Darius Rucker may have been sporting a new tux, but 14-year-old Zion Thomas commanded center stage at the end of the 5th Darius Rucker Big Band Concert Feb. 17 where he addressed the sold-out auditorium without missing a beat.

“I want to say thank you to MUSC for everything they’ve done from building this new children’s hospital to taking care of all these kids and patients and parents. Just being a family,” Zion said after he and Emma Grace Bostian, 7, presented Darius and Beth Rucker with a thank you poster for agreeing to lead the fundraising campaign for a new Children’s Hospital and Women’s Pavilion.

Zion was thrilled to be asked to go on stage where the Ruckers announced that $265,000 from concert proceeds would help build a new hospital. The sickle-cell patient and aspiring actor has faced extreme pain and weeks in the hospital that has led to him only being able to spend four Christmases at home.

“It didn’t stop the teenager from rallying the troops, though. “Even if you don’t go to MUSC or it’s your first time there, they are going to treat you like family,” he said. “It’s just one of their rules. I don’t know why, but I love MUSC and the new children’s hospital, and I hope I can keep on going living a healthy life.”

The concert marked the official kickoff of the largest fundraising effort in the history of MUSC Children’s Hospital. MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D., said the $350 million hospital will require raising $50 million in philanthropic support.

Cole said the campaign is gaining momentum. The new hospital is expected to open in 2019 on Courtenay Drive. It will replace the 28-year-old Children’s Hospital currently located on Ashley Avenue, providing space for more patients, expanded services and more spacious, family-centered amenities. To date the new hospital has raised $15.5 million in support from the community.

“That’s a great place to be, but we still have a lot of work to do,” Cole said. “We’re now in the roll-up-your-sleeves phase. It’s this kind of support that is going to transform the lives of our children, our women and our future. I thank everybody involved in this. It’s really humbling to be standing here like this.”

The Ruckers have been volunteers with the Children’s Hospital for the past 15 years and enjoy making visits to the hospital and seeing children who’ve gotten well.

“That just makes you feel even better. When a kid leaves the hospital and they’re OK and that makes you want to help even more. So I think this new hospital we’re building is going to expand that and help MUSC Children’s Hospital help more people,” Darius said in an interview before the concert.

“For me kids are the future, but they’re also the people I think are the most helpless so you try to help them as much as you can. It’s our job to raise kids and make sure kids can be well,” Rucker said.

On stage during the presentation, his wife, Beth, put it simply: “Let’s build it.”

MUSC Children’s Hospital patients Zion Thomas and Emma Grace Bostian were on hand to celebrate the campaign’s launch.

CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS BETH AND DARIUS RUCKER present a check representing the evening’s proceeds to MUSC President Dr. David Cole, right.

“I want to say thank you to MUSC for everything they’ve done from building this new children’s hospital to taking care of all these kids and patients and parents. Just being a family.” – Zion Thomas

To learn more about the campaign to build the new MUSC Children’s Hospital and Women’s Pavilion, please visit imagine.musckids.org.
Boeing makes $5 million gift to new hospital

Boeing announced a $5 million investment during a ceremony at Jerry Zucker Middle School in North Charleston, demonstrating a major commitment to significantly improving children’s health and wellness as part of MUSC’s efforts to build a new children’s hospital on the Charleston peninsula.

This investment will be paid in installments over the next five years. Boeing also provided the Lowcountry Food bank with a $100,000 investment during the ceremony.

“Boeing and its teammates are proud to present these investment grants to MUSC and the Lowcountry Food Bank and of the positive impact they will have on thousands of children in South Carolina,” said Ray Conner, Boeing Commercial Airplanes president and CEO, who presented the grant on behalf of the company. “Overall childhood health, including proper nutrition and healthy eating habits at a young age, is vital for a child’s physical and cognitive development, preparing them for success in school and life.”

“We are so pleased that our relationship with Boeing has resulted in this generous gift, and we are so grateful for their support and partnership,” said David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, MUSC president. “Boeing is making a real impact when it comes to providing for the future of children’s wellness in South Carolina, and we cannot thank them enough for this incredible level of investment.”

