The College of Medicine is pleased to announce the launch of its $20 million Opening Doors Medical Scholarship Campaign, the first formal fundraising campaign dedicated entirely to scholarships in the college’s history.

A combination of factors led to the decision to undertake this ambitious effort. In 2013, The College of Medicine scored high marks during its successful LCME reaccreditation site visit. In fact, the only area of concern during the process was related to the level of indebtedness of graduating medical students.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, the MUSC College of Medicine awarded scholarships to 191 students, totaling $1,333,040 in scholarship support.

(see SCHOLARSHIP, page 2)

MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D. celebrates inauguration day

By Dawn Brazell | MUSC News Center | October 9, 2014

David J. Cole, M.D., stooped down so his wife Kathy could heft a Presidential medallion around his neck marking his inaugural day, Oct. 9, at the Medical University of South Carolina on what turned out to be a picture-perfect fall day.

The couple, married for 26 years, shared a quick kiss with Kathy quickly (see COLE, page 3)
However, most of these awards were for $5,000 or less. The College currently has endowments to award only 11 full-tuition scholarships and 7 half-tuition scholarships each year.

**KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN**

The campaign’s name, “Opening Doors”, is inspired by the undeniable reality that for many students the cost of a medical education is no longer an investment, but an impediment - a closed door - to both our college and a fulfilling career in medicine.

Nation wide, the median four-year cost to attend medical school -- which includes outlays like living expenses and books -- for the class of 2013 was $278,455 at private schools and $207,868 at public ones, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

In addition, about 27 percent of 2012 medical school graduates polled by AAMC said their debt load affected their choice of specialty, steering many away from their desired first choice into specialties that are higher-paying.

In the past, medical school tuition represented a significant but reasonable investment in a fulfilling career as a physician. In 1970, this investment would have been about $500 a year. In 1990, it would have been about $5,000. But today, tuition alone is almost $36,000 a year for in-state students and more than $62,000 for out-of-state students attending the College of Medicine.

**BEYOND NORMAL INFLATION**

Yes, the cost of almost everything has risen over time. The average cost of a car has grown eight times since 1970. Meanwhile, the median cost of a home has grown tenfold. But the cost of higher education has outpaced all of these.

Consider the experience of college graduates, even before they face the daunting effort and unnerving cost of medical school. From 1978 to 2011, undergraduate college tuition rose 7.45 percent annually, or nearly twice as fast as the Consumer Price Index -- and two percentage points faster than health care costs.

To make matters worse, steep cuts in state support of higher education over the past 15 years has shifted more of the financial burden onto students.

At the College of Medicine, state appropriations now account for just 5% of its annual budget, which is one reason students now pay an average of 6,500% more in tuition than in 1970.

Medical education has never been inexpensive. But, it is no longer a matter of simply working hard, being careful and making sacrifices. Some of the most intelligent and hard-working students cannot avoid major indebtedness to pay for their undergraduate and medical educations.

“**I grow up in rural Alabama, one of five children to a mother and father who both struggled with serious health issues. I have had to overcome a number of financial and resource related barriers. …The generous and kind spirit of the late Mrs. Mary D. Rich, who endowed my scholarship through her estate, has provided support and encouragement for both my family and me. This scholarship has afforded me the opportunity to continue on my journey of obtaining my medical degree, and for that, I will be forever grateful!”**

- Robert Williams
  Class of 2015

**STUDENT LOANS ARE AVAILABLE, BUT…**

More than 90% of College of Medicine students finance their education with loans. If a student is not able to begin making full interest payments on loans immediately after graduation, interest on most medical-school loans continues to accrue on at least a portion of the balance during a student’s multi-year residency training. That means a higher debt balance at the end of training.

Taking out more loans is not an adequate long-term solution to the problem.
“At Present, we have very little scholarship money to offer students and many have over $200,000 in debt upon graduation from medical school.

We believe our profession belongs to the most gifted, hardest-working individuals among us, and that tuition should never be the reason qualified and willing candidates turn away from a career in medicine. Our goal is to raise $20 million, to help us keep our doors open to those who have the strongest ability and desire to study medicine - those who have worked the hardest to be here - rather than just to those who have the greatest financial means.”

Paul B. Underwood Jr., M.D. Associate Dean of Admissions Professor, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology

SCHOLARSHIPS...THE KEY TO CONTINUED ACCESS

Building the scholarship endowment is the key to keeping the doors of medical school open to deserving students regardless of their financial circumstances.

“Because of inflation in our economy, reduced state funding, and the real costs of providing modern medical education, our finances today are quite similar to those of private medical schools. Unfortunately, our endowments are a mere fraction of the endowments of many of those institutions. You might say, with this campaign, we are seeking to catch up,” says Terry Stanley, Associate Dean for Development for the College of Medicine.

“Building a larger scholarship endowment allows the College to offset some of the enormous expenses faced by today’s medical students and, in many cases, give worthy students an opportunity that they might not otherwise be able to afford. Through a scholarship commitment, donors have a direct, undiluted, and lasting impact on students and the promise of their future medical careers,” Stanley explains.

By increasing our scholarship endowments by $20 million, the College of Medicine can award an additional $850,000 in scholarships each year. That’s enough to provide full tuition scholarships to 24 students, or half-tuition scholarships to 48 students. “Together with our alumni, our community partners and our faculty members, we will build our scholarship endowments and empower students who possess the drive to make a difference in medicine,” says Deborah Deas, M.D., Interim Dean of the College of Medicine.

To learn more about the campaign, visit www.musc.edu/openingdoors.

To discuss the many opportunities to help, contact Candace Gillespie at 843.792.9243 or gillescf@musc.edu.

(cole, continued from page 1)

Former MUSC Presidents Ray Greenberg (right) and James B. Edwards share a laugh and then hug during the ceremony.

Wiping any lipstick off in a brief, tender moment shared in what was otherwise a formal occasion.

Cole became the university’s seventh president July 1, succeeding Ray Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D., who left last year to take a position with the University of Texas Health System. Greenberg and James B. Edwards, DMD, MUSC president emeritus, also attended the event.

Cole paid homage to his predecessors while setting the stage for where he hopes MUSC is heading.

“When I first started down this path, I believe I was motivated by a general thought that I could possibly do some good in a field that I found interesting,” he said of his work as a surgeon and researcher. “What I discovered as I continued in this career was a simple truth - medicine is about people, not achievements, surgical procedures, grants or clinics.”

Health care providers are given the unique opportunity and privilege to have a direct and lasting impact on patients’ lives, he said. “But I will tell you that it took me 10 years to come to understand that what makes the difference, or not, is your ability to connect with your patient as a person, in other words… your humanity: for them to understand that you actually care, and that you will do everything in your power to help.”

Harkening back to MUSC’s past, Cole referenced the seven physicians who in 1824 shared the bold belief that the state should have its own well-trained doctors and access to the best health care possible.

“I imagine those seven men would be astonished by what MUSC has become in the years since then: A comprehensive academic medical center that is recognized as one of the best in the country, consisting of not one, but six comprehensive colleges.”

MUSC has a dedicated staff and faculty of nearly 12,000, serving more than 2,700 students and 1.2 million patients each year. Researchers are on the cutting edge of innovations in patient care, generating more than $230 million dollars in extramural research funding each year.

Visitors lined up after the inaugural ceremony to congratulate Cole. Third-year medical student Arielle VanSyckel, who was the flag bearer for the College of Medicine, said she was honored to be part of the occasion.

(see COLE, page 4)
“It made me feel encouraged and inspired to think that a physician could have that sort of impact on the world around him and to be such a significant person in the lives of so many people. It really set him apart as an individual and as a leader. I feel really blessed to be here in the school at a time when he’s going to take ownership of the future.”

Cherry Seabrook, a former MUSC nurse who volunteers to help cancer patients, said she had to be at the ceremony. She’s known Cole for years, and he was the surgeon for her brother. “Dr. Cole is a wonderful person. He’s dedicated and he means what he says. He’ll be great for MUSC.”

Republican state Rep. Jenny Horne said she found Cole’s remarks to be heartfelt.

“I am very excited about his vision for leadership for MUSC. We in the general assembly look forward to working with him to achieve his vision. He puts the patient first, and that’s what we should be doing in this state. Not only patients, but people first in government and health care.”

The same theme rang true for Patrick J. Cawley, M.D., executive director and chief executive officer of the Medical Center and vice president for clinical operations for the university. He said it was a great day for MUSC in general and exciting to have community, faculty, staff and students gather to celebrate a new era.

