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# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**J**efferson College of Health Sciences continues to thrive! As I contemplate my second anniversary as president, there is much to celebrate. Perhaps the event that filled us with the most pride this year was receiving the news that the College was approved to become a Carnegie Level III institution — which means we are able to offer master's degrees in addition to our associate and baccalaureate degrees! We received the good news in July from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the organization authorized by the U. S. Department of Education to accredit educational institutions in the southern region of the country. Our plan is to begin our Master's of Science in Nursing program in Fall 2005, and we are already looking for the best and brightest students to fill those seats. The response from our colleagues in the



Photo by Bever Alamy Photography

“We will begin our MSN program in Fall 2005, and we are already looking for the best and brightest students to fill those seats.”

Carilion and broader community has been heartwarming, and we eagerly anticipate this new challenge.

We are also very excited about the rise in enrollment at Jefferson this fall, a direct result of the excellent work by Judith McKeon, her Admissions staff, and many others. The number of new students who enrolled in JCHS in August, 2004 was 329, the largest first-year class ever! This represents a more than 50 percent increase over the 209 new students who enrolled in August, 2003. As I write this, there are 745 students learning and beginning their careers in classrooms here in Reid Center, and in our Roanoke Higher Education Center facility. All of our professional programs are full, and more are enrolled in our pre-professional programs, preparing themselves for admission in 2005. We have students from throughout Virginia and 15 additional states, our most geographically diversified class to date.

We are rebuilding our Alumni Association and appreciate the dedication of the new Alumni Board of Directors! The Alumni Board will be leading the way for our alumni events and initiatives and will be working to reconnect the College with our recent and past graduates. We plan to provide opportunities for alumni to get back in touch with each other, to invite their advice, counsel, and support as we continue our mission.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to provide leadership to JCHS as well as to be led and inspired by the faculty and staff of this institution. Their loyalty to the College and their commitment to students are evident every day. Our faculty and staff have risen to the challenge of serving more students, investing more energy, and adapting to more changes. Thank you, members of the JCHS community, for your trust and support through this year of change, challenge, growth, and success. I look forward to the future and more of the same!

Carol M. Seavor, R.N., Ed.D.  
President

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