Year End Thoughts

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN

It is hard to believe but in just a few short days we will be closing out yet another year for the College of Nursing. And what a year it has been! We have:

- Embarked on an ambitious scholarly and research agenda
- Taken on the mission of opening a DNP program
- Requested university status for our Center for Health Care Partnerships
- And each day we hear the hammering that reminds us that our first floor is being transformed into a teaching laboratory of the future. This is surely a year for which we can stand proud!

That said, it also is a time to remember that all of these exciting activities and initiatives are being created by each of you here in the College – faculty, staff and students alike. Each of you contribute your ideas, energy, creativity, insights and enthusiasm that allow us to stretch to new levels of achievement.

And so at this very special time of year I want to thank you, my College of Nursing family, for all the holiday presents that you bestow upon the school all twelve months of the year. And I wish for you the many blessings of the season, the loving embrace of family and friends, and the renewal of body and spirit that I trust will come with the hope of a new year...Gail
Duffy Named Governor’s Professor of the Year

Congratulations to Nancy Duffy, who has been named the Governor's 2007 Professor of the Year for four-year institutions of higher education. Nancy is the only nurse to ever be honored with this award. She has been a faculty member since 1990, first in the Charlotte Presbyterian Hospital nursing program, and most recently at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

She teaches in and serves as the Director of the Undergraduate Program at the College of Nursing. She also chairs MUSC's Faculty Senate Education and Communication Committee, as well as serving as a member of two other institution-wide committees. She earned a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing at Bradley University and a Master of Science Degree in Nursing at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

"Ms. Duffy is truly a role model for all of our faculty in that her teaching expresses both her love of nursing and her desire to share all that she knows in a way that energizes the next generation of nurses," says Gail Stuart, Dean of the College. Professor Duffy's students also speak highly of her. "She exemplifies the integrity and passion that is needed to encourage and teach students in such an accelerated program," said one of her students, Lynn DiVecchio. It comes as little surprise, therefore, to learn that four times she has been selected by the undergraduate students at MUSC to receive the College of Nursing’s Golden Lamp Award, given to the faculty member who has most influenced their education.

Her instruction and mentoring of students has won her a variety of other awards, including MUSC’s Outstanding Teaching Award for the College of Nursing Baccalaureate Program and the 2007 MUSC Foundation Teaching Excellence Award. She also was awarded the MUSC Educator-Lecturer Award “for bringing learning to life,” for her encouragement of students to achieve, and for her ability to make her classes both enjoyable and educational. Before coming to MUSC, she was recognized as one of “North Carolina's Great 100 Nurses.”

Professor Duffy reaches outside MUSC as a part of her commitment to energizing secondary students who are expressing interest in a possible career in nursing as an enthusiastic participant in the MUSC/Charleston County School District Summer Nursing Camp. A clinical expert in Adult Care with an emphasis in Emergency Nursing, Nancy stresses the need for clear thinking during healthcare crises. "My classes use critical thinking questions and short case studies that pose simple and complex clinical problems," she says. “If a student’s response lacks depth or insight, I value the input and encourage more reflection. This guided teaching-learning exchange engages the student in an active learning process and encourages respect for a diversity of opinion.”

Nancy’s classroom teaching includes a balance between a focus on the serious materials at hand and an appropriate mix of humor, which she interjects both to lighten the content and to demonstrate the irony of clinical situations. Her teaching style has clearly been a stimulating elixir for both student learning and for a successful professorial career for herself. A person of admitted high energy, Nancy is continuing her own student career as a candidate for a degree in a Doctor of Nursing Practice program. “I love learning," she says, “and I believe it should be a lifelong commitment of everyone.” Her commitment to the vitality of learning is recognized by Dr. Raymond Greenberg, President of MUSC, when he says, “Professor Duffy is a truly deserving recipient and all of her colleagues at the Medical University take great pride in her selection as the Governor's Professor of the Year.”
New Center Approved

On November 19th, the MUSC Dean’s Council voted unanimously to approve the formation of the Center for Community Health Partnerships (CCHP). The next step will be to seek the approval of the Center from the President’s Council.

