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# eCONnections

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

VOLUME 9 | FEBRUARY | 2012

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**MUSC**  
Nurses Change Lives!

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College of Nursing

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## Lessons learned

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN



Everyone who knows me, knows that I do not “suffer fools gladly.” How then can I explain a recent experience I had with my home Internet service. My provider (to remain nameless) sent me a letter informing me that they were updating and improving my service. All I had to do was to connect the new modem and voila...Internet faster than the speed of light. Wow!

So the equipment came and I installed it and my previously perfectly functioning Internet service was now erratic and mostly non-existent. Not flustered I called the provider and they sent a person out to fix it. He arrived on time and was most apologetic. After three hours, he assured me that all my inside connections were working fine but I still had no Internet. Next came another person who did outside work. After another three hours he assured me that all my outside lines were also fine. So why, I asked, did I still not have Internet?

Six repair people, eighteen work hours and one full week later the problem was finally fixed. Think about that. One entire week without home Internet access. Yikes! I felt like I was in a black hole and the world was roaring on without me. I am better now as the Internet light blinks brightly and I have not had a problem since then. But what I want to share with you are two lessons I learned from all this.

The first reminded me of healthcare. Each technician checked out one potential part of the problem – the “inside” guy, the “outside” guy, the “modem” guy, but it was not until I had one person who said he would not leave my house till we fixed this problem did I feel like there was hope. That is like healthcare in that all too often our services are so specialized and fragmented that no one sees the patient as a whole person, and thus core issues often do not get addressed.

The second lesson was the fact that on day two I did not pick up the phone and switch to another provider. Why not you ask? Because each of the repair people sent to me were genuinely upset that I had this problem and said that fixing it was their top priority. They were sincere, honest and connected with me on a personal level. It was really striking to me that this level of commitment to the customer had me stay with this company in spite of these travails.

So I hope that in our College true excellence in customer service is embedded in what we do and how we engage with every one in our community – students, staff, faculty, alumni, colleagues, and the public. I know firsthand that this can and does make a huge and important difference....Gail

## Pride in our graduates

Roper St Francis Healthcare utilizes the Performance Based Development System (PBDS) tool to assess healthcare provider competency in terms of critical thinking, interpersonal and technical skill sets upon hire for its nursing staff. They obtain results and if indicated re-assess hires at the end of orientation. This ensures that any areas of deficiency identified in the baseline are re-evaluated for improvement.

Of the 400+ hospitals utilizing the PBDS system, the national mean baseline “acceptable” results for new graduates has been close to 35 percent for the past 20 years. In 2011, MUSC College of Nursing graduates attained an 86 percent acceptable baseline score. Within 95 percent accuracy of one’s abilities, acceptable baseline results correlate with better prepared nurses who require guidance and mentoring but much shorter orientation times.

For more information on Performance Management Services visit [www.pmsi-pbds.com](http://www.pmsi-pbds.com).

## “Jeans for Genes”

On February 29th, the College of Nursing will recognize Rare Disease Day by wearing “Jeans for Genes.” Rare Disease Day is an annual, awareness-raising event coordinated across the globe.

Jeans are not usually part of approved dress for College of Nursing faculty and staff. Permission will be granted to spend the workday wearing jeans in order to express support for the millions of people across the world that must daily cope with their rare genes that cause disabling and serious illness.



**Rare Disease Day**

Permission to wear the jeans comes with a request to also wear with them a “Jeans for Genes/Rare Disease Day” badge of support. The badges can be picked up from Pam Williams in room 423 starting February 27, in exchange for a donation to the Rare Disease Support Fund. Donated funds will be forwarded to the nonprofit rare disease support organization selected by the vote of all donors; ballots will be provided at the time of badge pickup.

## Reserving a room takes patience

When reserving a room in the College of Nursing building we ask you to **please be patient**. The College has a small number of rooms that can be reserved, but over 80 people who can make a request. Many have come to expect an immediate response from Susan Sparks, however, this is simply an unreasonable request for a variety of reasons – one being not enough information is supplied to complete the reservation.

Most units on campus have a 48 hour request/response cycle for room reservations, however, we aim to be more responsive. Susan completes all requests within 24 hours or less.

The room reservation policy states:

*To reserve a conference room in the College, e-mail your request to Susan Sparks at [sparkssa@musc.edu](mailto:sparkssa@musc.edu). All room requests are booked by 11 a.m. Any room request made after 11 a.m. will be scheduled the following morning.*

Please help us by honoring this process and being patient in requesting a room reservation.

