Diane Mathews spent the first half of her career as a dedicated medical technologist, analyzing blood and other fluids in a clinical laboratory, diagnosing blood related cancers alongside pathologists. But something changed at age 35, while working in Virginia, when Mathews found herself on the other end of the diagnosis. She would spend a full year of her life waging a successful fight against breast cancer but using every possible weapon, including surgery, reconstruction, radiation and a bone marrow transplant.

"After surviving breast cancer, I decided I didn't just want to look through the microscope anymore," Mathews said. "After a life-threatening diagnosis, you realize that you're not guaranteed another day, let alone a year or years. You become braver."

She wanted to go back to school, to get out of the lab and into the community. She wanted to help people.

In 1994 Mathews enrolled in the Master of Science in Health Professions Education program formerly offered at MUSC's College of Health Professions. And there she found purpose for the second half of her working life.

Following graduation, her mentor suggested a job at the Lowcountry Area Health Education Center (AHEC). AHEC connects students to health-care careers and professionals to continuing education opportunities, all with the goal of improving statewide access to quality medical care.

Mathews applied for a coordinator position in rural Hampton County and landed the job on the spot. She packed up her life and moved to nearby Walterboro.

"I believe in trying to get primary care providers into the rural and underserved areas," Mathews said. "I also believe in diversifying the work force."

The way she sees it, people are more likely to get the medical care they need if they can relate to the people offering that help. September will mark Mathews' 20th anniversary with AHEC -- her entire post-graduate career.

Dr. David Garr, executive director of South Carolina AHEC, said Mathews' commitment to community health reflects in every program that she oversees. Her new office, he said, stands as a physical reminder of her dedication. Not only does AHEC's new headquarters serve as a training center but also an educational space available to other local groups. "They really are a community-responsive organization," Garr said. "I think Diane often reminds us that we are the voice of the people we're serving."

On a recent lunch meeting at a café inside a Christmas decoration store in downtown Walterboro, she paused periodically to wave to other local residents passing by. A Chicago native, Mathews said she loves the close-knit community of which she's become such a significant fiber.

"People look for meaning in life, and you have to think about what has made a difference for you and to you," Mathews said. "For me, this is what made a difference."

Seven years ago she married Colleton County Public Defender David Mathews. The couple met when she reported for jury duty, complaining about missing work, and he helped her find a place to park.

Mathews credits her alma mater, in part, for the life she's built. She recently made a planned gift in her estate to establish a minority scholarship at the College of Health Professions. A child of divorced parents, Mathews received a full scholarship to Wayne State University in Detroit. "In order to be able to go to college, I needed that scholarship," she said. She hopes that her own gift can help aspiring health-care workers in a similar way.

"After a life-threatening diagnosis, you realize that you're not guaranteed another day, let alone a year or years. You become braver."
“CHP Off the Old Block”

Want to share your new baby news?

New parents and grandparents, we want to celebrate your new addition - and A CHP Off the Old Block - with you!

Please send your news (name and address) to BrownLau@musc.edu and receive a free baby shirt! (size 12 mos.)

All we ask is that you send a picture of your little one wearing the shirt to share with the MUSC College of Health Professions Family.

Rohan Seo Rick, son of Na Jin Seo, Associate Professor, Division of Occupational Therapy, and her husband Anthony.

Dalton Andrew Jackson, son of Savannah Jackson, OT Class of 2013, and her husband Tyler.

Joy Williams, daughter of Merin Williams, CSD Class of 2007, and her husband Clay.

Aria Smith (left) and Cali Smith (right), daughters of Sarah Euzaldo Smith, PT Class of 2009, and husband Scott Adam Smith, PT Class of 2003.

Claire Elizabeth Heiling and Elias “Eli” Heiling, daughter and son of Shannon Heiling, PA Class of 2014, and her husband Brook.

Kameryn Lee Stokes, daughter of Megan Stokes, OT Class of 2014, and her husband Joseph.

Reese Isabella Axson, daughter of Schapla Axson, OT Class of 2011, and her husband TJ.

Catherine Watkins, granddaughter of Eleanor Durgee, Medical Technology Class of 1989 and 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient.