“To me, (Cole’s) singing the things I love to hear. Patient-centered, teamwork, diversity, all the themes I feel are important to deliver health care in the future. Dave feels the same way. He feels very strongly about all those things.”

Cawley looks forward to how Cole’s leadership style will shape MUSC.

“First of all, he’s a practicing physician. I think that brings a different kind of perspective. Not necessarily better, but a good, different perspective from previous presidents. He’s going to constantly talk about patients, patients, patients. What are we doing from a research perspective, from an education perspective? I like it. I come out of the clinical enterprise. I think at the end of the day that’s what it’s all about: patients.”

Cawley said that Cole lives and breathes what he talked about in his speech. “I know Dave, and these are not just things he’s throwing out there. He’s sincere. What you see is what you get. He lays it out there in a manner that’s honest and cuts right to the core. That’s how he is every day. He’s not just rising to the occasion for an inaugural speech.”

Q: How does it feel to have made it to inauguration day?

Well, it’s very energizing – months of work by a lot of individuals, excitement on campus, friends and family arriving.

Q: Now that you have had time to settle into the job somewhat, what are some of the key projects you are excited about taking on as priorities?

It’s an extensive list: preparing for the new children’s hospital, getting our leadership teams and structure ready for the future, strategic planning for the university, kicking off our universitywide Diversity and Inclusion initiative, positioning our information technology for the future - just to state a few.

Q: What has been the biggest adjustment?

Working to maintain my connectivity to the clinical domain, a lot of trips to Columbia, too many lunches.

Q: How do you see your leadership style developing?

I would hope that it is more along the lines of others seeing my leadership style: open, accountable, good listener, focused.

Q: If you could get one key message out to staff and faculty at the time, what would it be?

We need to work together to prepare for the future. We cannot cling to the status quo. We have to change our siloed, individualistic academic culture. So, think big, communicate well and hold each other accountable. I am a firm believer in us. If we focus on those we serve, we will succeed.

Q: What are some innovative plans in the works to move us forward?

Just first thoughts that come to mind: the new Children’s and Women’s Hospital is going to be a wonder; there is a lot of energy around improving communications; the Horizon Project, which will be a potential game changer; and the Foundation for Research Development that is on the launch pad. We also are discussing some exciting collaborations that are not ready for prime time. Stay tuned to your local channels...

Q: Would you elaborate on why the Horizon Project and what’s happening with the Foundation for Research Development is important?

The city of Charleston, the Medical University of South Carolina and the MUSC Foundation created the nonprofit Horizon Project Foundation about three years ago to guide a collaborative economic development and urban revitalization on the western side of Charleston Peninsula. The vision is to advance knowledge-based sectors and have a vibrant live-work community. This represents a real opportunity for our innovation partners, students and community to change our future landscape both in terms of living opportunity and in attracting industry and research partners to the local area.

The MUSC Foundation for Research Development (FRD) interfaces with industry in the area of technology transfer. These activities result in a contribution to MUSC’s overall economic impact for our state and nation. Most importantly, by collaborating with industry, cutting-edge discoveries have the opportunity to become real life solutions to today’s medical problems. With new leadership and direction, the FRD has over the past three years had a remarkable trajectory of developing new patents, licensure and interface with industry that is very exciting. This represents a real opportunity for MUSC to leverage our intellectual capital in a meaningful way for the future.
Quick! To the Batmobile!
College of Medicine '88 alumnus replicates iconic car

By Allyson Crowell
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs

SUMTER -- Dr. Lane and Dr. Lana Latham, a dermatologist and a gynecologist, respectively, seem like an ordinary couple of med-school sweethearts.

The two Columbia natives established their practices in Sumter, because it was close to home and seemed like a good place to start a family. They raised their two college-age children in a stately brick home there.

But behind their house, a real-life version of the most extraordinary accessory from one of the most beloved superheroes of all time sits in their garage.

There, over the course of seven years, Lane constructed a Batmobile, full-scale and true-to-life (or true to comic book fame, anyway). “It was sort of a mid-life crisis,” as he put it. “But I didn’t have to buy a Corvette.”

Instead, he sent a letter to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, offering the vehicle if a sick child ever expressed interest.

“Remember the kid in San Francisco who wanted to be Batman for a day?” Lana said recently, referring to the 5-year-old leukemia patient for whom the Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation created a citywide Gotham last year. “Lane was so disappointed that they didn’t have a real Batmobile for him.”

A real Batmobile, unlike the Lam-borghini adorned with logos in San Francisco, has an emergency bat turn lever, a working Batphone and a retractable switchblade under the front of the car. It emits flames from its exhaust with the push of a button.

The idea for the car began, as Lane put it, “with another, smaller geek project.” He built a replica of the robot from the “Lost in Space” television show from the 1960s.

“There are clubs for this stuff,” his wife explained.

The couple met on their first day of medical school at the Medical University of South Carolina. They graduated in 1988 and returned to Charleston together after their residencies and before establishing their practices in Sumter, where Lane also serves as a flight surgeon with the Air National Guard.

The Lathams also made the pilgrimage to California to meet the man who built the 1960s Batmobile, which recently sold for $4.2 million.

Lane drove the Batmobile as grand marshal of Sumter’s annual Iris Festival Parade this month. He has since moved onto a new “geek project” -- replicating the Delorean time machine from “Back to the Future.”

The Lathams already have the car in their garage.

Drs. Lana and Lane Latham pose in Lane’s Batmobile outside their Sumter home.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Operation Jackpot catalyst for romance, intrigue

College of Medicine alumnus and professor Roger B. Newman, M.D. ('80) writes medical thriller set against a backdrop of MUSC and the Lowcountry

With its treasured reputation for charm and hospitality, “drug-runner’s paradise” was hardly the moniker Charleston was proud of.

Social prominence notwithstanding, a clandestine federal operation known as “Operation Jackpot” brought shame and notoriety to the quaint coastal community that never had a clue more than 100 drug smugglers were running Lebanese hashish and Colombian marijuana through Sea Island marshes and winding Lowcountry inlets bound for distribution up and down the East Coast.

The year is 1983, and at the Medical University of South Carolina, Declan Murphy, a well-regarded OB-GYN, is caught up in a quest to right past wrongs. A new patient, Helene Eastland, a runaway, ends...
up under his care, but in no way is she a stranger to him. The fact that she is currently involved with the Jackpot drug smugglers is but one of many problems facing her. Murphy must ultimately decide if it's in his best interest to help her escape the clutches of a morally corrupt governor and rabid federal prosecutors or walk away from the drama, yet again betraying her trust.

After a great deal of deliberation, Murphy decides to help his patient get away which requires him to become part of the conspiracy. While on the run, they wind up dead center in a suspenseful plot that combines serious allegations and forbidden love. From the romantic Butterfly House at Brookgreen Gardens to Big John’s Tavern, a local dive on East Bay Street, Murphy does his best to protect his charge from those who would cause her, and perhaps him, harm.

Their journey together is a nail–biter to say the least. To find out what becomes of Murphy and Eastland, you’ll need to pick up your own copy of “Occam’s Razor,” a medical thriller written by MUSC’s own Roger Newman, M.D., which is set against a backdrop of MUSC and the Lowcountry.

The idea of an OB–GYN treating a patient involved with the drug smugglers had actually been floating around Newman’s head since the early 80s when he treated just such a patient.

A nationally–recognized expert in high–risk obstetrics, he always hoped he’d have time to put pen to paper and bring the concept to life. Nearly 30 years later, his wish became a reality. In 2010, with the story in mind, his computer on his lap, the TV on in the background for white noise, he finally sat down in the quiet of his home and began to write about Murphy and Eastland.

He set the book during the time when the true–life events took place and thought it would be a lot of fun to include the MUSC storyline. Was it just a coincidence that the protagonist happened to be an OB–GYN at MUSC?

“Certainly there are not a lot of books where the hero is an OB–GYN,” Newman said. “Declan Murphy is a great character, albeit flawed. He’s an attending physician at the Medical University of South Carolina and there are a lot of scenes that take place at MUSC as well as other Charleston touchstones that people will recognize and relate to.”

One scene in the book places Murphy at the Variety Store at the Charleston Marina, eating breakfast and reading about the Jackpot drug busts. He told the waitress, “Hey, I know one of these guys.” And the waitress replied, “We all do honey!”

