MUSC’s Presidential Scholars Program Accepting Applications in February

The Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholars Program is a two semester experience for approximately 50 students, joined by selected faculty scholars from each college as well as the Charleston School of Law. The program explores complex social, political, and human issues of broad interest to health care professionals and biomedical researchers in a format that maximizes student participation and interaction. A theme is chosen for each term or year of the program, focusing on health care system issues and social determinants of health. Monthly evening sessions are held for students to learn about issues related to the program theme and to engage in interprofessional project work. Students work in interprofessional teams on a student selected and designed project. These projects relate to the year’s program theme and engage the community to improve community health and well-being. Students’ projects are showcased during Scholars Day in April. Additional scholar activities include a day-long retreat at the beginning of the year, a visit to the State Legislature, and meetings with the University President.

CHP 2017-2018 Student Scholars are:
Albany Cromer, DHA • Hannah Dillon, MHA • Rachel Fox, AFN • Sydney Hammond, DPT • Michaela McMorris, MHA • Alisha Tuttle, AFN • Emily Smith, MHA

The application opens on February 1st and closes on February 23rd at 5:00pm. Click here to apply.
CVP Students Receive 100% Pass Rate on Fall Board Exams

Last year’s CVP class was the largest ever with twenty-one graduates. On January 22, the CVP Division received a remarkable report from the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion. Nineteen of the twenty-one graduates who took the Basic Science Exam, all passed. Sixteen of the twenty-one graduates who took the Clinical Application Exam, all passed. We are very excited to announce CVP’s 100% pass rate! Congratulations to Dr. Sistino, Dave Fitzgerald, and all CVP faculty and staff who’ve helped to make this possible!

DPT Students Host First Ever Mac Off

It was the mac down heard all around the world (or all around the campus) as students, faculty, and staff came out to participate on Thursday, January 25th. DPT students raised a little over $300 during their first annual Mac & Cheese fundraiser. Director of Student Services, Kelly Long, came in first place with her “Mama’s Mac and Cheese,” and second-year DPT student, Minhanh Pham, came in second place with her “Taco ‘Bout it Mac.” Congratulations to the winners! All proceeds will go towards helping DPT students attend the APTA Combined Sections Meeting from February 21st through February 24th in New Orleans. See the fun below!
CHP’s Taste of Diversity was a Plate of Success
The Student Diversity Leadership Council hosted “A Taste of Diversity: A Cultural Celebration,” on Tuesday, January 9th from 11:30am-1:00pm. There were over 150 participants from all across the campus in the CHP Atrium. The new CHP recruitment video was also previewed. Six caterers participated featuring different cultural cuisines including soul food, Indian, Japanese, Italian, Mexican, and Greek. A local musician provided entertainment, and flowers were provided through Tiger Lily. Dr. Dante Pelzer from MUSC Student Programs and Student Diversity provided welcoming remarks. It was a joyful celebration to start off the New Year! See the excitement below!
Student Life & Campus Updates

At a glance

- NIH Summer Internship Program applications are now open. Click here for more information or to apply.
- 2018 MUSC Earl B. Higgins Leadership in Diversity Awards submissions are due by 5 pm on February 5, 2018. Awards will be presented at a reception on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Wickliffe House.
- Student Blood Drive is February 8, 2018 from 11am-4pm in Harper Student Center Gym.
- Black History Month Reception with COM, CDM, and COP is Friday, February 16 at 5 pm. CHP students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend. More details coming soon.
- Black History Month Workshop “Foundations of Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice in Academic Health Care” workshop featuring Dr. Kathy Obear, author of Turn the Tide...But I'm NOT a Racist! and In It For the Long Haul is on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 8:30am – 11:00am, BSB, Room 302.
- Discover MUSC Career Booth Registration University-wide event. Volunteers needed! Event dates are March 1st and 2nd, 9am-12pm. Click here for more info.
- SDLC service project at the Charleston Parks Conservancy Teddy Bear Picnic on Sunday, March 4th. Volunteers needed! Details coming soon.

Want to promote an event? Email Lane Campbell at campblan@musc.edu to have your event promoted in the next newsletter!
We've had a recent influx of students locking bikes to benches and not utilizing provided bike racks. If a bike is found locked to a bench, Public Safety will issue a warning. If the issue occurs again, Public Safety will remove and impound the bike. Please be conscientious of your property while respecting the campus. Thank you!

A Few Health Awareness Observances to Remember for the Month of February:

- American Heart Month
- International Prenatal Infection Prevention Month
- African Heritage & Health Week (first week of February)
- Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week (February 7-14)
- Eating Disorders Awareness and Screening Week (last week of February)
- National “Wear Red” Day for women’s heart health (February 5)
- World Cancer Day (February 4)
- National Donor Day (February 14)

PSA: CHP Bike Issues
Any of us who have participated in any of the workshops or trainings facilitated by the MUSC Office of Diversity and Inclusion should have a basic understanding that unconscious bias is something that we all have, and if left unchecked, can seriously impact patient care delivery.

