VCUPD takes 1st in Law Enforcement Challenge

The VCU Police Department placed first in the 2017 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge Awards. The program, lead by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, awards agencies for traffic safety education and enforcement activities in the areas of occupant protection, impaired driving and speed. VCUPD won the award in the university police category; Assistant Chief Christopher Preuss and Capt. Jonathan Siok accepted the award at a ceremony in Virginia Beach on Sept. 19. The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police & Foundation is a statewide organization of federal, state and local police chiefs and law enforcement executives dedicated to improving the professionalism of police agencies in Virginia.

Fall outreach: officers collect donations for VCU / local groups

ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL: This event, on Oct. 31 at the Siegel Center, is a safe venue for local children to take part in trick-or-treating. Sgt. Patience Butters is collecting candy donations and has a bin for drop-offs by Oct. 30 in the crime prevention office (3rd floor, VCUPD headquarters).

ACADEMY FOOD DRIVE: The 42nd VCUPD Basic Academy is collecting donations for RamPantry and Feed More. More details on page 8; donation boxes available at VCUPD headquarters, residence halls and the School of Pharmacy.

COATS FOR KIDS: Capt. Ervin “EJ” Taylor is accepting donations of coats and winter gear for the annual Puritan Cleaners Coats For Kids drive. A donation bin is in the VCUPD headquarters lobby.

Cooks wanted: Chili cook-off set for Nov. 8

Be sure to save the date for the VCUPD’s Annual Chili Cook-off on Nov. 8 @ noon. This year’s contest and tasting will be at Rodney’s in the Shafer Court Dining Center on the Monroe Park Campus.

As in past years, all VCU employees and spouses are welcome to enter as chefs. Please email Executive Coordinator Cheri Stickels to sign up: cdsticke@vcu.edu. Everyone is welcome to attend.

All proceeds will go to the FRIENDS Association for Children in Richmond. Additional details will be released soon via email and on VCUPD social media accounts! We look forward to seeing you there!
Capt. Ervin “EJ” Taylor (left in the group photo) outfitted officers and staff with bracelets for breast cancer awareness month. We're wearing these throughout October as we remember those lost to breast cancer and show our support for those who are undergoing treatment and survivors. Also, we thank the talented Massey Cancer Center team members for their work offering coordinated, compassionate right care here in Richmond.

External relations officer receives VCU president’s award

External relations Ofc. Gregory Felton is one of two VCU employees to receive a 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award from VCU and VCU Health President Michael Rao. Ofc. Felton actively works with students living off campus, has developed innovative ways of managing off-campus policing efforts and is a go-to officer for neighborhoods surrounding VCU. At an Oct. 4 ceremony, President Rao also thanked VCU staff members who have served the university for 5+ years. At VCU Police, we thank the following officers and staff members for their ongoing efforts to keep our campuses safe (years of service noted):

- Sgt. Joel Abernathy (5)
- Dispatcher Ciara Boyd (5)
- Dispatcher Angela Brown (5)
- Dir. of Emergency Preparedness Adam Crowe (5)
- Dispatch Supervisor Derek MacDonald (5)
- Property Manager Christi Schroeder (5)

- Dispatcher Katrina Carlson (10)
- Cpl. Tricia Mozingo (10)
- Sgt. Patience Butters (15)
- Sgt. Edgar Greer (15)
- Ofc. Owen Johnson (15)
- Lt. Duane Thorp (15)
- Dispatcher Todd Blair (20)
- Lt. Nicole Dailey (20)
- Cpl. Jody Atkins (30)
- Business Manager Connie Davidson (30)

October: Showing support for breast cancer awareness

External relations officer receives VCU president’s award
New students give orientations high marks

Ofc. Jose Vargas and I attended the NSO (New Student Orientation) Advisory Board Meeting and received some impressive numbers from the survey that was taken after the completion of the event. This year, 5,903 students and 4,094 guests (parents/other family members) attend NSO, the highest numbers ever for the university. Of these individuals, 2,085 completed the NSO survey. VCU Police ranked highest in “Family Program Satisfaction” compared to all other departments at VCU. In the survey, 95% were “satisfied/very satisfied” with presentations by VCUPD.

— Ofc. Jonathan Wade, Crime Prevention

Police collaborate with journalism students for fall press conference

The following note was sent to Public Information Officer Corey Byers following a press conference for broadcast journalism students on Oct. 17.

Corey,

Another big thank you to you, Assistant Chief Christopher Preuss and Capt. William Butters for taking time to help my MASC 460-001 and 002 classes with the press conference. Please pass on my thanks to both gentlemen. They were very thankful and impressed with the ease of access and professionalism all of you exhibited at the news conference. As I have said in the past, I am glad this event helps both us -- the students gaining valuable reporting experience and the VCU Police Department saving valuable time.

Sincerely,

— Ric Young, Adjunct Instructor, Robertson School

MADD honors officer for DUI enforcement

Ofc. Benjamin Bone recently received a MADD Central Virginia award for his work making DUI (driving under the influence) arrests on VCU’s campuses.

