Dr. Cavert McCorkle established an endowed scholarship in honor of his parents, Mary and Philip, pictured below in 2005 at age 87.

During the course of his 31-year career, Dr. McCorkle cared for an extraordinary number of both surgical and nonsurgical patients, an experience that he describes as “an incredible, God-given opportunity.” Upon nearing retirement, he looked back on his successful career and began thinking of a way to thank his parents for making it possible. While working on his estate planning, he decided to make provisions that would allow him to give back to the people and institutions that helped him achieve what he had accomplished during his lifetime.

“I benefitted a tremendous amount from those who came before me and I felt that it was important to give back,” he says. “I shared that with my parents and promised them that I would do something to honor them.”

In his estate plans, he provided for the establishment of two endowed scholarships in the MUSC College of Medicine in his parents’ names. Because the scholarship funds are endowed, they will exist in perpetuity, giving Dr. McCorkle a permanent way to honor his parents’ memory. Also in his legacy planning, he provided for the creation of a Distinguished Endowed Chair in Neurological Surgery, further strengthening the Department of Neurosurgery by helping it recruit and support a nationally prominent authority in the field.

Today, Dr. McCorkle says his planned gifts to MUSC helped fulfill values-driven philanthropic goals that became even more important to him with the passing of his father in 2009 and mother in 2011. “I wanted to use my estate to say something about the things that were important to me. I wanted to thank my parents. I wanted to continue the field of medicine and help produce the next generation of physicians. And I wanted to give back to the institutions that helped me get where I am. In my view, these endowments will enable me to achieve all those goals and more.”

\[END\]

\section{Medical University of South Carolina}

\section{EGACIES, fall 2012}

Celebrating the spirit of philanthropy and the power of giving.

\section{A grateful son’s “thank you”}

by John Nash

When asked where he was raised, Dr. Cavert McCorkle hesitates, looking for a short answer. As the son of a career Army officer, Dr. McCorkle spent his childhood living in Tokyo, Paris, New Jersey, North Carolina and in Washington, D.C. on two separate occasions before completing high school.

“We were constantly moving, experiencing new places, new people and new situations,” he says.

Through the lifestyle may have seemed nomadic by civilian standards, Cavert and his older brother Philip Jr. were kept grounded and on track by what he describes as a deeply stabilizing force: his parents.

His father served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War while his mother worked hard to build a warm, supportive and intellectually stimulating environment at home. Together, Mary and Philip McCorkle impressed upon their two sons the importance of education, hard work and sacrificing short-term comforts for the sake of long-term opportunities.

“We were very close,” they say. “They were wonderful, caring, loving people who taught us about the important things in life: hard work, doing your best and leading a good life, honestly and with integrity. They were my guiding light. The McCorkle family had several doctors in its history, beginning with Cavert’s great, great grandfather, John B. Hunner, who graduated from the Medical University in 1829. However, it was not until his mother recovered from a prolonged hospitalization from a surgical procedure that Cavert developed his own interest in medicine.

“We had just moved from Paris to Fort Bragg and I was in the 10th grade,” he recalls. “I guess it was a very impressionable point in my life because the doctors, nurses and the hospital made a big impression on me. I always wanted to do something about it.”

Upon learning of his interest in medicine, Dr. McCorkle’s parents placed their full emotional and financial support behind their son. “It was because they wanted to, not because they had to,” he says. “They sacrificed and gave of themselves to support me through college and medical school and beyond in my career pursuit, without expecting a payback. They did the same for my brothers.”

The McCorkle brothers made the most of the opportunities provided by their parents. Philip, Jr. became an administrator of a large hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Cavert graduated from the MUSC College of Medicine in 1972 and went on to build a successful career as a neurosurgeon, eventually earning board certification in neurological surgery and becoming a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a Fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

At a special meeting of the Lions Clubs International Foundation in August, Lion Joe Lark and Dr. Gene Spiess present a check for $52,000 to Tom McHugh, Storm Eye Institute’s director of development, to support the purchase of equipment for eye research at the institute.

The Medical University is pleased to report that gifts and pledges to the MUSC Foundation reached $76.9 million during fiscal 2012, about 10 percent above its annual goal.