Unconscious Bias is the set of social stereotypes that are formed from experiences we may have had. Bias shapes our understanding, our actions and the decisions we make, and can lead to microaggressions.

Microaggressions are the everyday verbal, nonverbal and environmental slights, snubs or insults—intention or unintentional—we may use in everyday conversation. It even impacts the words or phrases we use in our daily conversations. Some verbal microaggressions you may hear on a daily basis are:

- “No, where are you really from?”
- “You are so articulate.”
- “When I look at you, I don’t see color.”
- “I’m not a racist... I have several black friends.”
- “That’s so gay.”
- “You people...”

In reading these phrases, I’m sure each of us can point out an example of when we’ve heard someone say, or we, ourselves, have said at least one of them. While no harm may have been intended, phrases like these can truly damage someone’s self-esteem, make them question your sincerity or even doubt your ability to deliver unbiased quality care to them. So, what do we do?

We have to Make a U-Turn!

The U-Turn is a concept coined by Mr. Anton Gunn, Executive Director of Community Health Innovation and Chief Diversity Officer for MUSC Health, as a way to stop microaggressions and discriminatory speech in its tracks. If while passing someone in the hallway or in a classroom, you hear them use a hurtful phrase like one of these, STOP... MAKE A U-TURN ... and let that person know that what they said was inappropriate and culturally insensitive. While we are each responsible for our own words and actions, it is also our responsibility in this academic environment to help one another learn and improve daily. Taking this one small step is giant leap towards being ready to deliver culturally sensitive care!
Roberto Diago’s “La Historia Recordada” Exhibit

MUSC Night at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art
Friday, February 2 | 6 PM - 8 PM
Free reception, music and art exhibit for all MUSC students, employees and guests!
The Halsey Institute is located on the College of Charleston campus at:
161 Calhoun Street
For more information, visit musc.edu/spsd or call (843) 792-2693.
MUSC Named to Forbes First-Ever List of America’s Best Employers for Diversity

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) has been ranked No. 53 out of 250 organizations on the Forbes 2018 list of America’s Best Employers for Diversity. In addition, MUSC ranked No. 6 among the 20 institutions listed in the education category. In collaboration with Statista, Forbes asked 30,000 employees working for large U.S. companies and organizations to evaluate their employers on issues of diversity in the workplace. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and respondents were recruited from thousands of sources to maximize reach and representation of the U.S. workforce. A company’s score is determined by four parts: direct employee recommendations, a public perception score, percentage share of women who fill top executive and board positions, and an index of objective and publicly available diversity KPIs (key performance indicators). One of the KPIs used in the scoring is proactive communication of diverse company culture.

“We take great pride in this recognition from Forbes because it acknowledges noteworthy progress toward achieving one of the five goals of our strategy for the future – to Embrace Diversity and Inclusion,” said MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D., FACS. “Together the D&I implementation teams led by our two chief diversity officers are pushing MUSC forward as an institution in a thoughtful, strategic and measurable way. The work these teams are doing is vital to the continued success of MUSC, and we need the ongoing commitment and engagement of our entire institution if we are going to succeed – not just in the short term but long term as well.”

“Diversity has become a business imperative, because it makes businesses better places and richer in every sense of the word,” said Forbes’ Leadership Editor Fred Allen. “We hope that by introducing the definitive listing honoring the top performers we will stir discussion of the importance of diversity and inclusion and reinforce employers’ determination to do the best at it they can.”

“Our large survey of employees has shown that diversity is a highly relevant factor when choosing an employer,” said Statista CEO, Dr. Friedrich Schwandt. MUSC has two chief diversity officers (CDO) -- Willette Burnham-Williams, Ph.D., CDO for the university, and Anton J. Gunn, MSW, CDO for the health system. In addition, each of the six colleges at MUSC has a diversity officer, focused on achieving shared institutional D&I goals. With the active commitment of the most senior leaders throughout the enterprise, Burnham-Williams and Gunn collaborate across a workforce of more than 13,000 employees, along with nearly 3,000 students and 700 residents, to address the strategic D&I goals and outcomes identified in the organization’s five-year strategic plan, titled Imagine MUSC 2020.

Dr. Cole and his leadership team have consistently stated that at MUSC, there are three reasons why embracing diversity and inclusion is of pivotal importance: It is who we should be as an institution. We are creating an environment where all individuals – students, faculty, staff, patients and visitors – truly believe they are in the right place and they belong here. It is how we build upon who we are and what we can achieve together. MUSC aspires to change the future through innovation in all of our domains – education, research and patient care. It affects the bottom line. It is about being our most productive and effective. People who feel valued are empowered to contribute and to be at their best.

To view the entire Forbes list, click here. MUSC was also profiled in 2016 and won a National Award in 2017 for efforts in support of Diversity and Inclusion. Click here to read more.