

C-Suite Conversations

**January 14, 2015
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
University of Richmond
Queally Hall, Ukrop Auditorium**



**Thomas A. Silvestri
President and Publisher, Richmond Times-Dispatch
Vice President, Richmond Group BH Media Group**

To speed up introductions, Tom submits this condensed version of his 35-plus-year career in the news media.

He's advanced in his profession as a stringer, reporter, copy/line editor, business editor, deputy managing editor, division staff executive, the president of a community newspaper group, publisher of a mid-size newspaper, vice president of a regional group and a Sunday columnist. In Richmond, he's mostly known for the Richmond Times-Dispatch's engagement initiative call the Public Square, which has been hailed by the community for demonstrating civil public conversations on important topics.

He's learned the importance of resilience after going through complicated mergers, the surprise sale of his long-time employer, many product launches, innovations, reductions in workforce, countless system changes, a major fire at a production plant, an earthquake and violent weather that disrupted operations at inopportune times.

His distinctions include induction into the Virginia Commonwealth University's Virginia Communications Hall of Fame, alumnus of the year from VCU, Pace University and Leadership Metro Richmond, and top leadership positions in community, regional and national groups.

The first in his family to earn a college degree, he continues to learn every day.

He's thankful for the support of his wife, Sue Kurzman, during the many peaks and valleys of transitional businesses, as well as from a special group of mentors and assistants whose boosts along the way always will be appreciated.