Truth can often be stranger than fiction, and like his character in the book, Newman too knew one of the drug smugglers. In fact, he said, “We actually played basketball with the guy who turned out to be the drug kingpins. We had no idea. We just knew he was a cool guy who always paid for beer after the games!”

Having two personal points of intersection with Operation Jackpot made the notion of creating a story with a medical spin enticing. Though Newman knew he had an interesting tale to tell, unlike the profession of medicine, he didn’t consider being a writer a “calling” or a particular passion.

In fact, nothing in particular led Newman to that precise moment to begin to write, except perhaps for the fact that his last child had just left home bound for college, and there was now an empty nest.

Through the process of writing his first book, Newman discovered that developing characters and storylines allowed him to let his imagination run free, and that is something he enjoys. Unlike some writers who have a beginning, middle and end in mind when they set out to write a book, Newman had only the idea for the story. From there, he wrote on Saturday and Sunday mornings and in a very linear fashion, he said. “Essentially, I just wrote start to finish, ensuring I took many breaks in between to enjoy life. I really don’t know if that’s the normal way to write or not.”

He laughed and added, “My creative process is not a flowing river — it’s more like a mud flow — so it makes it easy to walk away from it and come back to it when I have time.”

People who have read “Occam’s Razor” tell Newman they can hear his voice and humor throughout the book. The character of Murphy is a composite of many people, from the past through the present. “Murphy is flip, but has no temper. He has a great Irish sense of humor and defies authority. Let’s just say he has a problem being told what to do,” laughed Newman.

Practicing medicine remains Newman’s first professional love, although writing quickly became his second. He has 30 years in the South Carolina state system and has cut back on the time he practices, allowing him to spend more time with family.

“Being an OB–GYN takes doctors away from their families a lot. I’m happy to be recapturing that time with my loved ones,” he said.

In addition to practicing medicine, writing and spending quality time with family, Newman is having a great time serving as the assistant coach for the women’s varsity basketball team at Academic Magnet High School. At 6–feet, 3–inches tall, Newman was a basketball star himself back in high school. He is excited to coach again this year and believes the Raptors will be playoff quality.

He is at a point in life where he is genuinely enjoying himself in all areas but was happy he could cut back on his clinical hours. “I feel like I’m at a golden age,” he said. “I’m working and I enjoy my work. I have more time at home, time to write, and time to pursue other things I love like coaching.”

When asked what he would ultimately like to have happen with his first book, he said success to him simply means people wanting to read his work and enjoying it — no more, no less.

“Writing gives me a tremendous sense of accomplishment that is my own, that is creative. It feels good. For me to enjoy it, it doesn’t have to be published or be successful, but I love that it is published and that it’s doing well. Writing a good paragraph feels good and writing a good chapter feels even better. And when the story is done and you read it and you like it, there’s a sense that you created something. It just makes you feel vital, and you want to do it again. So I am.”

Newman has nearly completed the first draft of his second book, a follow–up to “Occam’s Razor.” “Occam’s razor” refers to the principle that states the simplest answer is usually the best. It is also known as the Law of Parsimony. The old adage: When you hear hoofbeats think horse, not zebra, is the principle of Occam’s razor adapted to use in the field of medicine as a diagnostic tool. When there are multiple presenting signs and symptoms, according to Newman, the explanation that most simply and completely explains them is probably the correct diagnosis.

Occam’s Razor, a medical suspense novel and the first work by Roger Newman, has been published by Moonshine Cove Publishing, LLC, available on Amazon, Kindle, and BarnesandNoble.com. Find out more at http://RogerBNewman.com

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### Jason Ryan, author of Jackpot: High Times, High Sease and the Sting that Launched the War on Drugs.

"…based on real life events... an engrossing story about a doctor torn between professional and personal obligations."
Who can believe that 50 years have passed since graduating from medical school?! Our golden anniversary celebration will take place May 13-15, 2015 in Charleston. Festivities include induction into MUSC’s Golden Graduates group and marching in the Commencement processional. Plans are also being made in our honor for a cocktail reception to be hosted by the College of Medicine. The reunion committee is rounding out the celebration with a class luncheon following Commencement. More details are to come but, for now, please make your room reservations at the Courtyard by Marriott Charleston Waterfront, 35 Lockwood Drive, where a block of rooms have been reserved for our use. Call 1-888-724-9647 and refer to The Golden Grads for the group rate: $149/night (king with standard view) and $159/night (king with waterview).

**We hope you’ll plan to join us!**
The celebration won’t be the same without you.
Dr. Vincent J. Degenhart ('77) Named SCMA Physician of the Year and Receives Order of the Palmetto

By Martin L. Cahn
Editor, Chronicle-Independent
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Dr. Vincent Degenhart said “it was a shock” to receive both the S.C. Medical Association (SCMA) 2014 Physician of the Year Award and the Order of the Palmetto at the same time at the SCMA annual meeting in May.

Degenhart was recognized for his work combating childhood obesity. He formed and chairs the S.C. Childhood Obesity Task Force.

“Literally, I had no idea,” Degenhart, an anesthesiologist with KershawHealth said in an email. “My wife Denice, daughter, Chandler, and I were at the SCMA annual meeting last month in Greenville. My wife had secretly arranged for both of my parents to attend along with our son, Joseph, and one of my sisters, Janet. It was all supposed to be a big secret, and it was. Then I knew something was up.”

Degenhart said that just before the president’s reception and awards banquet began, he saw his 91-year-old mother in the lobby of the hotel where the convention was taking place. First, the chairman of SCMA board presented him with the S.C. Physician of the Year award. “Well, that was huge, but then Rep. Todd Atwater came to the podium and read a letter from the governor awarding me the Order of the Palmetto. I really couldn’t believe it,” Degenhart said.

According to a SCMA press release, the S.C. Physician of the Year award goes to the physician who has demonstrated outstanding community service and advocacy to their community throughout the past year. Similarly, the Order of the Palmetto -- conferred by Atwater on Gov. Nikki Haley’s behalf -- is the state’s highest civilian honor, awarded to a South Carolina citizen who has demonstrated outstanding service to the state. Degenhart received both awards “for his tireless efforts to promote the need to eliminate childhood obesity in South Carolina,” the SCMA stated.

One of eight siblings, Degenhart said his parents instilled several things in all their children. “Love of God, love of fellow man and the importance of education,” he said. “As a young boy, I wanted to be an astronaut, and attended the U.S. Air Force Academy with that goal.” Two years into his academy training, he realized that high performance jets were not going to be his career. He decided to transfer to the University of South Carolina (USC) and pursue a career in medicine. He earned his M.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in 1977, the same year his, Bill, completed his internship training also at MUSC.

“We were only the second set of brothers to do that. Bill went on to specialize in ophthalmology and I opted for anesthesiology,” Degenhart said, adding that as a “lifetime Gamecock,” he wanted to return to Columbia and practiced there for 26 years.

His former practice began covering Kershaw Health about 12 years ago. “However, when the group decided they no longer could cover, three of us opted to stay in Camden: Dr. Ben Blackmon, Dr. Ed Froelich and myself,” he said. “And I could not ask for two better partners. They have enabled and encouraged me to work with the SCMA, its board of trustees and the task force.”

Degenhart said what really brought him to Camden was the medical community, Kershaw Health staff and the city of Camden itself. “We are really dedicated to (the) hospital. We feel we can make a difference. There are a number of excellent physicians in this community as well as a wonderful hospital staff. Our anesthesia department is excellent, as well as our whole operating room and peri-operative staff,” Degenhart said. He added that KershawHealth administration has been supportive of the department as well. “I am also a golf nut -- not a very good golfer, but dearly love (the) Camden Country Club … and get out there when I can,” he said.

About three years ago, Degenhart attended an SCMA Board of Trustees meeting, upon which he served for eight years. It was the board’s annual weekend retreat and the former director of the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Robbie Kerr, appeared as a guest speaker.

“He talked about the challenges facing and of financing healthcare in South Carolina. However, he talked at length about what he saw as South Carolina’s and, indeed, our nation’s greatest health crisis. That is, obesity,” he said.

Degenhart said Kerr presented trustees with an animated National Institutes of Health website graphically showing them the dramatic increase in obesity nationally during the past 30 years.

“Unfortunately, South Carolina ranks eighth in the country in obesity, which is a ‘Top 10’ we don’t really want to be in,” he said. “As I rode back from Myrtle Beach with my wife, I could not get the dramatic pictures out of my head.”

