Much like the Compass is the physical heart of the Monroe Park Campus, the College of Humanities and Sciences serves as its intellectual heart, with over 110 majors, minors, graduate degree and certificate programs.

The College of Humanities and Sciences is not an ordinary educational enterprise. Our goal is not just the education, but also the transformation of the students who move through their experiences here by encouraging them to explore opportunities they might have never imagined, and providing them the tools to pursue these opportunities. Our students represent the world at large; many are the first in their families to attend college.

From our humble beginnings we have advanced to a place of distinction in American education. That forward motion remains palpable today and carries with it the anticipation of a brilliant future. We aren’t an ivory tower, quiet and removed from our surroundings. We were born and bred in a city and we are immersed in its energy.

We are intellect and we are grit. We are momentum and we are breakthrough. We are the foundation of educational and intellectual life at Virginia Commonwealth University. We transform lives in an urban environment that is both nurturing and challenging.

We are the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences.

We make it real.
REAL INSPIRATION

The humanities and sciences inspire us to think creatively and critically, to reason, to ask the right questions, to analyze information and to communicate effectively.

All of the characteristics of an education in the humanities and sciences are recognized by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) as important skills that employers seek in entry-level college graduates. Furthermore, the Association of American Colleges and Universities and Hart Research Associates found 93% of surveyed employers agreed that “a candidate’s demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than their undergraduate major.”

The humanities and sciences:

- Provide communities with a talented workforce that serves as a powerful engine for improving economic health and creates innovative solutions to problems.
- Propel scientific research to cure or treat diseases, create cleaner environments, and improve the human condition and quality of life.
- Ground us in our history, inspire the human spirit and imagination, and motivate individuals to create more ethical and high-functioning communities.
- Prepare young people to participate actively as engaged and constructive citizens.

As the intellectual heart of VCU, the College of Humanities and Sciences seeks to inspire our students to explore their passions and dreams as individuals, and provide the context to understand their place in the world and connections with others — locally, globally, and throughout time.
Awards and accolades don’t define us, but they do illuminate how vital we are to VCU’s status as one of the nation’s premier, urban, public research universities. We are home to numerous highly-respected undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. The College regularly achieves national and international recognition through the success of our students, and through the individual and collaborative research of our faculty.

In both teaching and research, the College takes seriously the responsibilities of being a leader both locally and globally. We stress learning that incorporates service to the community, and we focus on research that advances knowledge and the human condition worldwide.

REAL LEADERSHIP

The College is proud to have been the academic home of VCU’s only Nobel Prize winner, a MacArthur Fellow and a Pulitzer Prize winning poet. We are currently the home to a long list of award-winning faculty and students, including Guggenheim Fellows and Fulbright Scholars.

Awards and accolades don’t define us, but they do illuminate how vital we are to VCU’s status as one of the nation’s premier, urban, public research universities. We are home to numerous highly-respected undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. The College regularly achieves national and international recognition through the success of our students, and through the individual and collaborative research of our faculty.

In both teaching and research, the College takes seriously the responsibilities of being a leader both locally and globally. We stress learning that incorporates service to the community, and we focus on research that advances knowledge and the human condition worldwide.

Scott Gronert, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and associate dean of research, recently received a Fulbright Scholar grant from the U.S. Department of State to travel to France to work with researchers in France on a new process that could help surgeons more accurately remove cancerous cells.

“The idea behind this research is to employ a technique where a laser or other directed energy source is used to probe cells that are known to be cancerous and try to find molecular signatures for the cancerous cells. The long-term goal is to be able to use this technique during surgery to identify the edges of tumors so that you can more accurately remove cancerous cells, leaving behind the healthy ones.

I was very fortunate to receive a Fulbright Scholar grant, but many of our brightest researchers struggle to find adequate funding to complete their research. The successful completion of VCU’s capital campaign will help alleviate that heavy burden on our faculty.”
Eight of the twelve largest undergraduate majors at VCU are in the College of Humanities and Sciences. More than 14,000 students, which equates to 50% of all undergraduate and graduate students, are in the College.