## Ride in Style

Be the first to “ride in style” with the new MUSC license plate. For the first 100 plates, the cost is \$70 per plate; \$40 of the money will go to the Office of Alumni Affairs and will be used exclusively for MUSC scholarships. After 100 inaugural plates have been issued the cost will rise to \$100 per plate. An application must be completed for each plate (i.e. if you desire plates for two cars, you must complete two applications and submit two checks).

To request an application, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (843) 792-7979 or access Form M-95 under “Vehicle License Plates Forms” at the SCDMV link: <http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/forms.aspx>.

Instructions for MUSC License tag application:

- Complete required information, insurance information and certification in boxes on page 1 of the application
- Make check payable to SCDMV for \$70 (inaugural plates will be at reduced rate; you will be notified by SCDMV if you are required to pay the additional \$30).
- Return application form and check to: Jeannie Grooms; MUSC Office of Alumni Affairs; 261 Calhoun Street, Ste 306; MSC 182; Charleston, SC 29425.

If you have any questions, contact Jeannie Grooms at Office of Alumni Affairs (843) 792-3433 or [groomsj@musc.edu](mailto:groomsj@musc.edu).



## Palmetto Profiles

Palmetto Profiles enables the discovery of research expertise within the Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC) consortium and at its member institutions including MUSC, Clemson University, University of South Carolina, Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Palmetto Health and Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, allowing for new ways to network and collaborate between researchers, between mentors and mentees, between research community and industry partners, and much more.

Whether you are faculty, a trainee, staff, affiliate organization member, community partner, industry partner, or other member of the HSSC ecosystem, please express your ideas on how to improve this application. Your success will allow continued construction of these types of tools and may continue to get consortium leadership support.

For more information and tools such as PowerPoint and FAQ's go to, <https://sctr.musc.edu/index.php/palmettoprofiles>.

## FAIR, Faculty Academic Information Reporting

As mentioned in Faculty Assembly and printed in the December *eCONnections*, the College will be converting from the current employee database for maintaining faculty CV information to the university's FAIR CV database. Provost Mark Sothmann is requiring that all colleges use the database and update the information in it on a regular basis. The university (and the CON) will use the database information for a number of required reports to accrediting agencies, annual report, etc. Therefore, it is critical that the data is kept up to date and entered correctly so that YOUR work receives proper credit.

**Jo Smith** is the CON super and will be training faculty how to enter data into the system. To access your CV in the database, use your net ID and password and log in at [www.musc.edu/fair](http://www.musc.edu/fair). Faculty are encouraged to review their CV's in the database and then schedule a time to meet with Jo to review the data entry process.

**All training and data entry must be completed by the end of February.**

## Making MUSC a healthy, smoke-free place

An important new policy will be implemented soon on the MUSC campus. Acting upon the recommendations of the Student Government Association and the faculty senate, the MUSC Board of Trustees recently determined that MUSC will become a totally tobacco-free campus. The new policy will become effective March 1, 2012.

As South Carolina's academic health center and home to the only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer institute in the state, it is a part of MUSC's mission to prevent cancer and to lead by example in providing the healthiest environment possible for everyone on our campus.

MUSC will be offering smoking cessation classes and other available support and resources for employees and students to encourage a healthier lifestyle. To view the tobacco free campus policy, go to <http://www.musc.edu/hrm2/policies/policy49.pdf>.

*clearing the air*

**Tobacco & Smoke Free Campus**

> 03.01.12



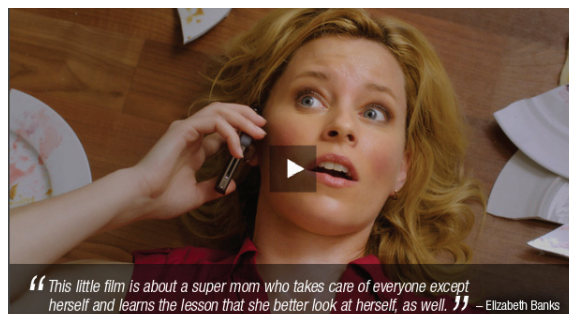
## Celebrate American Heart Month

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States. Therefore, the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women® movement has deemed February 3, 2012 as National Wear Red Day®. This national awareness day supports research, education and community programs that benefit women. For more information about the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women® movement and how you can become involved, visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

## A little film about a super mom who takes care of everyone except herself.

Check out Elizabeth Banks, director and star of "Just a Little Heart Attack," a new short film from Go Red For Women.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/OfficialGoRed4Women?feature=watch>



"This little film is about a super mom who takes care of everyone except herself and learns the lesson that she better look at herself, as well." — Elizabeth Banks

## The road ahead: A public policy forum – WHERE ARE THE HEALTH CARE COST SAVINGS?

By Carole Bennett, PhD, APRN, BC, PMH, CNS

In the January 4, 2012 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, PhD examines the question “Where Are the Health Care Cost Savings?” His article uncovers the actual costs savings proposed by many policy changes. But he asks, “With the healthcare costs approaching \$2.6 trillion per year, where are the *real savings*?”