On behalf of the entire Medical University family and the people we serve, thank you for your generosity. It is making a difference in more ways, and in more lives, than you can imagine!
**Surprise diagnosis inspires gift decades later**

By Allyson Bird

Long before Bill and Laura Hewitt became such prominent local philanthropists, they were a young couple at a crossroads. The Hewitts met at a laundromat in Charleston in the early 1960s, when Bill was stationed here with the Coast Guard and Laura taught at Garrett Academy. They married less than a year later. Bill finished graduate school and, then a lieutenant commander, accepted a position teaching electrical engineering at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Laura became active in academic affairs and cared for their three small boys.

Their future plans took a depart when, at age 29, Bill developed vision problems. A quick test and told Bill he was finished.

“One of the most important things you have is time, because it’s the only thing that’s irreplaceable,” Bill said. “Once it’s gone, it’s gone.”

The Hewitts moved their life from New York to Charleston, where they purchased a 1760s-era home, painstakingly refurbishing it. Local residents came by to see the newcomers. One of these visitors, Dr. Craig Crosson, senior associate dean for research at the Storm Eye Institute and himself a glaucoma researcher, said the Hewitts’ contribution ensures that MUSC takes a coordinated, sustained approach to understanding the disease.

“If you have glaucoma today, we can slow the progression but we can’t cure you,” Crosson said.

“Based on where glaucoma research is going, we’re going to move from palliative care to actually curing the disease.” - Dr. Craig Crosson, senior associate dean for research at the Storm Eye Institute

Dr. Pam Kaminski, her husband John U. Mayer and Dean Jack Sanders at the dedication of the Pamela M. Kaminski Center for Special Care Dentistry.

**DENTAL SCHOOL TO SERVE SPECIAL-NEEDS PATIENTS**

by John Nash

Alumna of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine has created a $1 million gift to name a special-needs dental center in the school’s new clinical building. The gift will also establish an endowment for the center.

Dr. Pamela M. Kaminski, Class of 1989, is a board-certified pediatric dentist in Grants, New Mexico, where she sees many patients with a broad spectrum of physical, mental and emotional disabilities. She says that, on the whole, too few dentists have been trained to address the secondary challenges that can accompany such conditions.

"Many of these patients have very specific needs in terms of medication, anesthesia and the manner in which they’re treated, unless they’ve been trained in these areas, very few dentists are going to be fully prepared for the challenges that come with treating someone with, say, cerebral palsy or Down syndrome."
By Cami Meyer

A journey in healing

The death of a child: it’s been said it is the greatest pain no parent should endure. Sadly, my husband and I are living testaments to the truth in that statement. In October 2002, my husband and I welcomed our first child, a son, named Camden. A name perfectly picked out as we combined the first three letters of my name, Cami, and my husband, Dennis. Camden was born healthy and surrounded by the love of family and friends who helped share in our excitement.

After just one night spent in the nursery we dreamily prepared for his arrival, our lives took a drastic turn. Camden stopped breathing and could not be revived. We had no preparation for how fast our world would forever be changed. We held him as he took his last breath, said our goodbyes, and left the MUSC Children’s Hospital with empty hands and heavy hearts. He blessed this Earth for just three beautiful days.

Our healing was an evolving process. I recall the early days when I was positive the dark clouds looming over my head would never part, and yet, over time, I was able to see the sun. My husband and I learned to smile again, laugh again, but we never knew our lives would never be the same.

“We traveled together. We had big family reunions, with children and grandchildren. Anduck and Claudia dated when they were students at the Medical University of South Carolina more than a half-century ago but lost touch as they launched their separate careers. Dr. Chuck and Claudia Simmons graduated in 1955 and began their radiology career in Crossnore, N.C., where he started a family. Dr. Claudia Oman graduated in 1956 and set up her anesthesiology practice in Asheville, N.C. Fortunately independent, she attracted plenty of savants but never married.

Then, one day nearly four decades after Claudia graduated from MUSC, her office staff alerted her to an unusual call. Her sweetheart from medical school, now divorced, wanted to come to see her.

“It started from that, and it went on until we got married,” Claudia remembered.

