



University of Virginia School of Nursing
Transforming the Landscape of Health Care



Today, nurses assume more responsibility than ever before. They function as critical members of their patients' health care teams, contributing their knowledge and ideas—gained through education and practical experience—to promote health and well-being and to ensure safe, high-quality, and compassionate patient care.

As our nation's population grows older and lives longer, nursing schools must offer a state-of-the-art education to a new generation of caregivers who will stand ready to deal with a vast array of ailments and navigate a complex health care system.

The University of Virginia School of Nursing is uniquely positioned for this challenge. It was, after all, built on the dreams of a revolutionary. Founder Thomas Jefferson subscribed to a radical notion for his day. He believed that an educated populace could sustain democracy in this nation and ultimately make life better for its citizens. For more than 100 years, the School of Nursing has been committed to upholding Jefferson's vision. Its three-pronged focus on critical thinking, innovation, and service—long recognized for preparing nurses who are skilled caregivers as well as leaders—is now being extended to the creation of new models for nursing education.

The School of Nursing seeks **\$30 million to support the people, the space, and the ideas behind this revolution** that will ultimately benefit the entire profession and the patients of tomorrow.



SCHOLARSHIP FULFILLS NURSING DREAM

"I definitely could not have attended UVa without a scholarship," says Leslie Stirn, a Maryland native and a fourth-year School of Nursing student. After learning that she would receive the Nancy Conway Smith Scholarship, Stirn immediately wrote to Smith, a 1953 graduate of the School of Nursing, to express her thanks for funding the award. The two women struck up a friendship.

"She's retired from nursing now, but we meet occasionally to discuss how the profession has changed," Stirn says. "As students we have more choices today, yet I've learned that UVa's insistence on clinical excellence remains the same."

Once Stirn earns her BSN, she plans to work before entering graduate school with the goal of becoming a pediatric nurse practitioner. In the meantime, she is gaining valuable experience working as a patient care assistant at UVa's Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center.

"This job has reinforced my passion for the field and increased my respect for the School of Nursing," she says. "It's an enormous gift to be able to go to school here."

Support for People

The UVa School of Nursing attracts exceptional students who have the intelligence, drive, and determination to improve health care for everyone. Unfortunately, the shortage of nurses nationwide is eroding our nation's ability to care for its citizens. By 2012, more than one million new, full-time nurses will be necessary to meet the demand. In addition, the nursing field desperately needs highly qualified teachers to educate the next generation and to undertake groundbreaking research that will benefit the profession. The average American nursing instructor is over 50 years of age—and many outstanding teaching candidates are being lured into better-paying fields.

Each year, UVa turns away qualified applicants due to inadequate space and a shortage of educators. Further, the school can meet only 20 percent of its undergraduate students' documented financial need with current scholarship and fellowship support. Financial aid is particularly important at the graduate levels, where the education of tomorrow's nursing faculty occurs. For these students, fellowships are a key recruiting tool.

UVa is committed to educating nurses and nursing faculty for the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world—and to choosing the very best students, regardless of their financial situation. To meet this goal, the School of Nursing seeks **\$7 million in endowment support to attract extraordinary students** who are certain to advance the field. The school also seeks **\$4 million in endowment for professorships and professional development opportunities** that will help to attract and retain the nation's best educators.

Support for Space



A NEW BUILDING FOR NURSING EDUCATION

The companion building for nursing education, constructed across from McLeod Hall on 15th Street, will incorporate “values that nurses hold dear,” in the words of Dean Jeanette Lancaster. The new facility is designed to promote healthy living as it incorporates the following:

- Four stories and 32,000 gross square feet of new space
- Lecture halls and classrooms of various sizes and flexible design
- Tiered classrooms equipped to facilitate faculty-student and student-student interactions, utilizing the latest in instructional technologies
- A commons area and an adjacent café where students, faculty, and staff can meet and enjoy healthy snacks throughout the day
- Open staircases and large windows to bring in natural light
- A meditation room or “quiet” space for repose and reflection after a stressful day of patient care

School of Nursing students must learn in an environment where instructional techniques provide a seamless entry to the workplace. McLeod Hall, the school’s home since 1972, does not provide efficiently designed space for nursing instruction that utilizes the latest technological tools for classroom and clinic. Nor can it support the type of research activities that result in more effective educational experiences and improved patient care.

What’s more, McLeod Hall was not built to accommodate the number of students currently enrolled in the School of Nursing or the variety of programs offered today, let alone more students who could contribute in a meaningful way toward alleviating our nation’s nursing shortage.

The University of Virginia is committed to creating facilities that will help the School of Nursing retain its position at the forefront of innovative nursing instruction. Accordingly, the school seeks **\$12 million in private gifts to fund construction of a new nursing education building and to renovate McLeod Hall.** In addition, the Commonwealth of Virginia has endorsed the school’s plans by appropriating \$6 million to the construction project, and UVA is supporting the effort with a \$2 million challenge grant.