A close examination of reforming malpractice limitations reveals that this reform would save a total of only \$11 billion or 0.5 percent of national healthcare spending and is unlikely to produce improvements in the quality of care. It appears also that by reducing profits of the five largest insurance companies the savings would collectively yield only about 0.5 percent of total spending. In addition, reducing drug costs and expanding the use of generic drugs would save Medicare part D reimbursement, but again only yielding about 0.2 percent savings in the area of drug costs.

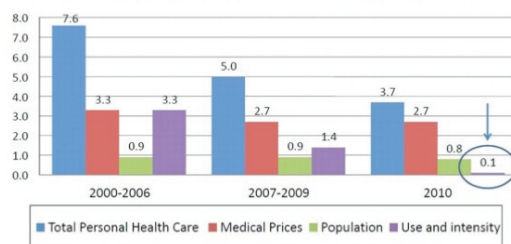
**The real money, the author reports, is found in the care consumed by 10 percent of the population who consume 64 percent of healthcare.** These patients have chronic conditions often in combination, which make them high utilizers and high-cost beneficiaries. Forty-two percent of these high cost utilizers have coronary artery disease, 30 percent congestive heart failure, and 30 percent diabetes, with about 22 percent of all healthcare expenditures, such as hospital admissions to treat complications arising from these illnesses being avoidable. Therefore, “reducing avoidable complications by only 10 percent could save more than \$40 billion per year.” **This is where the cost saving are in healthcare, not in the elaborate shifting of dollars, but rather in more effective management of and or prevention of chronic diseases.**

The author suggests specific strategies for achieving these reductions: 1. Use of electronic medical record to improve communication among providers; 2. Rapid access to specialty clinics for common problems such as an anticoagulation clinic; 3. Reduction of the high use of specialists; and 4. Provision of services such as email wireless monitoring, home evaluations, and lifestyle interventions to improve nutrition, exercise etc.

Certainly, these are areas where nurses are uniquely involved in improving patient care. For instance, the research of **Lynne Nemeth, PhD, RN** involves adoption of the electronic medical record in primary care. Faculty members **Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN, BC-ADM, FAAN** and **Ida Spruill PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN** have demonstrated great strides in the care offered to patients with diabetes by significantly lowering their rate of hospitalization and reducing the need for amputation among this population. **Frank Treiber, PhD** is currently researching wireless electronic devices to monitor blood pressure levels as well as medication and exercise compliance in patients with chronic disease, reporting results electronically to the healthcare provider.

These are only a few of the many projects in which nursing faculty research is contributing to lowering the complication rate of chronic diseases, and improving communication, thereby lowering healthcare costs, where the real savings can be found. And, of course, the utilization of nurse practitioners in primary care, to which the CON is dedicated, has demonstrated that quality patient education and health promotion offered by nurse practitioners and their skill in management of chronic disease, makes the APRN the appropriate provider to allow these costs savings to be actualized.

Factors Accounting for Growth in Personal Health Care: Average Annual Growth for Selected Periods, 2000-2010



Take a look at the history of health care spending in 7 graphs by *The Washington Post*: <http://wapo.st/wPj1E>.

Over the next year, *eCONnections* will bring you information about access to care in South Carolina, particularly regarding the role of the Advanced Practice Nurse or nurse practitioners in providing what the Affordable Care Act has identified as essential health benefits to people in South Carolina. Topics will include:

- What is the current state of access to care in each county of SC?
- Where do nurse practitioners practice in SC and what essential health benefits do they provide?
- What is happening across the nation regarding the NPs role in meeting the health care needs of people in different states?
- How do Nurse Practice Acts differ and why?
- What is the Consensus Model recommended by the National Council of State Boards and how does it differ from the Nurse Practice Act in SC?
- What are the barriers to practicing ‘full scope’ for APRN’s in SC?
- How have other states overcome those barriers to nurse practitioners practicing to the fullest extent of their education?
- What does research show about the safety of care offered by nurse practitioners?
- What is currently happening in SC to remove barriers to full scope of practice for nurse practitioners?