Our disciplines are diverse and comprehensive:

- African American Studies
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English
- Forensic Science
- Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies
- History
- Humanities Research Center
- Interdisciplinary Science
- Kinesiology and Health Sciences
- Liberal Studies for Early and Elementary Education
- Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
- Media Art and Text
- Military Science and Leadership
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture
- School of World Studies
- Science, Technology and Society
- Sociology
- Statistical Sciences and Operations Research
REAL TRANSFORMATION

We envision a VCU College of Humanities and Sciences that transforms the lives of our students and the world around us through our teaching and research.

In August of 2013 the College of Humanities and Sciences embarked on a nine-month planning process that resulted in our strategic plan. We titled the plan Pathways for Transformation as it captures two integrated passions that characterize the College: facilitating the development of deeply meaningful lives and careers of VCU’s diverse student body and transforming the human condition through research, teaching, and creative arts.

We transform the lives of our students by encouraging them to explore opportunities they might never have imagined. The College of Humanities and Sciences has the largest number of first-generation and non-traditional students at VCU. Our goal is that our students graduate from VCU with the greatest change possible in skills, disciplinary knowledge and personal growth gained over the course of their academic careers.

We transform fields of study, our community, our perception of the world and our place in it through our faculty's research, teaching, and creative arts. Faculty members are the most important and influential factor of the student experience and the most valuable asset of the University.

A’Jee Delaigle is majoring in Public Relations and is a recipient of the Chandra Broadnax-Payne Scholarship.

“I am 21 years of age and the youngest of six. I live in single parent home, and my father is a senior citizen. I volunteer with Made for More, a non-profit organization in my hometown helping young people of color graduate from high school. I volunteer as well for ACCESS AIDS, a non-profit that brings awareness of the disease, provides medicine to the underserved population and resources and outreach where those affected may not feel welcomed. I plan to bring change and reformation to my area and possibly the world. I plan to use my bachelor’s degree as a stepping stone to either obtain a master’s degree in Epidemiology or a Law degree. I joke that I have a loud voice and I plan to speak for those who are not heard.”

Students Cole Williams and Zavi Harman excavate Tell Lachish, Israel during a study abroad trip for a course in the School of World Studies that combines historical research with archaeological inquiry.
To turn our vision into reality we have two vital priorities necessary for success.

- Faculty Excellence in Research and Teaching
- Pathways for Student Success

Help us make it real. Your support will make a profound difference.
FACULTY EXCELLENCE
in Research and Teaching

A 2013 survey of College of Humanities and Sciences alumni rated the “quality of faculty” as the most important attribute of the VCU student experience.

Quality of faculty was joined closely by “diverse students and faculty” the “curriculum taught” and “critical thinking skills” as the top rated attributes of their experience as a VCU student.

Research has shown that students are profoundly affected by behaviors and attitudes of faculty members — suggesting that faculty members play the single-most important role in student learning. We also know that students greatly benefit from teachers who are engaged in their field of study. Students of teacher-scholars learn not to be passive consumers of information, but rather active and creative contributors to a community of learning.

As our survey showed, our faculty's dedication to our students makes VCU a preferred destination and ensures that we mold future leaders who are globally prepared.

Faye Belgrave, Ph.D. University professor of psychology, is director of VCU’s Center for Cultural Experiences in Prevention and a past winner of the Outstanding Faculty Award given by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

"External funding is essential to my ability to reduce health disparities in African American and other communities of color through research and interventions. My research, primarily on substance abuse and HIV prevention, considers the role of culture and context and is conducted in collaboration with local community based organizations, faith-based organizations and health clinics. External funding also provides opportunities for me to support the training of students in areas such as cancer prevention, cardiovascular disease, body image, and other health disparities. The research we do in the College has real-world results, but it requires more resources than the University can provide. External support is critical to our research mission in the College of Humanities and Sciences."

We must support our current faculty and become the university of choice for renowned and promising faculty we strive to recruit in order to raise the international prominence of the University and the value of a VCU degree.

Endowed chairs, professorships, and discretionary funds will enable the College to increase research, creative outputs, and global presence — and most importantly, to better serve our students.