CLINICAL SIMULATION LEARNING CENTER

In the Clinical Simulation Learning Center, students work on highly sophisticated computerized mannequins that can be programmed to realistically simulate a variety of illnesses. They learn lifesaving techniques as well as the confidence to perform in high-pressure situations.

“Without these mannequins, students have to practice their clinical skills on each other,” says Reba Moyer Childress, RN, MSN, FNP, director of the clinical learning labs in the School of Nursing, “and we would not be able to mimic accurately a number of life-threatening ailments. With these computerized patients, students are able to gain vital experience in a safe yet realistic environment.”

Technological Tools

Like all learners, some nursing students learn best by listening, some by observing, and still others by doing. Whatever their learning style, UVa nursing students will find their educational experience enhanced when emerging technologies are incorporated into the new nursing education building and the renovated McLeod Hall facility.

Selected classrooms in the new building will be equipped with state-of-the-art electronic presentation equipment. The renovated McLeod Hall will feature an expanded Clinical Simulation Learning Center in which students will be able to learn and practice vital clinical skills using sophisticated computerized patients—and receive feedback through a videotaping system. Students working at computer terminals will have realistic experiences with virtual patients they can see, touch, and influence through the use of emerging virtual reality technology.

But not all tools to enhance teaching and learning will be accessible only within the school's walls. In addition to laptops and tablet PCs, students will carry Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) loaded with pharmacological texts that they can use anywhere—in class, at home, or in the hospital.



SERVICE BEYOND OUR BORDERS

Public service has always been at the core of the “call to nursing,” particularly for UVA students and faculty. The School of Nursing’s public service now extends overseas as well as locally.

Nursing students and faculty are important partners in the UVA South African and Virginia Networks and Associations (SAVANA) initiative. Their outreach includes training South African health care providers to collect evidence from victims of sexual assault. In addition, two undergraduate students in the Distinguished Majors Program spent a summer in the Limpopo province of South Africa, establishing teaching projects in HIV/AIDS, self-esteem, and empowerment. Nursing faculty members are drawing upon their community health expertise to help a University-wide team determine the need for public health services in at-risk South African communities.

Support for Ideas

“The energy in this place is amazing. The faculty, the students, the undergraduates blow me away because they are so smart, bold, and ambitious. My research here is going so well because of the synergies. People here are on a mission...something like ‘I’m going to change everything and make the world a better place.’ It’s contagious.”

—Ph.D. student, School of Nursing

The influence of University of Virginia nurses extends far beyond Charlottesville. A cadre of nurse-researchers is committed to looking at problems that challenge nurses everywhere and developing solutions that will ultimately improve patient care locally, across the nation, and around the world.

The school has established four research centers with support from government or private sources. Among them is one of only two nursing history centers in the nation, the first Center for Complementary and Alternative Therapies established in a nursing school, the Southeastern Rural Mental Health Research Center, and most recently, the Rural Health Care Research Center.

The success of research efforts has boosted national recognition for the School of Nursing, which currently ranks 16th nationally for the amount of research funding it receives from the National Institutes of Health. UVA faculty and students are renowned for having the vision and the drive to make new discoveries happen, but there is still much to be done. Accordingly, the School of Nursing seeks **\$4 million to support ongoing research efforts and new global health initiatives.**

Revolutionizing Nursing Education

The University of Virginia School of Nursing is well positioned to meet the profession's changing needs, thanks to its longstanding reputation for preparing expert practitioners. But to revolutionize nursing education as it is currently known, the school will require substantial private support. In addition to the priorities listed above, over the life of the campaign, the school will need **\$3 million in annual and unrestricted gifts for emerging priorities.**

The School of Nursing has embarked on an ambitious **campaign to raise \$30 million** to support the *people* who will become our nation's next generation of knowledgeable, innovative, and service-oriented nurses; to provide the *space* needed to accommodate important educational and research activities; and to support creative *ideas* that will advance the nursing field locally and around the world.

Support of any of these priorities is important. Each affords alumni and friends of the School of Nursing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to contribute to the future of American nursing—and to do so at a time when the profession has never had more to gain from their assistance.



**For more information, please contact
the Assistant Vice President, School of
Nursing Alumni and Development Office,
434-924-0138.**

A UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA NURSE

- has learned *how* to think instead of *what* to think, and pursues new knowledge long after that final walk down the Lawn;
- is *creative* and *forward-thinking*. This is a school powered for more than a century by *innovators* who, time after time, have fashioned unique models for education, patient care, and nursing research—models that have been replicated across the nation;
- *collaborates* and focuses on the best interest of the individuals she or he serves;
- is *confident* and *prepared*, knowing she or he has been *educated by rigorous teachers* who lead by example through their professionalism, accessibility, and proven skills as clinicians, researchers, and educators;
- looks outward and is *called to serve* the public with a strong sense of ethics and a desire to contribute to something bigger than herself or himself; and
- is a *leader for life*, not just for the course of a career.



University of Virginia School of Nursing

School of Nursing Alumni and Development Office | PO Box 800782

Charlottesville, VA 22908-0782

800-297-0102 | 434-924-0138 | www.nursing.virginia.edu