From 2010 to 2013, Boeing provided nearly $3.75 million in grant funding to support the Boeing Center for Children’s Wellness at MUSC Children’s Hospital.

The Center’s School Wellness Program costs $2.44 per child, per year, and received the 2012 Community Award by the South Carolina Medical Association.

“We recognize the responsibility we have here in South Carolina, not only to produce and deliver 787 Dreamliners to customers all over the world but to be good corporate citizens and help improve the lives of our friends and neighbors across the state,” said Jack Jones, Boeing South Carolina (BSC) vice president and general manager. “We’re fortunate to be backed every day by the generosity of our more than 7,500 teammates who never cease to amaze me in how they give of both their time and resources.”

Mr. Parker became known around Hollings as “the doughnut man,” according to Patient Support Services Coordinator Diane Aghapour. “When he started to miss days, the patients asked about it,” Aghapour remembered. “And it wasn’t about the doughnuts.”

Mr. Parker kept a jar on his pushcart, where he collected donations to help purchase transportation, wigs and treats for people receiving treatment. His daughter, Diane Goodwin, said that Mr. Parker began volunteering at Hollings after his own experience in beating the odds – and beating lung cancer – as a patient there in the ’90s.

“‘Boeing is making a real impact when it comes to providing for the future of children’s wellness in South Carolina, and we cannot thank them enough for this incredible level of investment.”

-MUSC President Dr. David Cole
Hunter Taylor looked down at his chest one day and pointed at his scar. “Where did I get this?” he asked his parents.

Nikki and Eric Taylor explained that MUSC pediatric heart surgeon Dr. Scott Bradley had used a sharp knife to cut open their child and fix his heart. Hunter’s eyes grew wide, barely believing the answer. “He cut me with a knife?”

They joke about it now but, until this past year, 6-year-old Hunter’s entire life could be charted in surgeries and hospital stays, in worry and prayer. Hunter was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a defect in which the heart fails to properly develop and requires three surgeries to correct. He underwent the first of those procedures a few days after his birth and the last one at age 5. In-between, he also was treated for a spinal defect, a kidney defect, a missing thymus gland, deafness and a series of life-threatening complications.

“At one point they actually took us out of the room,” Nikki said. “His bed was surrounded by doctors. They thought he was going to die.”

Hunter’s remarkable journey recently was recognized by Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, which named him its South Carolina Hospitals Champion Ambassador.

He was selected, in part, because donations helped to provide the surgical devices that Hunter’s doctors used to correct his heart, according to Miranda Barnard, vice president of communications at Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

“He will be a great Champion Ambassador, helping people understand the impact of making donations of any amount to their Children’s Miracle Network Hospital,” she said. “Those dollars add up to make a huge difference to local kids such as Hunter.”

Following his selection as Champion Ambassador, Hunter was asked to join campaign co-chairs Beth and Darius Rucker in promoting the new MUSC Children’s Hospital and Women’s Pavilion. The partnership held special meaning for Hunter. The day he received his hearing aids, Hunter heard music for the first time, when Darius Rucker’s cover of “Wagon Wheel” came on the radio. Rucker, who featured Hunter in a music video for his song “What God Wants for Christmas,” remains Hunter’s favorite artist to this day.
Family fund honors man by supporting future nurses

by Allyson Crowell

A few days after his heart transplant 13 years ago, Jim Izant slipped away from physical therapy and into the transplant waiting room, where he found the family of a man receiving a new heart that day.

“He’s going to be fine,” Jim told them. The family saw the surgical mask on his face and asked if Jim were their relative’s physician. “Oh no,” he said. “I’m the patient they did a week ago.” That was vintage Jim Izant, according to his wife, Natalie: compassionate, easy-going, and enjoying life to the fullest.

The retired banker spent his free time racing with the Hilton Head Porsche Club and going to jam band concerts. When he died last year at age 55, his family and friends gathered wearing Grateful Dead T-shirts, passing around his helmet to sign.