Degenhart said an animated Centers for Disease Control map on SurroundFitness.com shows how things changed between 1985 to 2010. “In 1985, no states had an obesity rate over 10 percent; by 2010, basically, all states had over 20 percent obesity and most are over 30 percent. In fact, over 60 percent of all Americans are obese and overweight,” he said.

Arriving back in Columbia following that SCMA meeting, Degenhart called Kerr and asked what he thought the organization could do to make a difference. “We talked about childhood obesity and that if we were to do something, that was where we should concentrate our efforts,” Degenhart said. “At the next board of trustees meeting, I proposed that the SCMA form a task force on childhood obesity.”

Kerr suggested he call two key people: Dr. Janice Key, chair of adolescent medicine at MUSC and head of the school’s Boeing Cen-
Dr. Bertrand V. Gue, Jr. (’59) receives the Order of the Palmetto
Governor honors founder of free clinic

August 19, 2014 12:45 am • By Richard Walker

On one end of his career, he received watermelons. On the other, a hug from the governor of South Carolina, congratulating him for his service.

After more than 40 years of medical practice and the past five running a free health clinic, Dr. Bert Gue received the Order of the Palmetto with a hug from Gov. Nikki Haley.

“It’s not often you get a hug from the governor,” Gue said at the successful surprise presentation to the Orangeburg physician Monday night.

Haley was in Orangeburg to complete the surprise and award the honor to the 79-year-old Gue during the monthly meeting of the Lion’s Club.

“On behalf of the people of South Carolina, I am pleased to award you the Order of the Palmetto,” the governor said. “South Carolina is blessed to benefit from your tremendous work and service.”

The great-grandson of a doctor, Gue received his calling to the medical field during high school. He later attended The Citadel and the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Gue interned and later became a resident physician in Charlottesville, Va., before becoming chief resident of internal medicine at MUSC.

In 1963, he began to practice in Orangeburg.

When drafted into the U.S. Army, Gue served in the internal medicine department at Fort Jackson.

“It was some of the nicest two years of my life,” he said of the military experience.

Returning in 1968, Gue and Dr. Lawton H. Salley re-established their practice. After 40 years serving others in the medical field, Gue retired in 2007. Rather than hit the golf links in retirement, Gue went back to work starting the Orangeburg Calhoun Free Medical Clinic.

It took a year of tireless effort to get it off the ground, but the clinic is celebrating (see GUE, page 10)
five years of serving the Orangeburg and Calhoun counties today.

Gue currently serves as the medical director of the center, which serves indigent patients whose household incomes fall well below the federal poverty level.

When he started practicing in 1963, many of his patients didn’t have two nickels to rub together. But they didn’t forget their doctor. He was paid in vegetables and, yes, watermelons.

“They didn’t have any money, they didn’t have insurance,” he said. “Back then we didn’t think to bill them, because that would have cost a stamp.”

In South Carolina, the governor’s office can recognize a civilian with two different awards. One is the Order of the Silver Crescent, which recognizes community contributions. But the Order of the Palmetto is the state’s highest civilian honor, which for the past 43 years has recognized a person’s “extraordinary lifetime achievement and service to the state and nation,” the governor’s website states.

Haley said it would be easy to point out Gue’s contributions to the Palmetto State since his entire life has been dedicated to public service.

“Establishing the Orangeburg-Calhoun Free Medical Clinic to provide medical care for the uninsured and indigent population demonstrates your dedication to the betterment of South Carolina, and your contributions will have a lasting impact on our state for years to come,” she said.

Gue was nominated for the award by his childhood friend and neighbor Lt. Col. Walter J. Wise Jr., who retired from the U.S. Marine Corps. Wise said he didn’t know much about the Order of the Palmetto or if it was appropriate for his friend. But Wise said if Gue qualified, he deserved it.

“I’m really impressed and grateful they recognized him,” Wise said in a phone interview from his Atlanta home. “I thought it was worthy of nomination.”

The list of people endorsing Gue’s nomination reads like a Who’s Who of Orangeburg and South Carolina, including Clafin President Dr. Henry Tisdale, South Carolina State University coaching legend Willie Jeffries, state Sen. Brad Hutto, doctors, lawyers, volunteers and Regional Medical Center CEO Tom Dandridge.

“I can’t think of anybody else who is more deserving,” said Mike Pooser, an Orangeburg businessman and who also endorsed the nomination.

Gue said his success is due to several people, most importantly his wife. Married for more than 50 years, Jeanne Gue has supported her husband’s efforts throughout his career.

Having now become the medical home for more than 600 patients, the clinic is funded by individual and business donations, and by grants. Many of those grant applications are written by Jeanne.

Gue received the Pioneer Award from the South Carolina Office of Rural Health last year. Along with Jeanne, the Gues also received a health award from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

The Gues have two children, First Circuit Family Court Judge Anne Gue Jones and Bert Gue III, manager of McComb Landscaping, Inc.

The plans to honor the Orangeburg native and medical caregiver began in the spring. Gue was told he would be speaking about the clinic Monday night to celebrate its fifth anniversary. It was kept secret right up to the moment Haley was ushered in.

“It’s a real honor, a real unexpected honor,” he said. “It’s just hard to believe that volunteering your time results in this.”

Watermelons, hugs or a basket of vegetables aside, Gue said there is a genuine reason he does what he does for people. He could have retired to grow his own vegetables but he chose a different path.

“I asked why waste what I have?” he said. “Use it for people and give it to those who don’t have it.”

Wise said he knew his friend would rather have a tooth pulled than toot his own horn - even if that trumpet celebrated a great need being met in the community. Wise believes Gue’s clinic is an example of the love expressed in the Book of Matthew.

“I think he is paying heed to what Jesus said when he said whoever does something in my name, does it to me also,” he said.

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Randolph D. Smoak Jr., MD (’59) receives the first H. Biemann Othersen Jr., MD Distinguished Alumnus Award

Last March, Randolph D. Smoak, Jr., M.D. was named the first recipient of the 2014 H. Biemann Othersen Jr., M.D. Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dr. David J. Cole, MD, FACS, then Chairman of the Department of Surgery and now President of the Medical University of South Carolina, presented the award with Dr. H. Biemann Othersen Jr., the Chairman of the Curtis P. Artz MUSC Surgical Society.

The Othersen Award was given to Dr. Smoak at the Curtis P. Artz MUSC Surgical Society Alumni Reception, which is held each year in Charleston in conjunction with the 43rd Annual Postgraduate Course in Surgery. Congratulations to Dr. Smoak on this well-deserved honor!

Lahey Hospital and Medical Center announces appointment of Joanne Mather Conroy, MD (’83) as Chief Executive Officer

BURLINGTON, MA (May 6, 2014) – Today Lahey Hospital & Medical Center announced Joanne Mather Conroy, MD, as its new Chief Executive Officer. Reporting directly to Lahey Health Chief Executive Officer Howard Grant, JD, MD, Dr. Conroy will officially assume her position on July 10 and will serve on the Lahey Health leadership team.

“I am elated that Joanne Mather Conroy, MD, has joined Lahey Hospital & Medical Center,” said Dr. Grant. “As a seasoned health care executive, she not only offers impressive operational and management experience but also an energizing vision for the future. We are fortunate to have someone of Dr. Conroy’s caliber to strengthen the foundation of excellence already in place at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center and advance our organization as one of the nation’s leading healthcare organizations.”

(see CONROY, page 14)
Dr. James L. Young ('67) in “retirement”

For regular people, the word retirement does not usually mean, ‘doing what you did for a living for fifty years but now doing it for free.’ In fact, the first definition of ‘retirement’ is “ceasing to work.” Pretty clear, right? Apparently not, because time and time again, we hear our alumni say they are ‘retired, and working at the local clinic.’ (Do they not notice the contradiction?) Or, “I retired and started a second career writing - medical thrillers.” They are confused, poor souls. Our findings have been replicated over and over again in both laboratory and real world conditions: Doctors are more likely than non-doctors to be confused about what “retirement” means.

On a recent trip to Greenville, we encountered another prime example of someone suffering from what we now call Confused-About-Retirement Syndrome (CARS).

Dr. James Young (’67), a “retired” cardiologist, is disturbingly fit. Upon first glance, this gave me great hope that he had not fallen victim to CARS. He obviously spends a lot of time hiking, or mountain climbing, or kayaking or whatever it is he does that makes him more fit than me, even though he graduated medical school two years before I was born. He can’t possibly still be working anymore, I reasoned.

