TO: All MUSC Units Reporting to the Provost  
FROM: Mark S. Sothmann, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
DATE: November 11, 2014  
RE: Retirement Announcement - Dr. J. Herman Blake

Dear MUSC Colleagues:

Dr. J. Herman Blake, inaugural Humanities Scholar in Residence since 2007, has announced his retirement from MUSC effective December 31st 2014. The Humanities Scholar in Residence assists in program development to enrich student, faculty, and staff educational experiences, and advises the Humanities Committee, the President and Provost on matters of cultural enrichment.

Dr. Blake has had many accomplishments during his tenure including serving as lecturer and scholar in the colleges of dentistry, medicine, health professions, graduate studies, nursing and pharmacy. He was a co-facilitator in the Literature in Medicine Workshop, Veterans Administration Medical Center, established a humanities lecture series, and presented on issues of higher education, culture and humanities locally, nationally, and internationally, as well as mentoring faculty, staff and students. He has been a member of the SC Coalition for the Care of the Seriously Ill, a reviewer for numerous journals, established the MUSC Humanities Book Club and served on the board of the Humanities Council of South Carolina. Dr. Blake has published widely in diverse areas such as multicultural faculty, technology equality, the meaning of academic work, and the patient-physician relationship, among others.

We should also remember that Dr. Blake came to us with decades of vast experience in higher education as a teacher, scholar, and administrator at such institutions as the University of California-Santa Cruz, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and Iowa State University. We benefited from that experience in his personal mentorship of dozens faculty across MUSC.

In retirement Herman will continue as a scholar and public servant. He plans to maintain his volunteer work as the Acting Executive Director of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, a four state (NC, SC, GA, and FL) cultural and linguistic area of 12,000 square miles and 250,000 people.

Please join me in extending our deep appreciation to Herman for his leadership at MUSC and wishing him a most enjoyable retirement.