People at MUSC came to know Jim over the years, during his transplant and afterward. Sometimes Natalie called to check on him while she cared for their two children at home in Hilton Head Island, and he asked her to call back, because he had visitors.

The visitors, invariably, were Jim’s nurses. They made the experience tolerable for the whole family, especially on nights apart.

Her son, Robert, said his father’s nurses brought empathy to their jobs. “It means a lot to a patient that they’re not just waiting to clean your dirty bed sheets,” Robert said. “They actually care.”

The couple established the Izant Family Foundation Scholarship to help attract and retain top graduate students at the MUSC College of Nursing. Last spring Natalie honored her late husband by bringing the fund up to $50,000, the amount required to endow the scholarship permanently.

“We set this up, because we wanted our kids to know it’s important to give back,” Natalie said. “I wanted to get it up and running as soon as possible, because I think it’s what Jim would want. It’s my way to honor him. I wanted to know that there is another person out there who will start on the path to providing something that was so important to our family.”

The College of Nursing awarded the first Izant Family Foundation Scholarship to Enia Zigbuo-Wenzler, who recently began the college’s online Ph.D. program. A family nurse practitioner, Enia lives in Germany, where her husband works as a physicist. She earned master’s degrees in nursing and public health and is interested in serving vulnerable populations, a passion she discovered working as a hospital volunteer in Harlem and her native Liberia.

Enia will complete her degree after returning to the U.S. She hopes to research and teach but recognizes that her greatest satisfaction came from working at a clinic in Harlem and with orphans in Liberia— with people.

“We’ve been told in nursing programs that we should always work at the clinical level, even if it’s only 10 hours a week,” she said. “I love being involved with patients and their families, so I plan to always do that.”

RADIOTHON GIFTS SAVE LIVES IN MUSC’S PEDIATRIC ER

by Allyson Crowell

The very week that MUSC’s Pediatric Emergency Medicine team members received a new ultrasound machine, an 18-month-old child with gunshot wounds landed in their care.

The machine allowed them to get faster IV access to begin an aggressive resuscitation. Medical Director Dr. Scott Russell said that the technology likely helped to save the patient’s life.

The machine came from gifts to the MUSC Children’s Hospital “Cares for Kids” Radiothon. The annual event, sponsored by iHeartMedia, includes more than 40 hours of programming on local stations 103.5 WEZL and Y102.5 to encourage local listeners to contribute in increments as small as $10.

“It speaks to the community’s commitment to helping us provide state-of-the-art care,” Dr. Russell said. “The community will benefit from it in the long run.”

Those gifts purchased the ultrasound machine in 2013 and a video laryngoscope this year. The laryngoscope provides real-time video imaging that improves intubation and maximizes the training experience of residents and fellows. The two machines total about $100,000 in Radiothon gifts.

“That thing that makes it so special is that this was money given in small increments from the Charleston community,” Dr. Russell said. “That leads to real improvement — not only in the patients that we see today, but the ones who we will care for in the future.”
Man makes gift in honor of doctor who offered novel off-label treatment

by Allyson Crowell

“I told Dr. Silver that what I needed was a silver bullet – pun intended. To my surprise, he said, ‘I think we might have one.’”

-Bob Young

When his mysterious symptoms persisted and Bob Young still lacked a diagnosis, he decided that he would drive up the East Coast, looking for an answer. He struggled to concentrate and lacked energy, so much that he weighed every decision to move. Do I need that glass of water? Do I have to stand up right now?

The Columbia resident planned to make four stops on his trip, ending with New York City, but he never had to travel past his first destination: Dr. Richard Silver’s office in the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Dr. Silver recognized Young’s symptoms as giant cell arteritis, an inflammation of the lining of the large arteries. The disease prevents blood flow and can cause severe muscle aches, tissue death and, in extreme cases, blindness, stroke or even death. A local rheumatologist in Columbia had prescribed high doses of the steroid prednisone, a drug that made Young feel worse and offered little relief from his symptoms.