Upon successful completion of the campaign we will have raised $7,300,000 to promote faculty excellence in research and teaching.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Endowed Named Funds

- Deanship
  $2,500,000 - $5,000,000
- Distinguished Chair/Directionship
  $2,000,000 - $4,000,000 each
- Chair/Directionship
  $1,500,000 - $3,000,000 each
- Distinguished Professorship
  $1,000,000 - $2,000,000 each
- Lectureship
  $100,000 each

Multiple funding opportunity available.

Current Funds

- College Discretionary Fund
  $1,000,000 total
- Faculty Professional Development Fund
  $500,000 total
To attract and retain academically promising, diverse, and hardworking students we must provide the necessary financial support.

Federal and state funding cuts for tuition result in our students taking out more loans than ever to pay for their education. 66% of VCU students graduate with student loan debt and their average debt exceeds $32,000; for students seeking graduate or doctoral degrees this figure often doubles or triples. The majority of College of Humanities and Sciences students also work at least part-time to pay for tuition and support themselves or family members. Without the support of our alumni and friends many of our most promising students will have to forego transformational educational opportunities such as internships, research, service learning in our communities, study abroad, and entrepreneurship programs.

PATHWAYS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Higher education is a powerful force. At its best, higher education transforms our students such that they launch themselves on trajectories towards deeply meaningful lives and careers, and invigorates our rapidly changing global community.

According to a 2012 survey of employers by The Chronicle of Higher Education and American Public Medias Marketplace, an internship is the single most important credential for recent college graduates to have on their resume. Students who are working or putting themselves in debt to pay for their education will never have the luxury of an unpaid internship or semester abroad. Education should not be a luxury.

An investment in our students is an investment in our community’s future.

Upon successful completion of the campaign we will have raised $8,000,000 which will directly benefit our students.

Oumaima Kaabi is a Biology major with a Chemistry minor and is the recipient of the Miles F. Johnson Award of Excellence recipient.

“My mother became a single parent in 2011 with the death of my father in a train accident. Ever since my two sisters and I were in elementary school, she has gone above and beyond to ensure that we get the best education possible, and that didn’t change when she became a widow. Financing the education of one child is enough of a struggle; financing the education of three, on a single income, having come into this country at the age of 50, and with little experience with language is a bigger burden than one person can shoulder. My scholarship is your investment in my future, and I cannot be more grateful for it. Through it, the burden on me and my mother is that much easier to bear.”

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Endowed Named Funds

- Graduate Fellowship
  - $250,000 each
- Scholarship
  - $25,000 each

Fellowships and Scholarships have unlimited funding opportunities.

Current Funds

- Internship Stipend Fund
  - $1,000,000 total
- Undergraduate Research Fund
  - $1,000,000 total
- Experiential and Professional Development Fund
  - $1,000,000 total
- Study Abroad Fund
  - $1,000,000 total
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund
  - $250,000 total
Together, we will transform the next generation of students, create new avenues of interdisciplinary research and community partnership, and attract the most renowned scholars in the humanities, social, natural and formal sciences.

Together we will make the vision of the College of Humanities and Sciences a reality. Our combined partnership and passion will change lives and make the world a better place for generations to come.

We are undertaking the largest and most comprehensive fundraising campaign in the university’s history. We have set a goal of $15.3 million to support our two largest priorities: faculty excellence in research and teaching, and pathways for student success. That goal is attainable with the generous support of people like you who share our vision for the future. I hope you will consider investing in our effort to make it real.

Montse Fuentes
Dean, VCU College of Humanities and Sciences
Endowments are the single most important financial resource that distinguishes America’s best universities. These extraordinary gifts are carefully managed by the VCU Foundation to provide permanent, ongoing support for our students and programs. Endowments exist in perpetuity: the fund is invested for long-term growth, and only a small percentage (typically 5 percent) of the market value is spent each year, so that the endowment—and the legacy of our donors—endure for the life of the University. Minimum endowment levels guarantee that sufficient income will be available to fulfill the intentions of the gift. All endowments can be created with payments over the course of five years; most endowments can be established with estate or deferred gifts. Our development staff can work with you to establish guidelines for your endowment, and they will provide ongoing stewardship to ensure that your philanthropic goals are achieved.