When I got back to Charleston, we exchanged a few emails and – I just had to know - I asked the question: “Dr. Young, what have you been doing since you retired?”

What follows is a summary of the answer I got. As you will see, my hopes were dashed. Poor man is suffering from a raging case of CARS. Oh, I grant that a few things he says at the end show some sign that remission is possible, but read on and you will see the undeniable symptoms.
Two MUSC Alumni with local ties honored by AUA

Fletcher C. Derrick Jr., MD ('58)
At its annual meeting June, in Orlando, Fla., the American Urological Association recognized Dr. Fletcher C. Derrick Jr. with a presidential citation for long-standing contributions to urological education, patient care and superb clinical judgments and surgical skills.

Derrick is married to Martha Langford Derrick of Orangeburg. He is a Johnston, S.C., native and was educated in Johnston Public School and Clemson University. He completed his medical degree at the University of South Carolina College of Medicine in 1958 where he also completed his Urology residency in 1966. He was professor and chairman of urology at George Washington University Medical School in Washington, D.C. for several years before returning to MUSC as clinical professor of urology, and continues private practice 4-1/2 days a week.

He has authored 75 articles, two books, several book chapters and three movies. He has served as a consultant to the surgeon general of the U.S. Army and on medical missions to Nepal and Nigeria.

He is believed to be the oldest urologist in America still practicing, as he has done for 54 years.

Derrick was in the Army Medical Corps in Germany 1959–1962, first at Baumholder as surgeon for the 8th Division Artillery and subsequently at Landstuhl Army Hospital where he began his urological studies.

As a longtime resident of Charleston, he has been involved in the community as president of the Trident Chamber of Commerce and president of the Charleston County Medical Society.

H. Ballentine Carter, MD ('81)
Also at its annual meeting, the American Urological Association recognized Dr. H. Ballentine Carter with a Distinguished Contribution Award for 20 years of research into diagnosis of prostate cancer, and educating the medical community on the AUA guideline in the early detection of prostate cancer.

Dr. Herbert Ballantine Carter is a professor of urology and oncology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He is an internationally recognized expert in the diagnosis and treatment of prostate disease, both cancerous and non-cancerous. Dr. Carter also serves as the director of adult urology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Carter earned his M.D. from Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine. He completed his residency in urology and surgery at The New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center and performed a fellowship in urology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Dr. Carter is the only surgeon at Johns Hopkins to have collected four years of quality of life information on consecutive patients undergoing radical prostatectomy using validated questionnaires. As a surgeon, this data allows him to know how he is doing and also allows patients to know what to expect. After performing more than 3,500 radical prostatectomies, he can help men and their partners navigate through a difficult time in their lives, and, in most cases, return to a life that was present before the diagnosis of prostate cancer. Dr. Carter led a panel of experts that wrote the American Urological Association guidelines in 2013 for prostate cancer detection. His book—The Whole Life Prostate Book—is the only comprehensive prostate book for laypeople that offers patients not only up to date information on management options for prostate disease (including cancer), but also approaches to prevention of male health disorders including prostate disease.

Dr. Carter, in collaboration with investigators at the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging, introduced the concept of PSA rate of change (PSA velocity) as a marker of prostate cancer presence and aggressiveness. He also first described the use of free PSA to predict the behavior of prostate cancer. Dr. Carter was first to publish data demonstrating that an individual’s personal prostate cancer screening program should be tailored to baseline PSA levels instead of using a “one size fits all” approach.

Dr. Carter was nominated in 2012 to be a Trustee of the American Board of Urology by the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons. His election as a Trustee to the American Board of Urology is a recognition of his exemplary patient care and innovative research in the field of prostate cancer.

We’d love to hear from you!

WHAT’S NEW? Whether it is about a move, a new job, retirement, an award, a new family member or anything you would like to share, we’d love to hear what’s new with you. Please send your professional and personal news (and pictures!) for CLASS NOTES to:
Michaela Coleman • MUSC College of Medicine • 261 Calhoun St., MSC 182
Charleston, SC 29425 • Email: colemmam@musc.edu • Or log on to our website:
www.musc.edu/alumni/stay_connected.htm
In this role, Dr. Conroy will be responsible for assessing Lahey Hospital & Medical Center’s clinical structure and management while continuing to create the most effective functional and accountable organization—capable of adjusting to the constantly changing health care environment. Additionally, Dr. Conroy will set the hospital’s operational imperatives, geared toward consistency of quality across all health care services provided to Lahey patients.

“From the moment I met with the leadership team, I knew I wanted to join Lahey Hospital & Medical Center,” said Dr. Conroy. “The organization and its extraordinary staff have positioned the hospital as an innovative leader in accountable care while constantly striving to improve the patient experience and serve the community. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.”

“In addition to her clinical excellence, Dr. Conroy has a proven track record of executive leadership, building consensus, improving operating performance and increasing both patient and staff satisfaction,” said Ann Marie Connolly, chair of the Lahey Clinic Foundation Board of Trustees. “The board is confident that she has the drive and passion to ensure Lahey Hospital & Medical Center continues to provide the safest, highest-quality care for which it is so well known.”

Dr. Conroy, named one of Modern Healthcare’s Top 25 Influential Women in Healthcare in 2011, brings to Lahey Hospital & Medical Center a strong track record of growing successful hospitals along with a thorough knowledge of all aspects of coordinated care, which is critical for the hospital in the ever-changing landscape of healthcare in Massachusetts. She joins Lahey Hospital & Medical Center from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in Washington, District of Columbia, where she spent more than five years as its Chief Healthcare Officer. In this role, she advanced AAMC’s strategic imperative of leading change to improve the nation’s healthcare system. By working with member medical schools and teaching hospitals, Dr. Conroy helped establish national health priorities and developed best practices to improve health by focusing on medical education, care delivery, research, diversity and inclusion.

Prior to AAMC, Dr. Conroy served as the executive vice president of Atlantic Health System in Morristown, New Jersey. In that role, she also served as the President and Chief Operating Officer of Morristown Memorial Hospital, a 687-bed facility that treats nearly a half million patients annually. Dr. Conroy also held multiple leadership positions at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), including appointments as president of the MUSC medical staff, director of residency education for the Department of Anesthesiology, chair of the Department of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine, associate vice president for Medical Affairs, Executive Medical Director, and senior associate dean of the MUSC College of Medicine. Dr. Conroy also received her medical degree and completed her anesthesiology residency at MUSC. Dr. Conroy received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Dartmouth College.

New interventional radiology group names

Dr. J. Bayne Selby ('83) first president

Ayene Selby, M.D., director of MUSC Interventional Radiology, was named the inaugural president of a new professional society, the Association of Chiefs of Interventional Radiologists at the 39th convergence of the Society of Interventional Radiology held in San Diego.

Selby said, “It is an honor to be elected the first president by your peers in IR leadership, but I feel my main role now will be to keep the momentum. There were many younger IR chiefs present who have a lot of ideas and energy. We will only be successful if we older chiefs can blend our experience with their new ideas and knowledge of modern communication to help IR chiefs make their divisions the best they can be.”

In follow-up to a meeting of IR division chiefs in 2013, the SIR promoted a session exclusively for the chiefs and the program scheduled involved top program leaders and speakers.

The program was co–moderated by Selby and two of his colleagues from other institutions, Kevin Kim, M.D., IR director and Image–guided Medicine Woodruff Leadership Academy, and Michael Darcy, M.D., IR chief, Washington University School of Medicine. The program consisted of topics covering the breadth of IR chief responsibilities. Prior to the start of the program, results were announced from a survey that had been recently distributed to 75 IR chiefs across the country covering issues critical and specific to them. According to Selby, the fact that so many responded to the survey in such a short period of time pointed to the need and desire for shared communication among those who are trying to run their local IR operations.

The program portion of the IR chiefs meeting offered practical information and advice. Presenters addressed challenges that most chiefs face today and by all accounts from feedback received, it was considered extremely valuable to have had commonly shared problems addressed as well as solutions recommended.

According to Selby, there has been a great deal of conversation over the last several months resulting from an announcement in late 2013 that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education had approved a new residency training program in IR. The new program allows for graduates to sit for the American Board of Radiology IR/DR (diagnostic radiology) certificate exams upon successful completion of the training program. At what was perhaps the most informative of the presentations, leaders on the subject delved deeply into this program and provided the latest information available on the dual–certificate residency.

