Possessing A Heart of Gold
Alumni Association Names Distinguished Alumnus

Mr. Briggs received his Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science (Cytotechnology), in 2000 and his accomplishments and outstanding qualities are numerous and his heart is full of love for others as he steadfastly serves his community and those less fortunate. Although his academic program is now discontinued and no longer offered within the College, he was not deterred from remaining engaged all these years, and most recently serving an additional term on the CHP Alumni Association Board of Directors. As a member of the American Academy of Healthcare Executives, Mr. Briggs is a recognized operations expert in the field of laboratory science. He continues advancing through promotions with his employer at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC. His compassionate leadership, exhibited in his professional life, carries over into his personal life as well. Mr. Briggs is loyal to the needs of his community through local, regional and national non-profit organizations.

Congratulations Mr. Kevin Briggs as you enter the hall of fame with your fellow Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipients!

College of Health Professions Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipients
Members of the College of Health Professions Alumni Hall of Fame are proudly and permanently recognized along the Alumni Hall of Fame Gallery in the College, established by the 2008-2009 CHP Alumni Association Board.

1986 – Janet S. Leech
Bachelor of Science, Health Information Administration 1975
1989 – Janet C. Parmalee
Bachelor of Science, Health Information Administration 1977
1990 – Robert D. Hibdon
Bachelor of Science, Radiologic Technology 1979
1991 – Patricia H. Sullivan
Bachelor of Science, Health Services, Respiratory Therapy 1986
1992 – Mary D. Q. Jansen
Master in Health Science 1987
Certificate, Medical Technology 1974
1993 – Mary Eileen Leonard
Medical Technology (ASCP) 1947
1994 – Mary G. Callahan
Medical Technology (ASCP) 1953
1995 – Stephen G. Lufsy
Master in Health Services Administration 1987
1996 – Wanda C. Hancock
Bachelor of Science, Physician Assistant 1999
Master in Health Services Administration 1987
Bachelor of Science, Radiologic Technology 1984
1997 – A. Michelle Haad
Master in Health Sciences, Physical Therapy 2000
Bachelor of Science, Physical Therapy 1985
1998 – W. Sean Irvin
Bachelor of Health Sciences 2001
Certificate, Physician Assistant 1976
1999 – E. Dargan Ervin
Masters in Health Sciences, Physical Therapy 1982
Bachelor of Science, Physical Therapy 1981
1999 – William E. Minikiewicz
Bachelor of Health Sciences 1995
2000 – James B. Smith, Jr.
Master in Health Sciences, Health Information Administration 1997
Bachelor of Science, Medical Technology 1981
2001 – David L. Somers
Master of Health Sciences 1981
Bachelor of Science, Physical Therapy 1980
2002 – Diane K. Mathews
Masters in Health Professions Education 1997
2003 – Ruby W. Sonnett
Certificate, Medical Technology 1970
2005 – Richard K. Toomey
Doctor of Health Administration 2001
2006 – E. Blair Holladay
Bachelor of Science, Cytotechnology 1985
2007 – Marilyn M. Swygert
Master of Health Sciences 1985
2008 – Nina M. Saunders
Doctor of Health Administration 2006
2009 – Stephen L. Jones
Doctor of Health Administration 1999
2012 – John M. Sanders
Master in Health Service Administration 1989
2013 – Eleanor H. Durge
Bachelor of Science, Medical Technology 1989
2015 – Michael R. Burcham
Doctor of Health Administration 2003
2015 – Brian R. Poplin
Doctor of Health Administration 2010
2016 – Kevin D. Briggs
Cytotechnology 2000
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

50th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign

$500,000
$100,000
$1,500,000
$2,500,000
$1,000,000
$2,000,000
$3,000,000
$3,500,000 Goal!

YOUR philanthropic partnership in this $3.5 million dollar campaign will ensure continued success, growth and progress for the next 50 years. Join us and light the way for those who follow!

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

The Center for Rehabilitation Research in Neurological Conditions
Pediatric Rehabilitation | CARES Therapy Clinic
Department of Healthcare Leadership and Management
Student Scholarships

Exciting opportunities coming soon!

www.musc.edu/chp50

Thank You!

Changing the Future.

50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend of the College was we recognize you, both near and far. Thank you for a

ALUMNI GALA
AT THE SC AQUARIUM

CONTINUING EDUCATION PRESENTATION
THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE DELIVERY: ARE WE READY?

FAMILY FUN DAY
AT MIXSON BATH AND RACQUET CLUB

Honoring YOU - our outstanding Alumni - during the truly amazing! You are a special part of our success and great 50 years and here’s to the future!

Changing the Past.

Medical University of South Carolina | College of Health Professions Newsletter, Summer 2016

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Thank You!
DEAN’S CORNER

Dear CHP Alumni,

In February of this year, the University’s Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Mark Sothmann announced that he would be stepping down from that post in July and returning to the College of Health Professions as a faculty member. I know that those of you who knew Dr. Sothmann while he was serving as CHP Dean share my excitement over his return and join me in welcoming him back “home.”