“It’s a debilitating disease, because it’s everywhere in the body,” Young said. “I told Dr. Silver that what I needed was a silver bullet – pun intended. To my surprise, he said, ‘I think we might have one.’”

Dr. Silver recognized that the culprit protein behind Young’s symptoms could be suppressed with a medication used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. Dr. Silver knew of a colleague in New York planning a clinical trial of this medication.

“I said, ‘let’s give it a shot,’” Young said. “It wasn’t technically a clinical trial, but it certainly was a clinical experiment.”

Within weeks, his body transformed back to something familiar, something healthy. “It was dramatic,” Dr. Silver said. “His bloodwork normalized within weeks, and he felt significantly better. We weaned him down and completely off prednisone within several months.”

Young and his wife, Roslyn, made a gift to help establish the Richard M. Silver Rheumatology and Immunology Division Director Professorship. Once that fund reaches its $1 million goal, it will help to recruit a top clinician in inflammation-related diseases.

“Ultimately, this fund will be used to recruit my replacement. Whoever we recruit will be a leader in the study of inflammation. I’m very honored if people want to contribute.”

-Dr. Richard Silver
For more than five years, Michael Morris never took a step. In July of 2009, he rolled a pickup truck three times and was thrown through the windshield and onto the roadway. A helicopter flew him from his hometown in Orangeburg to a hospital in Columbia, where a trauma team discovered that his lungs had collapsed and that his brain had swollen.

Michael, then a 42-year-old construction worker, slipped into a coma for 12 weeks. When he awoke, he was paralyzed on his right side and unable to form words. “He understands, but he can’t give you a whole sentence back,” said his mother, Alice. Her son left the hospital at only 64 pounds, unable to talk, feed himself or move half his body.

Michael regained strength over the years at home, as Alice became his full-time caregiver. Eventualy, she called a speech therapist and made an appointment for a wheelchair evaluation. The man conducting the evaluation suggested that Alice contact Dr. Sara Kraft at the MUSC College of Health Professions for an appointment.

Dr. Kraft supervises the student-run CARES Clinic for patients otherwise unable to afford physical and occupational therapy. She recognized Michael’s problem: his muscles were permanently shortened and spasmed involuntarily. But she also recognized that Michael hadn’t recovered to his full potential.

“Sara said, ‘I can get him walking,’” Alice remembered. “I told her that I didn’t have a lot of money, but she told me, ‘Don’t worry about that. I’ll take care of him.’” Her voice cracked, as she added, “I feel like God just meant for us to meet Sara.”

Dr. Kraft contacted Maurice Johnson, a certified orthotist with Floyd Brace. Dr. Kraft knew that Michael couldn’t walk because of the weakness in his right side but believed she could get him on his feet if she could just get his knee extended.

In November, Maurice put a cast on Michael’s right leg, a $1,000 expense at no cost to the Morrises. “You have to stand before you can walk, and some people just want to stand,” Maurice explained. But Michael wanted to walk.

With the assistance of physical therapy students, he gripped the parallel bars inside the CARES Clinic and stood. For the first time since 2009, Michael placed his right foot in front of his left and stepped. He walked the full length of the parallel bars, while his mother and Dr. Kraft watched.

“It was an emotional moment for us all,” Dr. Kraft said.

Maurice, who has owned Floyd Brace since 2004, committed to helping the CARES Clinic more than three years ago. As Dr. Kraft explained it, “I call them, and they never tell me no.”

She can’t put a dollar figure on the amount of time and equipment that Maurice and his team at Floyd Brace have donated so far, and Maurice discusses the contribution with utmost modesty.

“These are our neighbors,” he said. “I’m not doing anything different from what anyone else is doing. I’m just one part of the team. The whole community is coming together.”

First Doctor of Health Administration grad stays involved with college

As president and chief executive of a health care system, Dr. Robert Curtis had reached the peak of his career when he decided to return to school.

“I felt the need to intellectually challenge myself,” he said. “I found that it wasn’t necessarily needed for me to further my career, but it was very important to me to continue to learn and to continue to take a step back and look at things from a different perspective.”