They spent a decade as husband and wife, passing the time with ballroom dancing, visits to the theater and trips to local vineyards. As they grew older, they reminisced about their time at MUSC and the obstacles they both faced in trying to survive.

“We wanted to help younger people,” Claudia said.

When Chuck died suddenly from cancer in February, just months after his diagnosis, Claudia made sure that his legacy would include their shared goal. The couple will fund through their estate The Claudia Oman Simmons and Charles N. Simmons Endowed Scholarship Fund, a gift intended for needy medical students.

The scholarship not only carries Chuck and Claudia’s shared dream but echoes a history of contributions. During his married life, Claudia began a scholarship for women and endowed an anesthesiology chair, gifts that help attract top students and faculty to MUSC.

Nearly 15 years ago Claudia established The Woodward and Geneve Oman Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of her parents, who lived in Crossnore, N.C., where he started a family. Dr. Charles N. “Chuck” Simmons graduated from medical school, now divorced, wanted to do that. I kept in touch with them the entire time I was there, and they were always so thankful to hear from me.”

Claudia said she and Chuck nearly made plans – except to be together. “My late husband was a very wonderful man, and he was the only man I ever wanted to marry,” Claudia said. “When we got back together the second time, that’s what happened. We didn’t have a long time, but we loved each other very much.”

The one plan they did make was to help young people who can’t afford their education alone.

“We were hoping,” she said, “that they would want to do the same thing for other people one day.”

By Allyson Bird

“A Legacy of Service to Others”

Judge Frank Talbot believed deeply in the importance of serving others. As a young man, he served his country in Vietnam, receiving two combat injuries that left him permanently disabled. After undergoing a year of treatment at Walter Reed, he earned his law degree and began a 40-year career with the Veteran’s Administration and the Social Security Administration, working to ensure that veterans, seniors, and people living with disabilities received the benefits to which they were entitled.

“He worked with a lot of disabled people and felt a big connection to his work. It gave him the opportunity to do something with what he had been given, and to use his time and talents to do the Lord’s work,” says his wife, Jane. “For Frank, his work was his ministry. That’s just how he felt about it.”

In January 2008, Judge Talbot began experiencing pain in the area around his gall bladder. In March, the pain was determined to be a symptom of pancreatic cancer – a serious diagnosis made even more dangerous by the fact that his tumor was located near primary blood vessels, making surgery very risky.

His doctors at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center asked him if he’d participate in a clinical trial that, if successful, would allow them to shrink the tumor so it could be safely removed. He agreed, and the trial proved successful. His tumor shrank and was taken out through a technique known as a Whipple procedure.

Although the trial was effective in treating his pancreatic cancer, Judge Talbot’s cancer had metastasized, eventually spreading to his liver and spinal column. On July 26, 2011, one day after his 64th birthday, he died at home surrounded by his wife, their children, Christine and husband Eric, Bridget and husband Tuck, Frank, Michael, and granddaughter Abby. Even in their sadness, the Talbots found reasons to be thankful.

“When Frank passed away, we didn’t feel like we lost the battle. We felt like we won two extra years. You can do a lot in two years,” says Mrs. Talbot. “We traveled together. We had big family reunions, with children and grandchildren. And Frank was able to work almost up to the time he passed away, which was very important to him. He’d say, ‘I may be struggling with cancer but I’m still fulfilling a purpose,’ ”

That sense of purpose, along with a desire to honor her husband and thank his caregivers, were at the heart of Mrs. Talbot’s decision to make a gift to Hollings Cancer Center in support of pancreatic cancer research. An outright gift of cash established this endowment and began immediately to support researchers’ work. Later, Mrs. Talbot added a deferred gift that will pass to the MUSC Foundation at the end of her life, naming the foundation as the beneficiary of her Individual Retirement Account. This permanent fund supporting cancer research in perpetuity is named The Honorable Frank F. Talbot Endowment Fund for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

“It was Frank’s final wish that pancreatic cancer research receive more funding,” said Mrs. Talbot. “He wanted other patients to have the opportunities that he’d been given through that clinical trial. For him, it was a matter of feeling blessed and passing that blessing along to others.”