Current gifts are also important as they allow an immediate pool of funds to meet the highest needs or provide an infusion of resources in an area that you are most interested.

If you would like to shape the future of the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences and the lives of our students, our development staff is ready to work with you to find the giving opportunity that best expresses your values and interests while meeting your own financial needs.

There are many ways to give. We would love the opportunity to speak with you directly about your hopes and dreams, giving goals and intentions.

**Estate gifts**
Through a bequest, you can create a legacy that will benefit the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences for generations to come. Our development office can tell you more about how to work with your estate planner, financial advisor and/or attorney.

**Gifts of securities**
Gifts of stocks, bonds, and/or mutual funds can be mutually beneficial with proper planning. Please contact our development office if you are interested in this option.

**Life income gifts**
Charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities allow you to make a significant gift to the College of Humanities and Sciences while ensuring a stable source of income for you and your loved ones.

**Gifts of other assets**
Retirement funds and real estate can be transformed into important philanthropic support for the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. The same may be true for other personal property, such as artwork and special collections.

**Electronic funds transfer**
You can direct your bank to issue payments on a monthly or yearly basis to the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences.

**Online gifts**
You can ensure that your support benefits the program of your choice by giving online at: support.vcu.edu/give/humanitiesandsciences and select the option that meets your wishes.

**Cash gifts**
Make your check payable to the VCU Foundation. To restrict your gift to a particular department or fund please note your area of interest or specific wishes on the memo line. You may also enclose a note if the memo line is not sufficient. Mail your gift to:
Virginia Commonwealth University
Gifts and Records Management
PO Box 842019
Richmond, VA 23284-2019

**Matching gifts**
Your employer may match your contributions. To find out if this is an option for you, contact our development office at (804) 827-1306 or use this online search: matchinggifts.com/vcu or ask your human resources department.
Emeritus Professor Harold Greer, Jr., Ph.D. taught in the Department of History from 1968 to 2004. Harold and his wife Laura have endowed the Harold and Laura Greer Scholarship, awarded to an outstanding undergraduate history major who has completed at least two courses in Latin American history.

“I loved teaching at VCU and the opportunities VCU provided for wonderful students, many of whom were the first in their families to go to college. Laura and I had two main motivations in setting up a scholarship in history at VCU: as VCU’s first historian specializing in Latin America I was very interested in promoting Latin American study, and as a professor I was and am acutely aware of the costs to students -- the hard work and hardships that many endure — in pursuit of their education. Our scholarship seeks to encourage and stimulate study of Latin American history and make education more accessible through financial assistance.

Each year we look forward to meeting the recipient of the scholarship and hearing about their academic accomplishments. We continue to give every year in order to increase the award available to students, with the knowledge that there are many more deserving students we aren’t able to help.”

For decades, VCU has recognized our most generous supporters by inviting them to become members of giving societies.

VCU is fortunate to have many generous and loyal alumni and friends. VCU’s giving societies were created to honor the important role that donors play in our success and to inspire new levels of philanthropy.

Your generous gift can qualify you for membership in one of the following giving societies:

- **Founders’ Society** honors those generous individuals, corporations and foundations who have made cumulative commitments of $100,000 or more to the university or associated foundations.
- **Heritage Society** membership is accorded those who have made provisions in their estate plans for any unit(s) on VCU’s Monroe Park Campus. These gifts include charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, charitable lead trusts, life insurance and bequests regardless of the amount.
- **Black & Gold Loyalty Society** honors alumni who have made gifts to VCU for five or more consecutive fiscal years. Gifts of any amount to any area of the university are counted toward society inclusion.
- **President’s Club** recognizes the university’s most loyal, annual supporters. Individuals whose gifts total $5,000 or more or organizations whose gifts total $10,000 or more during one fiscal year are offered membership in the President’s Club.
- **The Dean’s Society** is a leadership group within the College of Humanities and Sciences. Members of the Dean’s Society have the opportunity to share in VCU’s success through special publications, correspondence, networking opportunities, and invitations to special events. The Dean’s Society has a substantial impact on the College’s sustainability and ongoing quest for excellence.

If you would like to learn more about these giving societies, please contact Bethanie Constant, Senior Director of Development at (804) 828-4543.