Eli Amick, son of Jennifer Amick, PT Class of 2007, and her husband Robbie.

Claire Elizabeth Heiling and Elias “Eli” Heiling, daughter and son of Shannon Heiling, PA Class of 2014, and her husband Brook.
Rolling Over your IRA has never looked so good and the legislation is now permanent! If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can roll over your Required Minimum Distribution to MUSC to make a Charitable Gift without being included in your gross income. Gifts up to $100,000 can be made and the transfer must go directly from your IRA to MUSC. It is an easy way to make a year-end gift!

For more information, please visit http://muscgiving.org/?pageID=158 or contact the Office of Planned Giving at 843-792-0002 or by email at CoxL@musc.edu.
I am delighted to share with you the great news that Dr. Lisa Saladin, Interim Provost at MUSC, was recently recognized as the recipient of the 2016 Women Scholar Initiative Advancement in Women Award. This award recognizes MUSC faculty members who best demonstrate excellence in their commitment to the advancement and promotion of women faculty at the Medical University of South Carolina. Congratulations, Dr. Saladin!

Mark Bowden, PT, PhD
Dr. Bowden was recently named the Division Director for the Physical Therapy Program. Reach Mark at 843-792-5036 or bowdennm@musc.edu.

Jillian Harvey, PhD
Dr. Harvey was recently named the Division Director for the Doctor in Health Administration Programs. Reach Jillian at 843-792-3431 or harveyji@musc.edu.

Abby Kazley, PhD
Dr. Kazley was recently named Division Director for the Masters of Science in Health Informatics Program. Reach Abby at 843-792-0012 or swansoaj@musc.edu.

Helen Martin, DHSc, PA-C
Dr. Martin was recently named the Division Director of the Physician Assistant Studies Program. Reach Helen at 843-792-0404 or marthele@musc.edu.

Advancing The Mission

Three years ago, Dr. Saladin created an Advancement Council composed of volunteer leaders who function in an advisory capacity to support the advancement of the College of Health Professions. These dedicated individuals serve as friends and ambassadors and seek to enhance the resources of the College. I would like to thank two of our founding Council members, Mrs. Suzanne Pollak and Mr. Jamie Thomas, for their invaluable service to the Council over the past three years and welcome three new members: Mrs. Sherlonda Adkins, PAS, Class of 2014; Mr. Troy Powell, OTR/L, MHA, Service Line Director, Roper Rehabilitation Services and Mr. Hugh Tappan, MHA, MBA, HCA South Atlantic Division President. Also, thank you to those inaugural Council members who continue to serve, including Ms. Barbara Christie, Council Chair, Dr. Stephen Jones, DHA, Class of 1999, Dr. Brian Poplin, DHA, Class of 2010.

We bid farewell to these loyal and dedicated volunteer leaders – with our deepest gratitude!

Kevin Briggs, Cytotechnology, 2000
Meghan Falatok, Masters in Health Professions Education, 1997
Janelle Hicks, Masters in Health Services Administration, 1987
Christine Ramsey, Occupational Therapy, 2005
As part of its 50th Anniversary celebration, the College of Health Professions is inviting its alumni, friends and other supporters to join it in a philanthropic partnership that will ensure continued success, growth and progress for the next 50 years and beyond.

Our vision is to improve the health of populations by developing and inspiring health scientists and leaders. We will achieve this vision through significant investments in the five areas below, which together will empower us to:

- Develop new and better ways to care for our patients;
- Serve our most vulnerable populations;
- Incorporate our services out into the community, where they are needed most;
- Attract the best and brightest students; and
- Transform our students into agents of change who will lead the American healthcare system successfully through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The Center for Rehabilitation Research in Neurological Conditions

The Center for Rehabilitation Research in Neurological Conditions brings together the expertise, ambition and environment needed to set global standards in neurological rehabilitation research. To fulfill this vision, the Center needs to invest in the following two assets:

- **Endowed Chair in Spinal Cord Injury**
  
  **Goal:** $1 million to recruit and support a preeminent scientist-leader to develop novel rehabilitative strategies for the 276,000 Americans living with spinal cord injuries.