We wanted to help younger people,” Claudia said. “When we got back together the second time, that’s what happened. We didn’t have a long time, but we loved each other very much.”

The one plan they did make was to help young people who can’t afford their education alone.

“We were hoping,” she said, “that they would want to do the same thing for other people one day.”
Cooper gift, challenge to boost building fund
by Roby Hill

The Cooper family’s gift ensures that Charles Cooper, Pharmacy Class of ’65, will be permanently memorialized in the College of Pharmacy’s new facility when it is completed.

Dr. Charles F. Cooper had a big vision and a knack for getting things done. A pharmacist, entrepreneur and philanthropist, he had great influence on the pharmacy profession and in helping others through education and mentorship. Although the Class of 1965 graduate died in 2001, he continues to shape the future of pharmacy in South Carolina through the benevolence of his family.

Three of Charles’ children – Gina, Gary and his wife Kelly – and Christy Cooper Whitlock and her husband David – have committed a $1.5 million deferred gift to help build a new pharmacy building on the MUSC campus of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy.

They then went a step further by inviting their dad’s friends, colleagues and other pharmacy supporters to make their own gifts as part of the Charles F. Cooper Challenge for the Building the Future of Pharmacy fund-raising campaign.

“Charles Cooper was committed to pharmacy, passionate about people, and knew how to make his investments count,” said Philip Hall, MUSC campus dean for the South Carolina College of Pharmacy (SCCP). “The Cooper family felt he would have valued investing in the new building and would have wanted to inspire others to support it as well. Their generous challenge grant will make that possible.”

The money raised in response to the Cooper Challenge will be added to the base challenge gift amount to name an area within the building after Charles Cooper.

“Our father could take a small investment and turn it into something great,” said Whitlock. Pharmacy Class of ’90. “With the help of alumni and friends of MUSC pharmacy, we’ll be able to turn every donation, no matter how large or small, into a state of the art facility wholly needed to provide the kind of education today’s pharmacy student needs.”

“The Coopers are an important part of why the college has gained visibility as one of the nation’s top pharmacy schools,” said Joseph T. DiPiro, executive dean of the SCCP. “Their generosity has helped us get the best students and an outstanding faculty member as endowed chair. With this new challenge grant for the building fund, they are helping us toward having a first-class physical facility as well. The Coopers have quite a respected and well-earned legacy here at the college and we are delighted to name part of the new building after a treasured alumnus.”

Building the Future of Pharmacy campaign

The Building the Future of Pharmacy campaign is a $10 million fund-raising initiative to support the creation of a new pharmacy building on the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) campus of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy. The flagship facility will include more than 83,000 square feet of space, two lecture halls, reconfigurable classrooms, seminar rooms, student practice laboratories and research labs. To learn more about the Building the Future of Pharmacy Campaign visit www.buildingthefutureofpharmacy.org or contact Megan Thelging Draper at 843-792-4980 or draperm@musc.edu.

Cooper inspired life, gift
by Roby Hill

Heather Sharpe knows her life would be very different today had she not met Charles Cooper.

A softball player in high school, Sharpe fell in with the athletic crowd at Swansea High School and got to know the young basketball coach, Gina Cooper, whose parents – Charles and Carol – frequented the games. Soon, Sharpe became part of their extended family.

Sharpe enrolled in the College of Charleston, intending to pursue a degree in child psychiatry. However, after spending a summer working at Charles Cooper’s pharmacy, she began thinking about a career in pharmacy.

She found an enthusiastic supporter in Charles Cooper.

“He was ecstatic I wanted to be a pharmacist,” said Sharpe. “When he knew that was what I wanted to do, he became even more of a mentor.”

After graduating with a degree in biology, she enrolled at the MUSC College of Pharmacy, where Charles and Carol Cooper had established the college’s first endowed professorship.

She completed pharmacy school in 2000 and scheduled an interview for a position in North Carolina.

“That’s when she received a call from Charles’ other daughter, Christy Cooper Whitlock, a fellow alumna of the College of Pharmacy in 1990, who wanted to know if Heather would be interested in working for the Coopers. She has remained deeply involved in the family business ever since.”

