professor of Emerging Technology for the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 academic years. Dr. Johnson is an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and has taught at VU the past three years.

- Seth Hartwell of McClelland, IA, and Sally Jacob of Griffin, GA, placed in the final round in the National Association of Teachers of Singing regional auditions during the fall semester.

- In the fall semester, 179 Valpo athletes earned at least a 3.0 GPA including 11 who earned a 4.0. These accomplishments helped VU have the most student-athletes qualify for Mid-Continent Academic All-Conference honors with 38.

- Walt Wangerin, Jochum Professor of the University, published another book in February. Peter's First Easter puts young readers in Peter's shoes following Jesus to His death and at the tomb after His resurrection.

- Lisa Jezek wrote a proposal for "Portable Car Heater" that received funding from the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers. Jezek is a senior mechanical engineering major from McHenry, IL.

From the Editor...

Spring is finally here! Finals are quickly approaching and it's hard to believe that there are only a couple weeks left in the semester. I'm looking forward to my internship this summer at John Deere near home in the Quad Cities area and will be making many of my wedding plans! Hope everyone has a chance to enjoy this beautiful weather!

God bless!