The fact that Selby was named the first president of ACIR came as no surprise to his colleagues. MUSC’s IR division is considered one of the top programs in the country by its peers. The program’s reputation for excellence is due to the expertise and national achievements of the faculty as well as the high quality of fellows the program attracts.
College of Medicine Alumni return to Charleston
Homecoming 2014 Soirée “the best ever!”

This year’s College of Medicine reunion was held at the Gibbes Museum of Art and attended by over 250 alumni.

With a new format, exciting location, excellent band and delicious low country food and drink, attendees declared that it was “the best ever!”

The event was held on Saturday, March 1st with reunion class parties during the first part of the evening followed by a large and lovely soiree in the courtyard open to all alumni of the college.

During the reunion giving campaign leading up to the event, alumni generously opened their wallets to contribute over $30,000 to their CLASS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS with a special congratulation going to the Class of 1974 for contributing $11,871! The students and the College of Medicine are deeply grateful for the generosity and foresight of these donors who have helped open the door to medical school for some who otherwise might not be able to pursue a medical education.

Next year’s reunion will be at the South Carolina Aquarium on Saturday March 21st. We encourage all alumni to attend and reconnect with your classmates and alma mater!

To view all the 2014 Homecoming pictures, visit us on Flickr at www.flickr.com
**Golden Grads 2014**

During Commencement Weekend last May, the College of Medicine honored our alumni who graduated 50 years ago (or more!) during the annual Golden Grads weekend celebration. Twenty-two members of the class of 1964 and three members from the class of 1963 attended the weekend’s festivities, which included a Golden Grads luncheon at the Charleston Country Club with interim president Dr. Mark Sothmann, dinner at the Cooper River Room at Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park, and special recognition at Commencement. Hats off to these very special alumni!

**Obituaries**

The College of Medicine would like to pay tribute to the following alumni and extend our condolences to their loved ones:

- **Charles E. Aimar, MD ’53**
  Died June 3, 2014
- **Charles H. Andrews Jr., MD ’43**
  Died July 19, 2014
- **Jesse L. Bozard, MD ’59**
  Died February 11, 2014
- **Edd P. Chariker, MD ’71**
  Died January 19, 2014
- **William D. Clarkson, MD ’58**
  Died August 1, 2014
- **G. Lynn Derrick, MD ’58**
  Died August 1, 2014
- **William A. Derrick Jr., MD ’65**
  Died April 29, 2014
- **Rhonda Littlefield Duncan, MD ’92**
  Died April 21, 2014
- **Bill R. Ewing, MD ’55**
  Died May 21, 2014
- **Henry W. Gibson, MD ’50**
  Died April 12, 2014
- **Lee E. Hall, MD ’98**
  Died June 19, 2014
- **John H. Holliday, MD ’50**
  Died August 21, 2014
- **Everett M. Hughes, MD ’62**
  Died July 29, 2014
- **Beverly A. James, MD ’86**
  Died February 4, 2014
- **William A. Klauber, MD ’43**
  Died March 3, 2014
- **Timothy S. Llewelyn, MD ’81**
  Died April 11, 2014
- **James A. Majeski, MD ’75**
  Died May 24, 2014
- **Josiah S. Matthews, MD ’57**
  Died August 9, 2014
- **Dr. George H. Orvin, MD ’46**
  Died August 29, 2014
- **David M. Pease, MD ’81**
  Died May 12, 2014
- **John W. Rheney Jr., MD ’51**
  Died January 18, 2014
- **Cyril B. Rush, MD ’53**
  Died April 4, 2014
- **Robert M. Scoville, MD ’64**
  Died February 4, 2014
- **Cynthia Sessions, MD ’83**
  Died July 31, 2014
- **Julian M. Smith Jr., MD ’71**
  Died January 18, 2014
- **Arthur A. Stamler, MD ’49**
  Died May 13, 2014
- **Ronald E. Steen Sr., MD ’81**
  Died August 5, 2014
- **Edward E. Traynham, MD ’79**
  Died February 11, 2014
- **Robert L. Turner Jr., MD ’76**
  Died May 10, 2014
- **Hugh E. Vincent Jr., MD ’53**
  Died February 17, 2014
- **Thomas L. Wilkins, MD ’60**
  Died June 14, 2014
- **Belton J. Workman Jr., MD ’48**
  Died July 2, 2014

**CME**

MUSC strives to support physicians by providing exemplary educational activities which teach evidence-based practices and identify new and emerging health care needs so that, through education, we can significantly improve health. Instructions and links for all CME methods can be accessed through the Office of Continuing Medical Education website at http://musc.edu/cme/.

**The 17th International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation Conference is coming to Kiawah Island!**

This October, the 17th ISRML Conference, "From Human Milk Molecules to Population Health: Research Advances" will be held at Kiawah Island. Click on the picture to the left to visit the conference website.

**New! MUSC CME Certification Process for Educational Activities Effective July 1, 2013.**

New! MUSC CME Certification Process for Educational Activities Effective July 1, 2013. New one-page form promises to make the certification process simple and user-friendly, with hands-on support from MUSC’s expert CME staff. For more information, visit our page on How to Plan a CME Activity or download the new Request for CME Certification form to get started!

**Read Progressnotes Articles for CME Credit**

Did you know you can now get AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ for reading an article in Progressnotes? To visit the Progressnotes website, click on the picture. To view the available CME-eligible articles, please click here.

**New! Online CME addresses opioid complexities**

The American Medical Association has substantially revised its comprehensive, 12-module web-based CME course on pain management. The content is free to everyone. The CME has been certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ available to physicians who complete the training and pay a fee of $6 per module. Click the photo to access the website.
Class of 2014 Match Results

The College of Medicine Class of 2014 had a very successful Residency Match on March 21, 2014. Excitement filled the air as the room as each student learned of their next destination. All students who entered the 2014 Match either accepted a residency position or decided to pursue a research fellowship or master’s degree in research here at MUSC.

COM students matched to a wide variety of specialties:

- Categorical Internal Medicine: 21 (13%*)
- Family Medicine: 17 (10%)
- Emergency Medicine: 16 (10%)
- Pediatrics: 15 (9%)
- Obstetrics and Gynecology: 11 (7%)
- Anesthesia: 10 (6%)
- General Surgery including sub-specialties: 10 (6%)
- Psychiatry: 7 (4%)


Nearly 31% of the class will be entering primary care (counting Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, and Medicine-Pediatrics)…38% if Obstetrics and Gynecology is included.

A total of 44 (27%) students will be doing at least some part of their residency training in the state of South Carolina. Seven (7) students (4%) will be completing residency through the military.

Students matched at prestigious institutions from coast to coast including: Baylor, Brigham and Women’s, Georgetown, Duke, Vanderbilt, Johns Hopkins, Yale, Emory, Stanford, University of Michigan, Case Western, Oregon Health Sciences, Mayo, Ohio State, Tulane, and Wake Forest to name a few.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!
MUSC President Cole announces interim leadership for College of Medicine, national search commences

On September 5, 2014, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) President David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, announced that College of Medicine Dean and Vice President of Medical Affairs Etta D. Pisano, M.D., will leave those positions effective Sept. 30. Pisano will continue as a tenured professor of Radiology at MUSC and focus on her breast cancer imaging research during the next year while on sabbatical. Pisano plans to undertake a major study to evaluate the benefits of modern breast cancer screening with tomosynthesis and digital mammography.

Full press release is available at the MUSC News Center…

Deborah Deas, M.D., MPH, senior associate dean for medical education and professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences will serve as dean, and Bruce Elliott, M.D., Division of Vascular Surgery chief and senior associate dean for clinical affairs, will assume the role of vice president of medical affairs.

“Drs. Deas and Elliott bring a significant amount of expertise and experience to the table and as a team will enable our institution to continue to move forward in a seamless manner. I am very pleased that they are stepping forward into these roles, and wish to thank them for their dedication to MUSC,” Cole said. 

Deas earned an undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston and received her Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree from the University of South Carolina. She earned her doctoral degree from MUSC in 1989 and completed a residency in psychiatry along with fellowship training in child/adolescent and addiction psychiatry.

Deas has served in several administrative positions at MUSC, including founding director of the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program, COM associate dean for admissions, senior associate dean for diversity and currently as senior associate dean for medical education. She successfully led the COM Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation, has been involved at the ground level in the planning for new AnMed third year medical student rotations, and served on the MUSC-Physicians executive committee for several years. She has received R01 research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other public and private sources for her work in adolescent substance abuse, anxiety disorders, and depression, and has authored more than 100 articles, textbook chapters and abstracts.