Ofc. Bone has been instrumental in educating new VCUPD officers on how to conduct DUI investigations. We thank him for helping keep drivers, pedestrians and cyclists safe at VCU.

From July 1 through Oct. 19, VCUPD collected 25.7 pounds of unused prescription drugs at the drug collection box inside the main entrance of headquarters. Police agencies use collection points such as this to give the public an alternative option to flushing unused medications — which would otherwise end up in water systems. VCUPD will destroy the medications properly. Visitors can drop off unused medications at any time, as the main entrance at 224 East Broad Street is open 24/7.
Lieutenant earns crime prevention certification

On Sept. 12, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services named Patrol Lt. Nicole Dailey a designated crime prevention specialist for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dailey is a 20-year veteran of the agency and currently oversees night patrol units.

The Well thanks detective for survivor outreach

Hi Chief Venuti,

I just wanted to take a moment to share that Det. Jason Heim linger is fantastic. I have been working with him and a student recently and I just wanted to send you a note about our interaction. Often folks do not get recognized for doing a good job, only when they mess up. He was GREAT at his job, not just good.

He was personable, compassionate, patient and affirming of the student while in my office. I, along with the student, appreciated that he explained various options and in a way that was understandable. If I did not know anybody, I would think he was a social worker!

Glad to have him on our side.

Best,

— Fatima M. Smith, MSW, Assistant Director of Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, Advocacy Services, The Wellness Resource Center

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Lt. Kyle Frail and VCUPD officers delivered sweets to VCU Health staff on Oct. 9 as part of emergency room staff and hospital security appreciation week. Thank you to the doctors, nurses, staff members and security officers who are dedicated to their patients, guests and other VCU staffers. We appreciate everything you do.

Executive Coordinator Cheri Stickels (3rd from left) has completed VCU’s Grace E. Harris leadership program. On Oct. 12, Stickels and her group presented research and plans for “Ram Resources,” an initiative to educate faculty on what VCU resources students can use to manage stress. Congrats to Cheri and the GHELI team!

Making connections across VCU

Student Affairs thanks police for planning and response to Sept. 16 protests

September 18, 2017

Chief John Venuti
Assistant Vice President and Chief of Police
224 E. Broad Street, P.O. Box 842024
Richmond, VA 23224

Dear Chief Venuti:

We write this letter today on behalf of the Division of Student Affairs to express our appreciation and gratitude to the VCU Police Department for its exemplary service and dedication to our university community on a daily basis. We wanted to acknowledge the time and effort that went into the planning leading up to events on September 16th. We appreciate that the department utilized its time and talent on the 16th to keep our university community informed, safe and able to express its viewpoints in a peaceful manner. We know that events such as this potentially put your staff in difficult situations and in harm’s way and are thankful to your staff for its commitment to first serve and also protect. We value you and your staff as members of our university community and for the numerous contributions you make in small and large ways.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Signatures]
Officer assists with hurricane recovery in St. Croix

From the Virginia National Guard on Facebook:

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team assist the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard with operating a point of distribution where citizens picked up food and water Sep. 30, 2017, at St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The soldiers are part of Joint Task Force Stonewall, the multi-state, multi-service team supporting military hurricane recovery operations on the islands. Since Sept. 27, points of distribution have supplied more than 10,300 cases of water, more than 107,000 meals and 1,900 tarps. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Katie Brooks)

The following is from former Cpl. Jody Atkins. Atkins’ last day at VCU was Oct. 16. She started at VCU in 1993 as a VCUPD dispatcher, but had worked at the university since 1987 (in the Housing office, Buildings and Grounds and the School of Medicine). Atkins graduated as a pre-service candidate with the 21st Basic Police Academy and begin her law enforcement career with VCUPD in October 1996.

We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

“After spending more than half my life working for the VCU Police Department, I have made the decision to retire from law enforcement effective Oct. 16, 2017. The decision was not easy and I am going to truly miss my Blue Line Family, many of whom I probably owe my life to. Thank you to all my family (especially Megan and Madison), who, for their entire lives have rearranged schedules for holidays, birthdays, special occasions, etc. Thank you to my friends that have supported me, and lastly thank you to all my brothers and sisters in blue. Be safe, watch each others backs, and most importantly, always remember EVERYONE GOES HOME AT NIGHT. Love, hugs, and thanks to you all! This is unit 1392 marking 10-7.”

— Jody Atkins
OCT 17- OCT 31  
VCU FOOD FIGHT

Your local campus police needs YOUR help to fight hunger this fall!

The VCU 42nd Basic Police Academy wants to come together with YOU to raise money and donations to help out our fellow Rams and the community we live in.

How Can You Help? Well....

1 pound of all donated food equals 1 meal for someone in need.

1 dollar donated is equal to 5 meals for people in need.

No one here should go hungry this fall. Help fill our food pantries and join the herd.

Please drop off any approved items to one of our donation locations listed. If you wish to provide monetary donations please e-mail Gayla Clarke at clarkego@vcu.edu.