



A Reflection on Eight Years of Service



Randy Fowler, Administrator of Vinson Hall and Willow Oak, is retiring on March 26 after eight years of service at VHRC.

When Randy Fowler started as a VHRC contract employee, serving as the Vinson Hall administrator in January 2013 until then-Chief Operating Officer Mike Hendee could get his nursing home administrator license, he thought it was for a three-month gig. After just three weeks, Randy was hired as a permanent employee. Over the past eight years, Randy's seen a good deal of change and initiated some best practices at VHRC. He's also laid the groundwork so these programs and others can continue to improve.

One of Randy's first projects was helping establish the Resident Care Associate (RCA) program. He knew there were Vinson Hall residents who weren't ready

to move to Arleigh Burke Pavilion (ABP) but needed assistance in their homes. "We told residents if you need some help, we can provide that care in your apartment without you having to move to ABP or someplace else. It was very much needed, and very much used. I'm happy to see that now the RCA program has a registered nurse to lead it."

Randy's next big task was to oversee the move-ins into Willow Oak. With the construction of that building, a review of Vinson Hall was completed to ensure that it was up to code. This review identified the need for sprinklers in all Vinson Hall apartments. Randy coordinated moving residents – four apartments at a time – to the guest rooms while sprinklers were installed. "It was a real trial, and all the residents hated it," recalled Randy. Randy is pleased to know that soon, Vinson Hall will have another upgrade with the installation of generators to provide coverage in the case of power outages.

With Randy's last day at Vinson Hall set for March 26, he is anticipating the change of pace that will be coming to his life soon. He also expects that he will miss many aspects of life at VHRC. "What I'm going to miss the most are the residents. I will miss the hallway encounters and the time to talk with people. I'll also miss the staff. A number of the staff have been just terrific to work with. I've seen growth and happiness in a lot of folks and that has been a pleasure to witness."

A Man of Many Parts

When Mike Scott was in college at Cornell, you always knew where to find him. "I would say that I really majored in the Cornell Daily Sun," says Mike, who spent up to 30 hours a week writing for one of the best college newspapers in the country. His plan was to use his writing skills in law school. But as a naval ROTC student, first came military service – and the Korean War. "The war started while I was in college, so three months after graduation I was sitting on a ship firing shells at the Korean coastline," says Mike, who served three years on the same West Coast Destroyer. "I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. I felt as though I was doing something for my country."

After graduating from law school at the University of Michigan, Mike spent a year in Geneva in graduate school, then came back to the States to serve as a Naval Reserve Intelligence officer and start his law career. He settled into a law firm, focused on international business, opened the firm's office in Washington, D.C., and stayed for 30 years. "The joy of my experience there was that I got to travel all over the world. I was very lucky."

Mike discovered another joy during these years. On a lark, he auditioned for a small part in *Don't Drink the Water*, a Woody Allen play, for Great Falls Players. "After the audition, they called me back and told me I'd been cast as the lead. I was terrified – I'd never had a course in acting!" That changed. Since that first



Mike Scott next to a model of the destroyer that he served on from 1952 to 1955.

role, "I've audited enough courses at George Mason to qualify for a theater major." For the past four decades, local theater has continued to be Mike's focus. When Great Falls Players became McLean Community Players, Mike shifted from acting in plays to producing them and serving on the Players board. "My dream was to do *Carousel*, which I regard as one of the finest American musicals ever written, and we were all set to do it. Then the pandemic hit." Still, he's not giving up on future projects – or his theater passion. "I'd use the word 'fun,' Mike clarifies. "I wouldn't have stayed with it so long, if it weren't!"

The Campus Voice

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