Barbara Christie had seen firsthand the physical devastation that strokes can bring to the people who survive them.

“I spent part of my career in surgical equipment sales – mainly neurosurgical – so I spent a lot of time in operating rooms and saw a lot of stroke patients,” she said.

Her perspective became more personal in 2012, when her uncle suffered a stroke that left him with lingering physical disabilities. “He never made much progress in rehabilitation. He still can’t talk, and is paralyzed on one side.”

Through a friend who worked in MUSC’s College of Health Professions, Barbara heard about some interesting work taking place at the college’s Center for Rehabilitation Research in Neurological Conditions. She decided to take a tour.

“My family has a small foundation,” she said. “So after the tour, I called my parents and said, ‘You need to come see this. I think we might have an opportunity here.’”

Stuart and Sheila Christie visited in 2013 and were so impressed that they made a gift to establish the college’s first endowed chair, dedicated to stroke rehabilitation research.

Later, in November 2015, Barbara volunteered to chair the school’s newly created advancement council. When the college celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016, she decided to make her own gift to the research center.

“I felt I needed to set an example. It’s putting your money where your mouth is,” said Barbara. “For me, philanthropy is time, treasure and talent. You can’t do one and not the others. You need the full package. And I saw this as an opportunity to do that.”

Barbara’s gift is helping researchers explore ways to restore physical function in people whose central nervous systems have been damaged by stroke, injury or disease.

Aiko Thompson, Ph.D., principal investigator for the Barbara S. Christie Evoked Potential Operant Conditioning Laboratory, said the lab is exploring the nervous system’s “plasticity,” its ability to rebuild new neuron-to-neuron connections around damaged sections.

“Our long-term goal is to learn how to guide this plasticity, so that we can help restore useful movement function in people after central nervous system damage,” said Dr. Thompson.

“What we do is experimental, but when our hypothesis is correct, the study patients in our program get direct benefits from participation; that is, they improve walking and other daily movement functions.”

Dr. Lisa Saladin, Barbara Christie, and Dr. Aiko Thompson outside of the Barbara S. Christie Evoked Potential Operant Conditioning Laboratory.

“Dr. Saladin, who now serves as the Medical University’s provost, was ‘surprised and humbled’ to learn of Barbara’s gift in her honor.

“The foundation of my leadership has always been to find the best people, provide them with the right resources and empower them to do their best work. So in a way, Barbara’s gift really is a positive reflection on our entire faculty and student body,” said Dr. Saladin. “I am very grateful for her belief and confidence in the work we’re doing here and for her support and friendship.”

Dr. Thompson shares research data with Barbara Christie in her Laboratory.

“Research with Results

By Allyson Crowell
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs

“It’s a lab where you can actually see the results very quickly. That’s extremely gratifying for me, for the researchers and of course for the patients. It gives you hope, to know that this is not the end of the road.”

“I’ve watched her from afar, with students and faculty, and you can just tell when someone responds well to leadership. It’s just been very, very positive.”

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The 2017 College of Health Professions Alumni Awards Ceremony and Luncheon was dedicated to the late, Ms. Mary Eileen Leonard, an iconic and beloved figure in Charleston Medicine. A Medical Technology graduate from the Class of 1947, Ms. Leonard received the College of Health Professions Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993. The College is proud to honor her great legacy through the recent establishment of the Mary Eileen Leonard Scholars Program to provide student scholarships.

This annual ceremony was presided over by Courtney O’Neill Roldan, President, CHP Alumni Association Board and Dr. James S Zoller, MHA, Ph.D., Interim Dean.

2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award
Dr. Michael O. Ugwueke
Doctor of Health Administration Class of 2001

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor bestowed by the College and is given annually to one or more graduates in recognition of:
• Outstanding professional achievement,
• Service to the individual’s profession, the community, the College, and/or the University,
• Excellence in leadership, professional growth, and/or educational advancement or service.

Dr. Ugwueke’s impressive story spans far beyond where he now lives in Memphis. He was born in Nigeria and immigrated to the United States when he was 21 with aspirations to work in healthcare after seeing illness, death and turmoil during Nigeria’s civil war. Dr. Ugwueke is an esteemed 2001 graduate from the College of Health Professions Doctor of Health Administration program. He is a transformational leader, who serves as the president and chief executive officer of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, a nonprofit health-care system based in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Ugwueke is a compassionate director who exhibits a willingness to accept new challenges and a recognized industry expert on strategic planning, quality and customer service, to name a few. He is also a trusted consultant, whose industry knowledge is sought after nationally.