“I cannot think of a more qualified individual to lead our institution forward as interim dean,” Cole said. “She has an in-depth knowledge of our educational programs, is an established, actively funded NIH investigator, and has a significant level of maturity as a leader.”

Elliott earned his undergraduate degree at Nebraska Wesleyan University and his medical degree from the University of Nebraska, College of Medicine in 1977. He completed his residency at the Letterman Army Medical Center, along with a fellowship in vascular surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He was a member of the US Army Medical Corps from 1977 to 1986, was honorably discharged in the early 90’s and fully retired from the Army Reserves in 1996.

Currently serving as the division chief for vascular surgery, Elliott also works as the senior associate dean for clinical affairs in the COM. He was president of MUSC Physicians (formerly University Medical Associates) from 2001-2005. Since coming to MUSC in 1986, Elliott has participated in and chairs numerous executive-level committees both within the COM and the hospital enterprise. Elliott has received research funding from numerous sources, including as an American Heart Association Established Investigator, and served on two executive committees for the American Association of Medical Colleges. A highly respected surgical educator, he has authored more than 100 articles, lectures, abstracts and presentations.

“Dr. Elliott has been a significant part of our clinical enterprise leadership over the past decade. His insight and knowledge will help guide our ongoing purpose of providing the best care possible for our patients,” Cole said.
White Coats and Stethoscopes

College of Medicine welcomes incoming Class of 2018

On August 17th, the College of Medicine welcomed the Class of 2018, comprised of 171 students chosen from an applicant pool of over 3,800, at the 2014 White Coat Ceremony.

Entering the auditorium with white coats draped over their arms, first-year medical students gathered for the first time to hear MUSC’s new president, Dr. David J. Cole, deliver the Humanism in Medicine lecture and welcome them to campus.

After reciting the Hippocratic Oath, medical students walked across the stage in groups, donning with the help of faculty members the distinctive white coat that represents the dedication and compassion of the medical profession.

Each student also received a Humanism in Medicine pin and a new stethoscope, a gift from the members of the College of Medicine Class of 2014 who graduated last June. These young alumni generously donated to the Alumni Loyalty Fund during their Class Gift Campaign last spring to provide stethoscopes for the incoming class of medical students.

Welcome Class of 2018!

By the Numbers:
About the Class of 2018

Fall 2014 Incoming Class
(Class of 2018)
Facts & Statistics

Number of Applicants: 3820
Number of Applicants Interviewed: 412
Number accepted: 171
Mean GPA: 3.6
Mean MCAT: 30
In-state: 148
Out-of-state: 23
Underrepresented in Medicine: 17%
Male: 59%
Female: 41%
S.C. Counties Represented: 27
Undergrad Colleges Represented: 48
Other States Represented: 10

College of Medicine First-Year Student Expenses 2014-2015

Tuition In-state: $35,665
Tuition Out-of-state: $62,129
Health insurance: $1,708
Books/required expenses: $3,100

The College of Medicine and our students would like to extend our warmest thanks to the Class of 2014 alumni who contributed to the Alumni Loyalty Fund to provide stethoscopes and white coats for the Class of 2018.

College of Medicine Alumni Honor Roll of Contributors

The College of Medicine wishes to extend our warmest thanks to all of our alumni donors whose support and loyalty continue to strengthen our many educational, clinical and research programs. We are pleased to publish our Honor Roll of Contributors for the 2013-2014 giving year online at http://www.musc.edu/medicine/openingdoors/donor-stories.htm
Good afternoon. On behalf of the administration and faculty of MUSC, it is my sincere pleasure to welcome you, our new medical students, your parents and families, and our guests to today’s White Coat Ceremony.

Parents: As your sons and daughters embark on this – the next chapter of their lives and careers – I want to let you know that they were chosen from among the best and brightest students in South Carolina and the nation. You are most deserving of the pride you feel today for your child’s achievements.

Today these remarkable students become part of MUSC’s rich heritage of excellence.

Students: You are the class of 2018 – 171 strong. You bring with you individual honors, hard work, and accolades and have earned the right to be sitting here as a group today in this auditorium. Today, you are embarking on your life journey.

We couldn’t be more excited or proud to have the opportunity to help lead you down this next path, to help you embrace your hopes and dreams with unlimited potential as you seek to join this most noble profession. The White Coat Ceremony is one rite of passage into a profession that traces its history back more than 2,500 years. And so it is my honor to be with you as you take part in this ceremony.

As you probably know, I am a surgeon... which is still a surprise to a lot of people back home in New Mexico. My father was an engineer, as are both of my brothers. I think it was generally assumed that I’d do something along those lines. But somehow, it didn’t happen.

I graduated from New Mexico State with a degree in biology (the Amazing Aggies are clearly not an SEC football powerhouse). Given my background and pedigree, it was unlikely that I would have ended up in New York City as a freshman medical student at Cornell Medical school in 1982. I think that I must have been their token westerner.

I remember that my major anxiety, aside from worrying about the fact that Citibank would not accept my cashiers check from the Bank of New Mexico (which is a whole different story), was “how would I stack up” at this level.

Although there were receptions and speeches, welcomes and introductions, I ultimately felt lost, and at the end of the day would retreat to my dorm and seek out a familiar voice on the phone.

And while the Dean of the College of Medicine had kind words, I did not hear anything that stuck with me beyond the message of “you are lucky to be here, sign your promissory note, find your way.”

So, remarkably, it’s now been 32 years since that first day of medical school and my professional journey has evolved to the point that I am standing here in front of you as the new President of this institution. In some sense, I have been handed the opportunity to, perhaps, provide better guidance to you than I received as a 22 year old about to enter into the world of medicine. That is a tall task, and I admit that I might fail.

But it seems to me that the most useful thing that I can do, aside from being brief, is to share a couple of fundamental truths that I have found to be touchstones for me. My words ring true for you in your careers, perhaps you will take the opportunity to “pass it forward” to those who will follow.

First - medicine is about people. Although this may sound obvious, the fact is our society and medicine is in the midst of a technical tsunami. Have you ever looked around in a restaurant to see who is actually talking face to face rather than texting on their iPhones? Medicine is about people. If we lose sight of this essential truth, we will lose a vital connection to our patients. The French philosopher Voltaire stated it most elegantly: “Men who are occupied in the restoration of health to other men by the joint exertion of skill and humanity are above all the great of the earth. They even partake of Divinity; since to preserve and renew, is almost as noble as to create.”

If you choose to continue on this path, you will spend the rest of your career taking care of people. Some you’ll like, others you won’t. They won’t always seem grateful. At times, they might even seem angry. But when they come to you, they will come to you in need. Some will come to you in crisis. Many will come to you facing the worst, most frightening and most vulnerable circumstances in their lives. When they do, they will have chosen you to face it with them. And they will place in your hands those things that are most dear to them: their lives, their futures, or the people they love.

I have had a successful clinical practice as a Surgical Oncologist for 20 years, and consider myself to be an excellent technical surgeon. But I will tell you that it took me ten years to understand what I just told you. My patients assume that I am a competent surgeon or they would not be sitting in my clinic. What makes the difference - or not - is your ability to connect with your patient as a person, your humanity, for them to understand that you actually care, and that you will do everything in your power to help. If you rise to this challenge, the rewards are enormous.

Last Thanksgiving, as I was sitting down to dinner with my family, I received a text from a patient I had taken care of for many years. He’d had pancreatic cancer, and I’d operated on him 12 years prior to remove the disease - his Thanksgiving text said simply, “Dr. Cole – its Mr. Smith, 12 years to the day. Thanks.”

What an honor. Nothing comes close to that.

Never lose site of the fact that being a physician is a unique opportunity to have a direct and tangible impact on a person’s life. It’s a privilege to be given the opportunity to care... the best physicians are those who understand and embrace this basic truth. Second - follow your passion. When I was in high school, I had a part time job as a store clerk working in a hobby shop. I hated that job, I was bored to tears. Every week when the schedule came out I would dread
having to face the reality of working two to three 6-hour shifts, but I needed to earn enough money to pay for gas and car insurance, and so my freedom, so I stuck with it.

My dad was a mechanical engineer who worked for 40 years to support our family and raise four children. I distinctly remember wondering one day in desperation when the schedule came out and I had been assigned four 6-hour shifts, how in the world could my dad face a lifetime of 40-hour workweeks?