MUSC President David Cole asked me to serve as the University’s Interim Provost while we complete a national search for a full-time replacement. I was truly honored to be asked and after thoughtful reflection, developing a potential transition plan for the College, discussing this with the senior leadership of the College and all of my direct reports, I have decided to accept this interim position. Dr. Jim Zoller is serving as Interim Dean and will have the full authority as Dean to make decisions for the College. Jim has a long history of leadership serving as CEO of hospitals, as our College’s Chair of the Department of Healthcare Leadership and Management, and on its Executive Leadership Team. He is familiar with the College’s finances and I have every confidence in his ability to serve in this role.

This transition began in June 2016 and will last until a new Provost is hired, which will likely be six to 12 months. Please know that I have no intention of applying for the permanent role and I am committed to returning to my role as Dean of the College of Health Professions when my commitment to this interim role ends.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the College!

Sincerely,

Lisa K. Saladin, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASAHP
Interim Provost
Medical University of South Carolina
Retired Colonel Helps Other Military Personnel Pursue Careers as Physician Assistants

By Allison Crowell
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs

When Col. Mike La Belle decided to go to physician assistant school, he brought years of experience working as an operating room and emergency room technician in the Air Force but only nine hours of college credit. The Florida native received free tuition through Cancer Award, which recognizes individuals and businesses who have shown respect and understanding in supporting cancer patients. He spent 11 years in the VA working in medical oncology between active tours of duty with the Army National Guard and retiried as a surgical oncology PA at the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center in Albuquerque.

Col. La Belle made Albuquerque his home but worked missions around the world. He helped to train military medical teams in Honduras and Costa Rica, and he spent six months deployed to Iraq to assist with routine medical care for troops. In 2012 he retired from the Army National Guard, after serving for 40 years in various positions of increasing responsibility, including deputy state surgeon and his final position as state surgeon/commander of the New Mexico Army National Guard Medical Command.

Col. La Belle hopes, through his scholarship, to start a conversation for other military personnel looking for a medical career. “My whole idea for this – for putting my title in the scholarship name and talking about it – is that with dedication and hard work, they can accomplish great things as other physician assistants before they have done.”

This summer MUSC’s College of Health Professions named Billy Poole the first recipient of Col. La Belle’s scholarship. A second-year physician assistant student, Poole enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August of 2001 and after the terrorist attacks one month later, he signed a five-year contract to serve as a hospital corpsman. After serving at a naval hospital in Illinois, he became a combat medic for the U.S. Marine Corps and moved to Hawaii. “On paper, I say I lived in Hawaii for five years,” said Poole, a Monroeville, N.C., native. “But it was probably only a couple of years. I spent all of 2005 in Afghanistan. He served in the Korengal Valley, the perilous mountain region near the Pakistani border chronicled in the 2010 documentary “Restrepo.” He joined his battalion on patrols and in the event that they took fire, he cared for them in the field. Poole planned for his career in health care long before his time in Afghanistan, even before Sept. 11.

“In 2000, my older brother was killed in a car accident, and that’s what led me to medicine,” he said. “Neurologists were throwing all this information at me, and I didn’t know what to do with it.”

Poole wanted not only to understand that information but to help make it easier for other anxious families in waiting rooms. “I’m just honored that previous military personnel provide scholarships like this,” Poole said. “I may, in the future, do something like that for the MUSC PA program as well.”

“I want to let physician assistant students know that this is a rewarding and successful career,” Col. La Belle said. “When I attended PA school, it was federally funded, so we didn’t have to put tuition. This is my way of giving back. I had a great career as a PA and Army Medical Officer, and I want to help others do the same.”

Each year the scholarship will benefit one student who can best explain how he will advance the profession. For Col. La Belle, the answer came with compassionate end-of-life care.

His father died from pancreatic cancer when Col. La Belle was 10 years old, but Col. La Belle describes his own career in oncology as “kind of an accident.” He wanted to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs and help aging war heroes but wound up filling an opening in hematology and oncology.

“It wasn’t my first choice, but I soon came to love caring for our veterans with cancer,” he explained. “Besides treating patients with hematological and solid tumor malignancies, we also provided clinical trials. When treatment failed, we provided them comfort through palliative care and inpatient hospice.”

One of his patients, the wife of a retired serviceman, had exhausted her treatment options. Realizing that she would die, her husband asked Col. La Belle if he planned to abandon her. “I said, ‘No, we’re going to be here with you both through continuing care,’” Col. La Belle remembered. “We weren’t going anywhere.”

In 1998 he became the first physician assistant to receive the People Living with Disabilities in Uganda.
Look Who’s Turning 50!

The College of Health Professions is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and we want to celebrate with you! Visit musc.edu/chp50

NEW!

U.S. News and World Report Rankings

You are part of our success and we thought you would like to know the good news!

★ The masters degree program in Occupational Therapy is ranked 17th out of 195 accredited programs.

★ The doctorate degree program in Physical Therapy is ranked 28th out of 253 accredited programs.

★ The masters degree program in Nurse Anesthesia is ranked 29th out of accredited 127.

★ The masters degree program in Health Administration is ranked 17th out of over 80 accredited programs.

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