A beloved advisor and mentor to several young leaders in the health-care industry, Dr. Ugwueke provides learning opportunities and support to other minority executives. He is humble and loyal to the needs of his community through service to multiple nonprofit organizations. Congratulations!

Inaugural Award: 2017 Service Award
Dr. Adrienne T. Hunter
Doctor of Health Administration Class of 2005

This award is presented annually to one or more graduates who have given selflessly through extraordinary activities that benefit the University, the College, their community/organizations and/or profession. Recipients serve as a role model of volunteerism and inspiration for others.

Dr. Adrienne Hunter joined us by way of a pre-recorded video from Malawi, a small country on the continent of Africa. She is deployed with the CDC in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world and serves as an expert advisor in the CDC’s health informatics division. Giving back is part of her genetic make-up. A consummate advocate for underserved and impoverished women and children around the world, Dr. Hunter can often be found using her “vacation time” to service others. All of this while living with a chronic illness that she overcomes with a positive outlook and passionate perseverance. Congratulations Dr. Hunter!
Inaugural Award:
2017 Outstanding Achievements in Research Award
Dr. Kendrea L. Garand
PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Class of 2014

This award is presented annually to an alumnus of the College who makes meaningful contributions to scientific knowledge of their profession and has demonstrated excellence in the performance of research.

Dr. Garand demonstrates a rare degree of initiative, passion and commitment to her career in the field of speech-language pathology. Her nominator and Division Director of our PhD Program, Dr. Heather Bonilha, referred to her as a “triple-threat” as an early stage investigator, teacher and clinical scientist. Her education is unique and in fact, no one else in the world has her combined clinical doctorate and research doctorate degrees. She has received VA research funding and multiple research related awards. Dr. Garand has over 9 scholarly publications and over 40 scientific proceedings to date. She has recently accepted a position at the University of Alabama where we are confident she will continue her productive career path working with patients with age-related, neurological disease. Congratulations!

Inaugural Award:
2017 Emerging Leader Award
Dr. Eric S. Weaver
Doctor of Health Administration Class of 2016

This award is presented annually to one or more graduates who have shown exemplary leadership and dedication towards the MUSC’s College of Health Professions and/or their organized profession. Alumni nominees may have been in practice ten years or less.

Dr. Weaver is nationally recognized for his work in primary care transformation and value-based care. He is the President of Central Texas Market of Innovista Health Solutions in Austin, TX. As a young healthcare executive, he has led several accountable Care Organizations to great success and was recently awarded the:
• ACHE “Young Healthcare Executive of The Year,”
• Modern Healthcare “Up and Comers” Award, and
• Becker’s Hospital Review List of Rising Stars: 25 Healthcare Leaders under 40.

Dr. Weaver also strives to lead a life of significance by serving others and taking on challenges, with a determined spirit. Congratulations!

MUSC College of Health Professions Alumni Association Board members, former Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients, and 2017 Alumni Award Recipients.
DEAN’S CORNER

I am pleased to share the following announcement, which was made by President David J. Cole, regarding our former Dean, Dr. Lisa Saladin, and her appointment as provost. Join me as we extend our heartfelt congratulations!

President Cole

After engagement with a talented pool of candidates from notable institutions across the country, Lisa emerged as the top candidate to assume the Provost’s responsibilities. She possesses a clear understanding of the complexity of her new role since she has served as the MUSC Interim Provost since July 2016. She is the second female Provost in MUSC history.

Lisa brings more than 23 years of experience as an academic administrator to this pivotal position. Prior to serving as Interim Provost, Lisa was Dean and Professor for the College of Health Professions for five years, and Interim Dean and Professor for the college for one year. A physical therapist by training, she spent more than two decades honing a diverse skill set as a much-lauded educator, strategically focused administrator, data-driven, nationally recognized leader, and successful collaborator and network builder in domains that include research, student and faculty recruitment, and diversity and inclusion.

Her accomplishments at the college level include strategic recruitment of nationally recognized faculty and allocation of resources to support the expansion of research, which led to a 171 percent growth rate in the total, annual monetary value of CHP Operating Margins. Due to the targeted recruitment of outstanding leaders and faculty members for the 12 CHP educational degree programs, the college has operated on positive margins. Lisa is responsible for four consecutive years of positive Operating Margins, which led to a 171 percent growth rate in the total, annual monetary value of CHP Operating Margins.