Dr. Curtis, who goes by Bob, learned that MUSC’s College of Health Professions had launched a Doctor of Health Administration program, so he flew down from New Jersey to visit. He and his wife, Marilyn, loved Charleston so much that they purchased a home on Isle of Palms, and Bob enrolled in classes. In 1999 he became MUSC’s first DHA graduate.

“I credit the doctorate program and the faculty for stimulating a sense of inquiry as to looking at things from a different perspective,” he said. “One of the things I realized was that health care is a partnership, and that there are many players in this partnership. It’s not simply a hospital. It’s a community.”

The Curtises continue to support the program that gave him his new perspective. The couple makes a philanthropic investment each year to fund the keynote address of the college’s annual Healthcare Leadership Conference, now called The Dr. Robert S. and Marilyn Curtis Keynote Address. Bob also served on the DHA program’s advisory committee for two years.

DHA Division Director Dr. James Zoller said that Bob and Marilyn’s support of the annual leadership conference changes the overall caliber of the event, which draws 170 health care executives, clinical directors, consultants, faculty and alumni each year for networking and continuing education.

“The keynote address sets the tone and significance of the educational offerings, so it’s important to retain a speaker of national stature to present the most current and authoritative information possible,” said Dr. Zoller. “The Curtises’ support makes that possible and plays a critically important role in the overall success of the conference. We’re very grateful for that.”
NEW DENTAL CLINIC PROVIDES CARE FOR SPECIAL-NEEDS PATIENTS

by Allyson Crowell

Getting her 28-year-old son to the dentist comes with an array of challenges for Michele Lichtenberger. Lifting Cory and his wheelchair into and out of her van wasn’t the biggest problem; nor was getting Cory, who has cerebral palsy, situated in a wheelchair lift. Instead, the greatest issue for the Lichtenbergers was finding someone who would treat Cory, who is considered an at-risk patient.

Thanks to a new Special Care Dentistry Clinic at MUSC’s James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine, Cory and other special-needs patients have a new home for dental care. The ground-floor space includes larger doorways to accommodate wheelchairs and stretchers, one-way mirrors so that students can observe without distracting patients and a wheelchair lift to provide the best treatment possible.

Students read through Cory’s chart before he arrived for a recent cleaning. They saw a note that Cory likes classical music, so they made sure that it was playing when he arrived.

“It’s been wonderful,” said Michele Lichtenberger. “I couldn’t find any place for Cory before.”

The clinic opened in January and already treats 100 patients. Advanced Education in General Dentistry Director Dr. Michelle Ziegler said she hopes, with help from private funding, to expand beyond the current schedule of one day each week and to include more students.

“This is for patients in the gap – those who are too old for the pediatric clinic, and patients who others aren’t comfortable treating,” Ziegler said. “Some have intellectual disabilities, and some have physical disabilities. All these patients require a little more attention, a little more patience and a little more time to treat.”

The clinic operates with donations of both funding and supplies, including a planned gift from Dr. Pamela Kaminski, an alumna of the college. Another alumna, Dr. Isabel Driggers, and her husband, Jacob, pledged operational support for several years.

The South Carolina Dental Association’s Member Benefits Group provided a grant to fund salaries and donated the wheelchair lift to the clinic. SCDA Member Benefits Group Chairman Dr. Craig Little said the clinic not only helps patients but future dentists as well.

“That is such a need here in South Carolina,” Little said. “Number one, there was no central area that could see these patients. And number two, it was important to us that the students be able to train and see special-needs patients – and then to be able to see these patients in their own practices.”

Associate Dean Dr. Betsy Pilcher said the need still outweighs the resources available. In South Carolina, 20 percent of dental patients are considered special needs, according to the S.C. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

“A few private practices and clinics located in inpatient facilities handle these patients,” Pilcher said. “Others just couldn’t find a dentist.”
Kendra Crosby is the daughter of a Southern Baptist preacher and an intensive care nurse in a town with a population hovering just above 5,000. Everyone in Walterboro knows her. They know her as the girl who grew up riding horses on her grandparents’ land; then the girl who graduated high school early and became a trail guide in Greenville; and now the girl who returned home suddenly with a cancer diagnosis.