Today, Sharpe has ownership in Winyah Pharmacy and oversees the consultant pharmacists for Winyah Pharmacy in Georgetown and Winyah Pharmacy of the Piedmont in Charlotte (NC). She is also the Director of Pharmacy Services for the Georgetown location and a retail pharmacy located on The Frankie at Seaside campus, a senior living community in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

She credits a lot of her success to Charles Cooper . . . and her education at MUSC. So when the Charles and Carol Cooper Challenge to raise funds for the new pharmacy building on the MUSC campus was launched, she knew she wanted to participate.

Sharpe took out a life insurance policy owned by the University Foundation. Since her premium payments go to the foundation, she can tax deductibles. In 10 years, her premiums will be paid out. In this way, she is able to make a $1 million gift to support the new building.

“I wanted to honor Charles,” she said. “I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for him.”

Faculty Member Establishes Endowed Chair in Thoracic Surgical Oncology

Carolyn E. Reed, M.D., a nationally-recognized thoracic surgeon and longtime leader at MUSC and Hollings Cancer Center, has made a $500,000 gift to establish an endowed chair in thoracic surgical oncology.

The chair will create a permanent endowment to ensure that a cardiothoracic surgeon dedicated to lung cancer and esophageal cancer will exist in perpetuity at the Medical University. Lung cancer is the most common form of cancer in South Carolina and worldwide, accounting for 1.5 million deaths annually.

Dr. Reed made her gift as a matching challenge. Hollings Cancer Center is seeking gifts to meet this challenge raise the $1 million minimum required to fully endow a chair.

“My patients are my inspiration. It is on their behalf that I pledge half of this chair. As I approach retirement, I want to ensure that the best possible care continues to be available to patients with thoracic malignancies. When I came to MUSC in 1985, I was given freedom to develop a program in general thoracic malignancies. With the help of Dr. Fred Crawford and many others, I created a multidisciplinary clinic, a floor devoted to surgical oncology, and a resource for surgical expertise in lung and esophageal cancer. The creation of the Hollings Cancer Center and its subsequent National Cancer Institute designation capped my goal of bringing the best cancer care to MUSC. I have watched MUSC grow over the past 25 years, and the changes are truly amazing. The research, the facilities, and the educational opportunities have grown in quantity and quality. MUSC continues to serve a diverse population and should be proud that we are resource for the people of South Carolina.”

Dr. Reed is a professor of surgery, chief, Section of General Thoracic Surgery, and associate director of Medical Affairs at Hollings. She holds the Alice Ruth Reeves Folk Endowed Chair of Clinical Oncology and served from 2000-2004 as director of Hollings Cancer Center.

It is with great sadness that we report that Carolyn Reed, M.D., passed away on Friday, November 16, 2012 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. To make a memorial gift to The Carolyn E. Reed, M.D. Distinguished Endowed Chair in Thoracic Surgical Oncology, please mail your contribution to the MUSC Foundation at 18 Bee Street, MUSC 450, Charleston, SC 29425. Or you may make your gift online at hoc.musc.edu/giving.
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The Medical University recently hosted the 4th annual WEIZLY102.5 Cares for Kids Radiothon, a two-and-a-half day broadcast to raise money for the MUSC Children’s Hospital Fund. This year’s event raised more than $117,000.
OUT & ABOUT
The James E. Edwards College of Dental Medicine hosted a reception to celebrate the dedication of the W. Carter Brown and Kathryn D. Brown Advanced Education in General Dentistry Clinic. Pictured here (l-r) are President of the Academy of General Dentistry Dr. Howard Gamble, Dr. Carter Brown (Dental Class of 82), Mrs. Kathryn Brown, Dental Dean Dr. J. Sanders and President of the American Dental Association Dr. William Caltran.

Capitol Records Nashville artist Darius Rucker, backed by a top band orchestra, performed an evening of Frank Sinatra standards as part of a concert at North Charleston Performing Arts Center to benefit MUSC Children’s Hospital. The sold-out show raised $260,000 for the hospital. Darius and his wife, Beth, serve on the board of the MUSC Children’s Hospital Fund.