Also as a result of the new initiatives that Lisa fostered in the CHP research and education domains, the college’s total revenues increased from $28.7 million to $34.6 million from 2013-2016, resulting in four consecutive years of positive operating margins. Due to the targeted recruitment of outstanding leaders and faculty members for the 12 CHP educational degree programs, the college has top-ranked programs with the number of applicants increasing by 67.5 percent in the past five years. The master’s in occupational therapy program has been ranked 17th (tied) in the country by U.S. News & World Report; the doctorate degree program in physical therapy ranks 28th (tied) out of 233 accredited programs and; the master’s degree program in nurse anesthesia ranks 29th out of 127 accredited programs.

Lisa is well recognized nationally as a leader in her field. As Vice President of the American Physical Therapy Association, she is active in the physical therapy academic community, and she has received numerous academic awards, recognitions and scholarships, including the South Carolina Governor’s Distinguished Professor Award and three MUSC Health Sciences Foundation Awards for Excellence in Education. She has penned or contributed to a wide variety of publications, including textbooks, abstracts and journals. Lisa has also served as an invited presenter at seminars, workshops, conferences and professional meetings across the nation, as well as in Canada and the Netherlands.

As the Provost she will be responsible for institutional vision setting, strategic planning, plus oversight and investment for education and biomedical research. Senior direct reports to the Provost include the Vice President for Research, Associate Provost for Educational Affairs and Student Life, the deans of the six colleges, and the Director of the Hollings Cancer Center. The Provost is directly accountable to the President and works closely with senior leadership to ensure that the strategic directions and policies of the university are aligned with the academic mission. In the absence of the President, the Provost acts as the chief executive officer for MUSC.

For 26 years, Lisa has demonstrated commitment, creativity and passion as a leader and contributor to the MUSC community. Her myriad achievements as a college administrator and as interim provost have made a tangible difference for both the College of Health Professions (CHP) and for our entire institution.

ALUMNI UPDATES

You Make Us Proud!

- Megan Fulton, MPAS, PA-C, Class of 2007 - celebrated her one year work anniversary April 1st as Director of PA Practice for MUSC Health. Her trifold role consists of hospital executive leadership, clinical practice in Neurosurgery, and adjunct faculty for the MUSC PA program.

- Hayley Plant, PA Class of 2016 - married Duncan Bryan on February 25, 2017 in Charleston, SC. Congratulations, Hayley & Duncan!

- William Rau, DHA Class of 2001 - was awarded the Life Fellow status from the American College of Healthcare Executives. Congratulations, William!

- William Pearson, MHA Class of 1999 - also completed his PhD from the Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina and is currently working/excelling in the field of public health.

Submit your good news to brownlau@musc.edu and thank you!
“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 mailing 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.

Saora Marie Hajzus, daughter of Vanessa Hajzus, PA Class of 2014, and her husband Charlie.


Tanner Hicks, grandson of Janelle Hicks, MHSA Class of 1986.

Ivy Grace Wilson, daughter of Joy Wilson, OT Class of 2002.


DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Did you know that you can double the impact of your gift? Contact your Human Resources department today to find out if your gift can be matched and help Change What’s Possible!
The College of Health Professions welcomed a record breaking crowd for the annual Showcasing Success Ceremony and Luncheon recognizing our generous donors, faculty and staff, and outstanding student scholarship recipients! The MUSC Gospel Choir began the event with an inspiring performance. Over $80,000 in scholarships were awarded!
SHOWCASING SUCCESS

PT student Madisson Darms, also receives the Bantam Scholarship.

PT student Madisson Darms and PA student Jonathan Szuchy receive the CHP Endowed Scholarship.

PT student Shannon Wood receives the Division of Physical Therapy Scholarship.

PT student Kristen Fuss receives the Division of Physical Therapy Scholarship.

MHA student, Michaela MctMorris receives the Jamie and Emily Thomas Scholarship.

OT student Annika Jansson, receives the Charleston Miracle League’s Patty Coker-Bolt Scholarship.

OT student Katharina Faerber, receives the Charleston Miracle League’s Patty Coker-Bolt Scholarship.

PT student Caitlin Keller, receives the CHP Student Government Association Scholarship.