Looking back it is fairly ironic that I have spent the majority of my professional life working anywhere from 60-70 hours per week, and as a resident faced every other night call and 100-110 hour work weeks. So what is the difference between Dave Cole teenage store clerk and Dave Cole surgeon?

I found my passion. I found something that was meaningful to me, something that was intellectually and emotionally challenging. I remember the exact moment that life became interesting. I was a third-year Emory surgical resident at Grady Hospital in Atlanta. You need to understand that at that point in time Grady hospital was run by residents, attending surgeons were by invitation only. So on July 1st, when as the new third year resident prepping a patient for a hernia repair, when I looked around to see who was going to help me, the answer was “no one”.

For the first time in my medical career someone was not looking over my shoulder. I looked down at my patient and realized that I actually had another human being’s life in my hands- someone who was asleep and trusting that I knew what I was about. It was a profoundly powerful moment. It’s a moment that each of you will experience one day, as physicians.

I found my passion- and it has made all of the difference, the thing that transformed a bored teenager into a surgeon. So love what you do. Follow your passion. Life is too short to be spent doing things that you are even slightly bored with. If you choose to follow your passion, everything else is important, but secondary. Everything else will fall into place. I have found for myself that the well-intentioned voices that might have steered me away from following my passion for practical reasons turned out to be essentially noise.

I am certain of one essential truth- you will only be able to achieve your best when you are able to connect your talents with your passion. When that magic happens nothing will hold you back.

One final thought, and this is actually “a pass it forward piece of wisdom” that has stuck with me as a basic value statement. It has helped me shape my decisions when challenged with trying to balance the many conflicting demands of a professional life - the same ones that will certainly arise throughout your careers. I had the opportunity to attend a conference as a fourth year medical student sponsored by the local Christian Medical and Dental Association- I honestly think that the major draw for me was the fact that there was free food, and I was facing the tail end of a tight monthly budget.

Anyway, the featured speaker was talking about the importance of “life balance” as a physician. I do not remember the rest of his talk, but one statement has always stayed with me- it was simple, but profound. He said, “Always remember, in your fabulous careers, that no matter what your role or position professionally, the only job that you can never be replaced in is that of parent.”

It speaks to keeping perspective and balance in your life. I am certain that in some manner your parents have embraced this basic truth and as a result, it had a major impact on the fact that you are sitting here. So, I will take this opportunity to pass these words on to you. Between today and graduation, you will experience many hurdles, but also some of the best years of your lives, and when you look back it will seem like a blink of the eye. Honestly, it’s is hard for me to believe that it has been 32 years have passed since it was I sat in the audience.

As we look forward, know the faculty and I look forward to sharing the journey we have ahead of us.

One last thought: MUSC is a family. You are now a part of our family. Welcome to MUSC, class of 2018.

Q&A with Dr. Rowena G. Sobczyk ’74, president of the College of Medicine Alumni Association Board and the MUSC Joint Alumni Association Board

What is your current job description?

Direct patient care is very rewarding but after 30 years, I was ready for a change. Now I view medicine from the other side. Currently, I perform utilization management for a large insurance carrier. It is fascinating work because you see how medicine is practiced differently across the country although the condition is identical. The need to encourage evidence-based medicine is compelling.

Why have you chosen to stay involved with the College of Medicine as an alumna?

When I was five, I got a play nurse kit for the holidays. My brother got a play doctor kit. His kit had better stuff than mine so I decided I wanted to be a physician when I grew up. Very few women went to medical school in those days. I stayed involved with the College of Medicine because they were willing to give me a chance. I have had a rewarding career because of the training I received from MUSC.

How has the practice of medicine changed during your career?

Many freshman medical school classes now have more women than men. Studies have shown women are better listeners and, also, that women are better at multi-tasking. It will be interesting to see how this will impact health care delivery.

What about family medicine appealed to you for your specialty area?

Family Medicine allows you to see the whole spectrum of life. You get to treat the young, the old, the sick, the well and everything in between. One of the highlights of my practice was attending the wedding of a baby I delivered.

Thank you for your dedication, Rowena. We appreciate the tremendous leadership you’ve given MUSC during your presidencies.

Sallie Hutton named Executive Director of MUSC Alumni Affairs

We are pleased to introduce our new executive director of Alumni Affairs, Sallie Hutton. Sallie comes to us from North Carolina where she served her alma mater, Elon University, for nine years in a number of roles, including the director of Alumni Engagement. Sallie’s role at MUSC is to work with each of the colleges in advancing and supporting the various alumni networks. Be sure to let her know if she can help you in any way at 843.792.3433 (office); 843.834.6567 (mobile); hutton@musc.edu.
College celebrates 2nd annual third-year Student Clinician Ceremony

On June 27th, the College of Medicine celebrated our third year medical students at the Class of 2016 Student Clinician Ceremony to mark their transition to their clinical years/clerkships.

The student clinician ceremony is designed to provide guidance, information and support as medical students transition into their clinical years. This is the second year that the College of Medicine has sponsored the event, which is a meaningful ceremony that reminds students of the importance of humanistic care in medicine, despite the normal anxieties and demands of the medical profession, and the necessity of maintaining high standards in skill performance.

With generous support from alumni donations to the Alumni Loyalty Fund, each third-year student received an Alumni Book of Wisdom and a new white coat with an MUSC patch on the sleeve to mark the transition from classroom learning to the clinical patient care environment. Students also were provided with their personal statements from their medical school application to remind them of their own individual reasons for becoming physicians.

Dr. Paul Underwood, professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and associate dean of admissions provided the Humanism in Medicine address and discussed how medical school training had changed over the years. He also asked them to reflect whether they would prefer to be managed by the most intelligent doctor in the class that only spits out facts or managed by a doctor who is well trained and will treats patients like a human.

The event was also an occasion to honor our Gold Humanism Honor Society inductees and recognized six outstanding residents, selected by students, with strong teaching skills as well as being role models for compassionate, relationship-centered care. Twenty five students from the rising third and fourth year classes were inducted into the Paul B. Underwood, M.D., Chapter of the Arnold P. Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Congratulations to all of these deserving individuals on their accomplishments!
Kelley Smith O’Quinn devotes her life to paying back the love she received

by Allyson Crowell

For their first date, Kelley Smith O’Quinn’s late husband took her to a cadaver lab. Kenneth showed her around MUSC’s campus, bringing to life the places he described in letters sent to her home four hours away in Walhalla. Two of his aunts had paid for his medical school, a gift Mrs. O’Quinn never forgot.

She and Kenneth Smith married that winter and chased his medical career around the South. They started in North Carolina, then moved to Virginia and finished his residency in Alabama. Dr. Kenneth Smith established a dermatology practice in Anderson in 1969, and his wife man-aged his office for years.

On their 30th wedding anniversary, she established the Kenneth W. Smith, M.D. Endowed Scholarship as a gift to him. She thought of her husband’s aunts.

“There was a facet of paying back what was given to him,” Mrs. O’Quinn said. “It was given to him, but it was given to me as well, because it made him the man he was.”

The scholarship’s first recipient, Dr. Jennifer Young Pierce, remembered when former MUSC President Dr. James B. Edwards called her from a social function at the Smiths’ home in Anderson to tell her about the award. Dr. Edwards arranged for her to visit with them that same evening.

“They wanted to meet me and wanted to make it more than just an anonymous gift,” Dr. Pierce said. “To top that off, Kelley came to my graduation, when Dr. Smith had just passed away, and she gave me one of his text books. It was a really great moment to be able to honor him.”

Dr. Pierce graduated valedictorian of her class. She now works as an assistant professor in gynecologic oncology and recently cofounded Cervical Cancer Free South Carolina.

After Kenneth’s death in 1999, his wife main-tained and strengthened her ties to MUSC. She served on the MUSC Foundation Board for nine years, even after remarrying and moving to Augusta. Most recently, she and her husband, Dr. James O’Quinn, made a gift that will establish the Center for Achievement in Human Potential.

Read more Legacies online at www.musc.edu/development

MUSC JOBS

Attracting future talent to continue our rich history of excellence in health care, research and education, is one of our main objectives, and College of Medicine Alumni are a rich source of talent, innovation, compassion and dedication. If you have ever considered returning to your alma mater, now is the time. The Medical University of South Carolina offers opportunities in ground breaking research, state of the art patient care facilities and education that only an academic medical center can provide. To find out more, click “Search Jobs” below or go to http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hr/jobs if you are interested in joining the MUSC team!
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