**FEBRUARY**

**6-7 MONDAY - TUESDAY**

**MUSC Graduation Products Event**  
*Josten's will be available with class ring and graduation announcement samples.*  
 Colbert Education/Library Bldg. Lobby  
 11 a.m - 2 p.m.

**9-10 THURSDAY - FRIDAY**  
**MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting**

**10 FRIDAY**  
**MUSC SGA Event: Night at Charleston Stage presents "Avenue Q"**  
 Dock Street Theatre; 125 Church St.  
 7:30 p.m. (\$5 for students/\$10 for non-students)  
 Tickets or details contact Student Programs at 792-2693 / mariutto@musc.edu

**18 SATURDAY**  
**MLK Day of Service: Health Info Expo and Kids Fair**  
 9 a.m - noon  
 Details: Liz Sheridan  
 792-4094 / giveback@musc.edu

**20 MONDAY**  
**Presidents Day**  
 CON Open

**24 FRIDAY**  
**Ernest Just Scientific Symposium**  
 James E. Clyburn Research Center Auditorium

**24 FRIDAY**  
**SGA Wine Tasting**  
 SC Aquarium  
 7 p.m.  
 Tickets go on sale Feb. 13 at noon in Student Programs

**98%**

The College of Nursing's NCLEX pass rate for the 2011 calendar year (105/106).

**WAY TO GO!**



**513 & COUNTING!**



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<http://www.facebook.com/MUSC.College.of.Nursing>

## Grant submissions



Duffy

**Nancy Duffy, DNP, RN, CEN, CNE** submitted an application to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) titled "Mentoring Future Nurse Leaders." The RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program is designed to alleviate the nation's nursing shortage by dramatically expanding the pipeline of students in accelerated baccalaureate and master's nursing programs.

**Charlene Pope, PhD, MPH** submitted an application for a VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative award for the proposed study titled, "Communication Skills Training for Heart Failure Self-Management in Telehealth." This study will be a collaboration between the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia to develop and test a pilot test an intervention to enhance services delivered by nurses in the VA Home Telehealth programs at both sites.



Pope

**Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN-BC-ADM, RD, LD, FAAN** submitted an application titled "Reducing Diabetes Complications and Costs across South Carolina Hospitals" to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for their Health Care Innovation Challenge funding opportunity. A new model of improved care for persons with diabetes in SC will be implemented using the Joint Commission certified advanced inpatient diabetes program implemented at MUSC.



Jenkins

The collaborative infrastructure of the Diabetes Initiative of SC will develop regional diabetes Centers of Excellence (COE) to rapidly develop and deploy the workforce to support the model. Through partnerships with the Colleges of Nursing and Medicine (Kathie Hermayer, MD, MS, FACE, CCD) and the SC Hospital Association, the COEs will work with rural and urban hospitals and communities in their area to: 1) improve diabetes care; 2) length of stay; 3) transitions/care coordination; 4) patient care and satisfaction; and 5) 30 day re-hospitalizations, which lead to lower health care costs.

## Publications

**Smith, G., Wagner, J.** (2012). Commentary on 'Care delivery and self-management strategies for children with epilepsy'. *Evidence-Based Child Health*, 7(1), 241-243. DOI: 10.1002/ebch.181

**Conner, B.T.** (2012). Reducing catheter-associated urinary tract infections. *American Nurse Today*, 7(1), 16-17.

Diaz, V.A., Mainous, A.G., **Williamson, D.**, Johnson, S.P., Knoll, M.E. (2012). Cardiovascular and diabetes risk perception in a Hispanic community sample. *Ethnicity & Disease*, 2 (Winter), 5-11.

## Kudos

Assistant Professor **Bonnie Dumas, PhD** recently earned her MBA, with International Certificate, from the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina.

Current DNP student **Kahlil A. Demonbreun, RNC-OB, MSN, WHNP-BC, ANP-BC** is the newest member of the editorial board of *Women's Health Care*, the official journal of *Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)*.

**Margaret Betsy Kennedy** successfully defended her dissertation proposal on January 12. Her dissertation advisor is Gail Gilden ScD, RN.