- **Pilot Project Funding**
  
  **Goal:** $100,000 to provide seed funding for preliminary investigations until they can secure external funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Veterans Administration.

Scholarships: Creating Opportunities for Future Generations

**Goal:** $500,000 to provide scholarships for both doctoral (PhD) research students and health professions student that will help us recruit and retain the most diverse and gifted students, especially those who otherwise might not be able to pursue a career in the allied-health sciences. Currently, over 90 percent of our 750+ students qualify for financial support. Yet, the College now has only 40 scholarship funds, none of which provide full tuition support.

Outreach and Service: Enhancing the Health of our Communities

**Goal:** $51,200 to support the free, student-run CARES therapy clinic that provides more than 1,250 patient visits each year to uninsured and underserved local residents who otherwise would not access to any other treatment options. Gifts designated for this purpose will be used specifically for functional electrical stimulation, transportation, equipment, administrative operations and electronic medical records.

Pediatric Rehabilitation

**Goal:** $100,000 to create and support a rehabilitation program designed to meet the special needs of children with physical and cognitive impairments. A significant part of this program's efforts will be aimed at providing caregivers at home, in schools and other locations in the community with the knowledge and techniques needed to provide continual reinforcement and create life-changing change in these patients.

Endowed Chair: An Investment in Continued Excellence

**Goal:** $1,000,000 to establish an Endowed Chair in the Department of Healthcare Leadership and Management. The department was founded in 1980's to provide future healthcare managers, administrators and leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the ever-changing landscape of healthcare delivery, with an emphasis on reducing costs, improving access, and enhancing quality of care.

Given the rapid pace of change in healthcare delivery, it is imperative that the department be led by a world-class authority in healthcare leadership and management on a continuing, perpetual basis. An endowed chair provides us with a means of recruiting, retaining and supporting that individual.

We are proud of what the College of Health Professions has achieved in its first 50 years, as measured by the contributions and achievements of alumni and supporters such as you. We hope you will join us as we celebrate this extraordinary milestone and make the commitments needed to ensure continued growth and progress in the years to come!

To learn more about these and other giving opportunities at the MUSC College of Health Professions, please call Leslie Brady at (843) 792-8547 or visit us at musc.edu/chpgiving.
You Have Permission to Engage

The Department of Healthcare Leadership and Management held on the 19th Annual MUSC Healthcare Leadership Conference held Friday, October 21 at the Charleston, SC Area Convention Center attracted students, faculty, alumni and healthcare administrators from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour, America’s first African American female combat pilot was conference keynote speaker and she delivered an inspiring talk. She shared seven strategies for finding and following your passion through the Zero to Breakthrough movement of inspired courage and action.

Step one: Develop consciousness and awareness
Step two: Stop procrastinating and prepare
Step three: Execute situations with self-discipline
Step four: Acknowledge and move past obstacles and challenges
Step five: Feel fear and focus anyway
Step six: Success is not a final destination
Step seven: Complete integration

A special thanks to all speakers, sponsors, and attendees who helped make the conference a true success!

Blazing the Trail
Congrats to our Inaugural Graduating Classes!

Master of Science in Health Informatics
Last December, the MUSC Master of Science in Health Informatics (MSHI) held its first graduation ceremony. The inaugural class had 20 graduates who completed the four semester program. The graduation ceremony was held at St. Luke’s chapel, and a reception in the CHP Atrium followed the ceremony. Graduates and their families celebrated and were addressed by Drs. Jim Zoller, Jamie DelliFraine, and Karen Wager. The class included physicians, nurses, and other health care providers who wish to grow their careers in the area of informatics. Coursework included database management, health care management, and ethical studies. The students completed either a thesis or a capstone project their final semester under the supervision of a mentor. Many currently work in the health care field in the field of informatics.

Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice
The MUSC Anesthesia for Nurses Program held its graduation ceremony last December. Twenty-three Masters of Science in Nurse Anesthesia (MSNA) students along with three Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) students received their diplomas. Janice Izlar, DNAP, CRNA delivered the commencement address encouraging the graduates to provide excellence in patient safety and to be engaged in advocating for the profession of nurse anesthesia. Hannah Secunda, RN, MSNA received the Agatha Hodgins Award and Amy Schmoll, CRNA received the Excellence in Clinical Instruction Award. Dean’s Awards were presented to Eric Kern, RN, MSNA, Hanna Secunda, RN, MSNA, and Katherine Lowry, RN, DNAP. Congratulations to our inaugural DNAP- post-Master degree students: Drs. Dennis McKenna, Seth Long, and Katherine Lowry! Congratulations to our new CRNA graduates as they embark on this rewarding career!

CVP’s 18th Annual Update on Perfusion Devices Conference
The conference had over 130 attendees and 17 guest speakers who gave TED-type talks on the “Team Approach to Cardiac Surgery.” Mr. David Fitzgerald CCP was the keynote speaker. Special thanks to MUSC Department of Surgery: Drs. John Ikonomidis, Matt Toole, Castillo-Sang, Scott Bradley, and Minoo Kavarana.

Save The Date for this year’s Update on Perfusion Conference: October 26-28, 2017
CARES Therapy Clinic Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, May 1, 2017
The Links at Stono Ferry
9:00am - 6:00pm
(7:30am registration check in and range opens; 9:00am shotgun with a Texas Scramble)

breakfast and bloody mary bar | post-play cookout
raffle & silent auction | gifts and prizes!

Registration and Sponsorship Opportunities Available!
Registration deadline is April 19th.
Contact Lauren Brown at brownlau@musc.edu or 843-792-9134

Proceeds support the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment designed to better care for patients suffering from neurological and musculoskeletal impairments.

Visit: musc.edu/chp
or find our event on Facebook to learn more and to register

ALUMNI UPDATES
You Make Us Proud!

★ Kelli Mendoza, BHS ’10, MHA ’16 – Medical Center managers were recognized for their leadership, performance, and accomplishments at the MUSC Health Leadership Development Institute meeting. Kellie Mendoza received the Service Award. Congratulations, Kellie!

★ Ali Whitten, PA ’13, is working in family medicine with Greenville Health System in Traveler’s Rest, SC. She married Lee Von Hufc on September 17, 2016. She is active in SCAPA leadership and AAPA House of Delegates. Way to go Ali!

Submit your good news to brownlau@musc.edu and thank you!
Look Who’s Celebrating 50!
The College of Health Professions is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and we want to celebrate with you!
Visit musc.edu/chp50

MUSC College of Health Professions | Academic Programs
Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Studies
Master of Science in Cardiovascular Perfusion
Master of Health Administration
Master of Science in Health Informatics
Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia
Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies
Doctor of Health Administration
Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice
Doctor of Physical Therapy
PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Science
musc.edu/chp

2017 AOTA Annual Conference & Centennial Celebration
Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA – March 30 – April 2, 2017
Visit: aota.org/conference-events/annual-conference.aspx
OT ALUMNI RECEPTION April 1, 6:00-8:00pm
Field House Filly, Philadelphia, PA
Kindly RSVP to Terri Bozzelli at 843-792-2023 or bozzelta@musc.edu

3rd Annual MUSC Physician Assistant Alumni CME Conference
MUSC College of Health Professions, Charleston, SC May 5-7
Visit: musc.edu/chp/pa/cme/alumniconference.htm

30th Annual Charleston Anesthesia Conference
Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, SC, May 18-21, 2017
AFN ALUMNI RECEPTION May 20, 4:15-6:00pm
For more information, contact Dr. Mund at mund@musc.edu
Visit: musc.edu/chp/afn/cac/index.htm

2017 Leadership Lecture Series
Charleston Place, Charleston, SC
June 9, 2017
5th Annual Maralynne D. Mitcham Lectureship and Alumni Luncheon
MUSC College of Health Professions
Charleston, SC – July 14, 2017
Visit: musc.edu/chp/ot/mmitcham

20th Annual Healthcare Leadership Conference
October 13, 2017
Additional details coming soon!

19th Annual Update on Perfusion Conference
MUSC College of Health Professions
Charleston, SC – October 26-28 2017

You’re Invited...Save These Dates!