“I go anywhere, and people congratulate me,” Kendra said recently. At age 20, she’s beaten ovarian cancer twice, only to have it return for a third time.

She credits her friends and neighbors for helping her along in her journey toward recovery. After her diagnosis, their gifts helped with the medical bills and allowed her to travel to Baton Rouge for an investigational treatment.

Inspired by their generosity, Kendra decided to start her own fund to assist other patients going through treatment.

“Our community has really stepped up,” Kendra said. “I wanted to be a part of something to help other people the way they have helped me.”

When she asked town officials in Walterboro to drape teal ribbons down Main Street for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month this past September, a local reporter encouraged her to organize a walk. “I thought, if people want to pay $15 to walk and get a T-shirt, let’s do this.” And they did. The walk raised $2,211, and people continue to donate months later.

Kendra spent much of the time between September and Christmas in Charleston, undergoing treatment for her tumor. But she started the new year returning to the hospital on her own terms—to deliver a check from the walk proceeds to Hollings Cancer Center.

“You can give to the American Cancer Society or Stand Up to Cancer, but you never get to physically see what comes of it,” Kendra said. “I want to be able to tangibly see something come of this money.”

Her oncologist said nurses already have identified the first patient to benefit from the fund. “I think it speaks to the need,” Dr. Pierce said. “A lot of patients go into debt over the things that are not covered. They’re paying medical bills and not paying rent.”

Kendra already has ideas to raise more money through the 2015 walk. She plans to turn it into a proper 5K and name it in honor of her personal symbol: the lighthouse.

“Going through cancer, I have two options: I can sit at home and be depressed, or I can go out and be a little light for everyone to see and to make them think, if she can do it, why can’t I?”

Young woman raises money for other ovarian cancer patients

by Allyson Crowell

Hollings Cancer Center Event Exceeds Expectations in Fun and Funding

The Seventh Annual Gourmet & Grapes at The Sanctuary was a tremendous success, exceeding its goal and raising over $250,000 to support the MUSC Hollings Cancer Center.

“This year’s event was our most successful yet, pushing the cumulative total of funds raised over the $1 million mark,” said Debbie Bordeau, director of development for MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. “We’re so thankful for the support from those who attended, the chefs and wineries who participated, and to Kiawah Island Golf Resort for their tremendous support of this event through the years.”

The three-day event included a variety of food and wine events showcasing some of the best chefs from throughout the Southeast. A highlight of the weekend was the reunion of the four chefs who formerly oversaw the kitchen at The Woodlands Inn, representing a 20-year span at this five-star property. The chefs had never worked together as a team, but the camaraderie was evident and the food exquisitely prepared. Other new events joining the lineup this year included a session with the Post-Courier’s food critic and a golf outing on The Ocean Course.

Plans are already underway for the 2016 Gourmet & Grapes. For more information, please visit the event’s web site at gourmetandgrapes.com
MUSC doctor, once a nontraditional student, supports scholarship campaign

by Allyson Crowell

While about 90 percent of medical students dive in straight from undergraduate college, several physicians in Dr. John Freedy’s family took a nontraditional path.

Dr. Freedy’s late father, a general physician, retired from the U.S. Navy and started medical school on the GI Bill in his 30s. Dr. Freedy’s mother, also a general physician, retrained to become a radiologist in her 40s. Even Dr. Freedy’s wife, Melba, began her career in business but enrolled at MUSC to become a pharmacist a decade later.

Dr. Freedy decided to return to medical school at age 36, married with a family and eight years of experience working as a clinical psychologist. While his colleagues warned against the decision, his family rallied around the idea. “That seemed the norm,” Dr. Freedy said. “It may be a challenge but, if that’s what you want to do, you should do that.”