The South Carolina Clinical & Translation Research Center for Community Health Partnerships (SCTR/CCHP) has selected **Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN-BC-ADM** and **Pamela Williams, JD, PhD, RN** and their teams to participate in the 2012-13 Community Engagement Scholars Program. The 18-month program provides training and pilot funds for community and academic partners to conduct community-based participatory research. The goal of this program is to increase the capacity of community-academic partnerships to conduct research with mutual ownership of the processes and products. The teams are as follows:

**Carolyn Jenkins** (academic partner)

Carrie Whipper, Palmetto Project (community partner)  
Project title: *An Integrated Approach to Diabetes Management and Associated Complications at Low Country Food Bank Sites*

**Pamela H. Williams**, Charlie Strange, Alpha-1 Registry; Dawn McGee, Alpha-1 Registry; Michael Graves, Alpha-1 Registry (academic partners)  
Marvin Sineath, Lucinda Shore, Jim Quill, all with Alpha-1 Association (community partners)  
Project title: *Application of CBPR Framework to Assess and Prioritize Socio-political Needs of an Alpha-1 Community*

## RWJ New Careers in Nursing scholarship recipients selected for spring 2012

The College of Nursing has selected five first semester students to receive the Robert Wood Johnson New Careers in Nursing scholarships for spring 2012: **Osman Obdi, Roxanne Johnson, Zora Johnson, Michelle Mejia,** and **Shechianh Stewart**. Students selected for the scholarship must have an earned bachelor's degree in another area and be a member of an underrepresented population in nursing.

## Benedict tapped for MUSC Medical Center Scholarship

First semester accelerated BSN student, **Laurie Benedict**, a graduate of the College of Charleston, has been selected to receive the MUSC Medical Center Scholarship. This \$30,000 scholarship distributed evenly over four semesters is awarded to a student entering the program each fall and spring semester. Students have a two-year work commitment to the Medical Center following graduation.

## SNA and SGA Elect New Officers

The College of Nursing Student Nurses Association and Student Government Association have elected new officers for the spring 2012 semester. Congratulations to all and many thanks for the interest shown by all candidates and students who voted.

### CON STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION

*President* | **Andrew Stufflebean** • *Vice Pres.* | **Anna Calhoun**  
*Secretary* | **McRae Hamer** • *Treasurer* | **Jeanette Figueroa**  
*Historian* | **Amanda Green** • *Legislative Dir.* | **Lauren Bridgers**  
*Breakthrough to Nursing Director* | **Bridget Kinealy**  
*Community Directors* | **Aminah Fraser- Khan, Lily Jandecsek**  
*Representatives* | **Ellen Cary, Matt Couture, Jill Norris, Tom Rudisill, Jade Wallace**

### CON STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*President* | **Jessee Wagner** • *Vice Pres.* | **Jenelle Quenneville**  
*Social Coordinator* | **Meg Skeelee** • *Secretary* | **Lauren Nassr**  
*Treasurer* | **Wizzy Ugino** • *Policy Writer* | **Allyson Dodson**  
*SGA/SNA Liaison* | **Ashley Brown**  
*Representatives* | **Molly Augustine, Kasey Bamel, Cameron, Matthews, Lauren McNeil, Maggie Meyer, Jake Schubert**

Also, congratulations to first semester students **Brian Harley** and **Jake Schubert** for their election to the MUSC Student Government Association.

### PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSIONS

February 2 from 4 – 5 p.m. (EL 107) • February 7 from noon – 1 p.m. (EL 107)

February 14 from noon – 1 p.m. (EL 103)

Need more info? Contact Amy Blue at [blueav@musc.edu](mailto:blueav@musc.edu) or Amy Leaphart at [leaphara@musc.edu](mailto:leaphara@musc.edu).

## MUSC Presidential Scholars Program Seeks Nominations

This is the university's premiere interprofessional program and was originated by Dr. Ray Greenberg when he was the University Provost as a mechanism to enrich the academic culture of the University and promote greater interprofessional understanding among health professional students.

The Scholars Program is a two-semester experience for approximately 36 students, joined by selected faculty scholars from each college. This non-graded, extracurricular program allows students to bring an interprofessional perspective to the study of complex social, political, and human issues of broad interest to health care professionals and biomedical researchers. Involvement in the scholars program will allow students to:

- Engage in an intellectually challenging and provocative dialogue on issues of interest to health professionals and biomedical researchers;
- Develop appreciation for other professions and understand interprofessional collaboration;
- Appreciate the complexities of difficult social issues and how these complexities are interwoven in health and health care delivery;
- Heighten awareness of their own values in the context of their professional responsibilities; and
- Engage in community based work to improve the health of local communities.

Scholars meet bi-monthly for dinner meetings and presentations; additional meetings to complete group community project work may occur. Other events include a trip to the South Carolina State Legislature and dinner with President Greenberg. Previous Scholars have found participation in the program has greatly benefited their professional development.

The application deadline is March 9, 2012. Applications are available at: [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/pres\\_scholars/index.html](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/pres_scholars/index.html).