Medical University of South Carolina | College of Health Professions Newsletter, Summer 2017
PA student Kayla Smith, receives the Kitty Lou Tilghman Scholarship
PT student Luke Davidson, receives the Salvatore Scaletta Education & Scholarship Award
PhD Student, Amada Herrmann, receives the Salvatore Scaletta Education & Scholarship Award
MHA student, Patrick Doolittle, receives the W. Stuart and Barbara Smith Endowed Scholarship
AFN student Sean Newby, receives the Anesthesia for Nurses Scholarship
PA student Ina TROUTMAN, receives the D. G. Akins, Jr. MD Scholarship
DHA student Tamara Atkinson (not pictured), receives the Brown Family Book Scholarship
AFN student, Martha Strum, receives the Mary Ann Cone Scholarship

MHA student, Kadijah Houston, receives the HCA/DeMarco Endowed Scholarship

Recent CVP graduate, Amy Phelps (not pictured), receives the James Palmer Dearing Memorial Scholarship

PA student, Elizabeth Hill, receives the Elizabeth P. Gouge Memorial PA Scholarship

PT student Ashley Bailey (not pictured) receives the Kenneth and Cozie Thomas Memorial Scholarship

PA student, Rio Spagnolo, receives the Will Hagood Memorial Scholarship

AFN student, Deleisha McFadden, receives the Kim Martino Minority Scholarship

MHA student, Kadijah Houston, receives the Kim Martino Minority Scholarship
Honored, but not pictured: OT students Julianna Paese and Kallyn Colclough, receive the Graduate Incentive Scholarship. Kallyn Colclough also received the Edith and Vincent Peng Endowed Scholarship

If you have made a provision for MUSC in your estate plans, we would like to thank you personally. Please consider letting us know so we can celebrate you and your legacy, during your lifetime. Whether anonymous or not, we sincerely hope to hear from you and honor your wishes.

Leslie M. Brady
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs
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Linda Cox
Director of Gift Planning
MUSC, Office of Development
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HONORING A CHAMPION

Dr. Dennis McKenna, DNAP CRNA, MHS Class of 1992 and DNAP Class of 2016, was honored with the prestigious 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. McKenna was recognized for his extraordinary leadership, commitment, and clinical expertise in the field of anesthesia. He has served as an advocate for the professions throughout his career, serving in leadership positions at both the state and national level. Dr. McKenna also demonstrated academic leadership by being the first MUSC CRNA to graduate from our inaugural DNAP program. He remains committed to the College and AFN program. Dr. McKenna contributes by teaching courses, coordinating the student experience at MUSC, and serving as a mentor. He is sought after as a leader in clinical decision making, the use of ultrasound technology, and the translation of research to practice. Congratulations Dr. McKenna!

This prestigious award was presented at the AFN Alumni Reception during The Charleston Anesthesia Conference in Charleston, SC. Current clinical and professional issues in nurse anesthesia practice were offered to over 160 attendees! Many alumni participated, presented, and attended the conference, and the AFN program remains grateful for their continued support.

BECOME A CHP CHAMPION!
Recurring Gift Program

For the cost of a specialty cup of coffee or dinner once a month, you can support your favorite area in the College of Health Professions through a recurring gift donation! It’s easy and makes a difference.

YOUR GIFT OF $5 A MONTH = $60 annually and will help build our endowed scholarship fund for deserving CHP students!

YOUR GIFT OF $10 A MONTH = $120 annually and will provide pediatric supplies for children with hemiplegia cerebral palsy at our annual Camp Hand to Hands!

YOUR GIFT OF $25 A MONTH = $300 annually and will help provide laboratory supplies!

YOUR GIFT OF $50 A MONTH = $600 Annually and will help provide much needed transportation assistance to CARES Therapy Clinic patients who otherwise would have no access to therapy services!

To become a CHP CHAMPION, please complete the enclosed envelope in this newsletter. You may also visit: musc.edu/giving or call Lauren Brown at 843-792-9134 and let us take care of the details for you!
How May We Help You?

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YOU'RE INVITED to stay connected

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2082748 MUSC Health Professions Alumni  
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/toomusc 
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/muscchp 
Twitter: https://twitter.com/muscchp

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  
Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia Practice  
Doctor of Physical Therapy  
PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Science

www.musc.edu/chp

You're invited to help us  
“Celebrate the Past and Change the Future!”

Announcing the College of Health Professions  
50th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign  
www.musc.edu/chp50/giving

$3,500,000 Goal!

$3,000,000  
$2,500,000  
$2,000,000  
$1,500,000  
$1,000,000  
$500,000  
$100,000  
$50,000  
$25,000  
$10,000

Anniversary Fundraising Campaign