Dr. Freedy, a family medicine doctor, recently made the first gift from a faculty alumnus toward the College of Medicine’s Opening Doors Medical Scholarship Campaign. The Robert J. Freedy and Lucy R. Freedy Scholarship Fund, named in honor of his parents, will provide financial assistance to nontraditional students interested in primary care.

“I want to give them encouragement that other people have gone before you,” Dr. Freedy said. “It helps to know someone who did it and also to let them know they are not alone. The symbolic value of someone saying that they believe in you is huge.”

Dr. Freedy graduated from the College of Medicine in 2002, completed his residency years at MUSC and returned to faculty of the Department of Family Medicine in 2005. He is currently an associate professor of family medicine as well as associate dean for student affairs for the College of Medicine.

In addition to teaching family medicine residents, he also provides guidance to students from enrollment until graduation. As he puts it, “I’m in the business of developing human potential, both of my own and other people.”

One of the great obstacles to that development, Dr. Freedy said, is student debt, which averages nearly $200,000 for an MUSC medical student today. “People who will work hard enough to get into and through medical school shouldn’t be burdened with that level of debt,” Dr. Freedy said. “We have to lower the burden for young people willing to put in the sweat equity.”

Dr. Freedy hopes that the Robert J. Freedy and Lucy R. Freedy Scholarship Fund will provide additional support to other nontraditional students who can help to add diversity to the College of Medicine. Medical school is tough enough to tackle immediately following undergraduate college, let alone later in life, he said.

“You don’t go into this profession for the perceived prestige. That’s a byproduct of being passionate, and it’s not guaranteed,” Dr. Freedy said. “You do it because you have a burning desire in your heart, and you are called to it.”

For more information about the College of Medicine’s Opening Doors Medical Scholarship Campaign, please call Candace Gillespie at (843) 792-9243 or visit our web site at musc.edu/medicine/openingdoors.
SCE&G DONATES $500,000 TO MUSC CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) has made a $500,000 contribution to help build the new MUSC Children’s Hospital and Women’s Pavilion. The gift is one of the largest single donations in the company’s history.

Company executives Danny Kassis and George Bullwinkel were joined by journeyman lineman Thad Bostian for the check presentation, along with his wife, Emily; son, Michael; and daughter, Emma Grace, who is being treated at Children’s Hospital for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

During their visit, the Bostian family also donated two large baskets of toys from SCE&G for the Happy Wheels Cart, which visits between 80-100 children each week.

“Emma Grace is a very special example of one of the thousands of children MUSC Children’s Hospital cares for every year,” said Kassis. “I often tell people that it’s really exciting to have a new Children’s Hospital building. But buildings don’t treat people; people treat people. This new building will match the same level of care the nurses and doctors and all the employees give to children like Emma Grace at Children’s Hospital every day.”

Bullwinkel, who recently retired from the company, serves on the MUSC Children’s Hospital Advisory Board and on the executive steering committee for the capital campaign, along with campaign co-chairs Beth and Darius Rucker.

“So many of our employees have children and grandchildren who have been treated at this magnificent hospital,” Bullwinkel said. “Every child who walks through the doors of MUSC Children’s Hospital gets the very best care possible. We have seen miracles happen. It is one of the best children’s hospitals in the country, and we’re so proud it’s right here in our own backyard.”

’84 dental grad gives life insurance policy to his alma mater

by Allyson Crowell

On the 30th anniversary of his own graduation from the MUSC College of Dental Medicine, Dr. Jeffrey Bayme made a gift to provide a little help to aspiring young dentists in the future.

Dr. Bayme made a planned gift of a $100,000 life insurance policy. The policy will fund the Dr. Jeffrey B. Bayme Clinical Award Endowment Fund, which will provide a scholarship for top clinicians from the third or fourth year dental classes, excluding students already receiving other awards or military funding.

Dr. Bayme, who runs a local private practice, considers esthetic dentistry, restorative dentistry and dental materials his passions. “My hope is this scholarship might help a student with that same special interest,” he said.

“For MUSC to continue to succeed and excel as it has, it requires generosity and involvement from our alumni base,” Dr. Bayme said. “Our support means the difference between MUSC continuing to be a great school of dentistry and not just a good one.”

Dr. Bayme grew up in Macon, Ga. He met his wife, Michele, when they were students at the University of Georgia. He credits her with helping him through dental school, and they remain close to his colleagues from the class of 1984. The Baymes have two sons: 29-year-old Ari, an attorney in New York, and 27-year-old Jonathan, a magician and entrepreneur.

Following a residency at Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia after graduation, Dr. Bayme returned to Charleston and joined MUSC faculty as an instructor in 1985. He works with dental students in the on-campus clinic every Friday.

Dr. John Sanders, dean of the College of Dental Medicine, said Dr. Bayme’s gift marks the next step in a generous history. “Dr. Bayme has remained involved with this college literally since he graduated,” Dr. Sanders said. “We have been fortunate to have him on board to help train our students and to advocate for the college. Now, with this scholarship, he will continue to encourage and inspire countless generations of future dentists.”

Earlier this year, Dr. Bayme received the Distinguished Alumnus Service award for nearly three decades of part-time volunteer service to MUSC. He also co-sponsored his class reunion.

“Everything that I’ve done has been because of the MUSC College of Dental Medicine,” Dr. Bayme said. “This is a very small way to give back, given everything I’ve received from the school.”

To learn more about making a gift of life insurance or to request a gift planning brochure, contact the MUSC Office of Gift Planning at 843-792-9562.
OUT & ABOUT

Gourmet & Grapes | February 6-8, 2015

Jane Vaughan, Loren Beadle, Phyllis Shaffer, Amy Beadle, Florence and Bill Dowdy (top right) were among those who attended Friday evening’s black-tie Epicurean Affair, where patron sponsors were treated to a “behind-the-scenes” kitchen tour with the evening’s chefs (below, right).

During Saturday evening’s Wine Odyssey Gala (below), guests enjoyed distinctive wines, Southeastern cuisine and a silent auction, with proceeds benefiting Hollings Cancer Center.

Reception before Darius Rucker’s Big Band Concert, benefiting the new MUSC Children’s Hospital and Women’s Pavilion | February 17, 2015

Darius Rucker's 5th Big Band concert kicked off the campaign to build a new hospital, raising $265,000 for the effort. During the show, MUSC President Dr. David Cole announced that Darius and his wife, Beth, would co-chair the $50 million fundraising campaign.

(Right, top) Helen Hill, Bill Hall
(Right, middle) MUSC President Dr. David Cole, Dr. Pat Cawley and Paul Steadman, chairman of Children’s Hospital Fund Advisory Board.
(Right, bottom) TJ Phillips (left) and Ric Rush from 103.5 WEZL emceed the evening’s performance.
(Below) Michael Haley, S.C. Governor Nikki Haley, Kathy Cole and Dr. David Cole
OUT AND ABOUT (cont’d.)

MUSC Children’s Hospital “Cares for Kids” Radiothon | January 29-30, 2015

(Top) Dr. Scott Russell and his Emergency Department team work the phone banks.

(Bottom) The 40-hour broadcast raised more than $192,000 in contributions from listeners of Charleston stations 103.5 WEZL and Y102.5.

Raise the Runway MUSC Charity Luncheon | March 17, 2015

More than 320 guests gathered under the main tent in Marion Square in March for a luncheon, auction, and a special runway show by former patients of the MUSC Children’s Hospital. The event, which was held in conjunction with Charleston Fashion Week, raised more than $180,000 for the new Children’s Hospital and Women’s Pavilion.

(Right, top) Patient Zion Thomas hams it up with the crowd.

(Far right, top) Triplets (l-r) Kate, Sarah and Elliott Farr shared the stage to raise money for a new Children’s Hospital and Women’s Pavilion.

(Far right, bottom) The models were joined onstage by a team of MUSC physicians and volunteers at the show’s conclusion.

Legacies is published by MUSC’s Office of Development for its benefactors and friends of the Medical University. For more information contact John Nash, director of communications, at (843)792-0687 or by email at nashj@musc.edu.