The mission of CCHP is to engage communities in activities that promote health, reduce the risks of illness and disease, manage adaptation to chronic conditions, and build community resilience across the State of South Carolina and beyond. Through the CCHP, students, faculty and staff of MUSC will reach out to patients, families, and groups living in the community to promote their health and decrease illness.

Emergency Notification System

In an effort to provide the MUSC Community with relevant, timely information regarding campus-related emergencies, University Risk Management, Business Development and Marketing Services, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer are offering students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to receive text message alerts and pre-recorded voice message alerts via their mobile devices such as cell phones and Blackberries. Desktop alerts (MUSC networked computers only) and e-mail alerts will be sent out as well.

This notification will only be sent in the event of a dangerous, life-threatening situation that impacts or would impact the MUSC campus. This system will work in concert with other notification systems currently available on campus, including Simon Pagers, Internet (MUSC Red Button), land-line phone systems, system fail phones, overhead paging, radios, and Broadcast/Blast e-mail messages.

To register, simply follow this link: http://www.musc.edu/muscalert.

Sigma Theta Tau Inductees

Congratulations to the faculty and students who were recognized at the Sigma Theta Tau Induction on November 15. College of Nursing graduates Dr. Laurie Zone-Smith serves as president of the Gamma Omicron At-Large Chapter and Tanya Lott serves as president-elect. Faculty member and graduate, Dr. Gayenell Magwood was the speaker for the evening event.

Kristie Quarles, a third semester accelerated BSN student, received the Paula G. Thielen Award and Kathy Neeley, MSN graduate, received the Founder's Award. Dr. Charlene Pope was inducted as a “Nurse Leader.”

Sim Lab Construction Pics
Getting to Know...Nancy

Name: Nancy Duffy
Position: Assistant Professor/Director of Undergraduate Programs
How many years at CON? 3.5
How many years at MUSC? 3.5
Most rewarding thing about your job?
“Nurse educators refer to it as the light bulb effect. It’s actually when a student recognizes that they are thinking like a nurse and all of the sudden... things make sense.”
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Describe your hometown in three words: Big, cold, fun.
Family: Husband, Kevin; daughter, Laura (son-in-law, JP); son, Joseph.
Astrological sign: Aquarius
If you could invite four guests (living or deceased) to dinner, who would they be? My father (who would love to know that I continued my education and am still having fun being a nurse), Florence Nightingale so we could compare notes on nursing, King Henry VIII so I could ask “what were you thinking”, and Emeril Lagasse so that he could provide help with the menu.
What did you listen to on your way into work today? Book on CD - “Last Wife of King Henry VIII”
What book are you currently reading? “Flags of Our Fathers”
Last movie you saw? The Bourne Ultimatum
First concert you ever attended? The Doobie Brothers
Favorite place you’ve traveled to? Niagara Falls, Ontario
If you could attend any sporting event what would it be? The Super Bowl
One thing you’ve never done but hope to do one day? To run an ultra marathon
In which store would you like to win a $3,000 shopping spree? Ann Taylor
What do you enjoy most doing in your spare time? Reading, working outside and exercising.
Favorite flower: Lilly
Favorite sports team: Carolina Panthers
Favorite TV shows: ER
Favorite movie: Forest Gump
Favorite cookie: Homemade chocolate-chip
Favorite Cereal: Kashi
Favorite thing about living in the Charleston area? The weather, restaurants, and working at MUSC.
New or Revised CON Policies

Please be reminded that changes are made in the student handbook periodically. Below are changes that have been approved over the past academic year. Please view your handbook for additional information and changes at:


NEW POLICY

Completion of the WebCT orientation course is required of all new CON students. Students will complete the course during orientation and give the certificate of completion to Nursing Technology Center (NTC) personnel who will turn in the completed forms to Student Services. Students WHO DO NOT ATTEND orientation must complete the WebCT orientation course by the end of student orientation week. Students who do not comply will be “disabled” (blocked) from access to all WebCT courses.

PROCESS

1. NTC will conduct a student orientation session on using technology in the CON for undergraduate and graduate students during orientation week.
2. Students will complete the WebCT orientation course during the technology orientation session and print out the certificate of completion. PhD students will complete WebCT orientation course during initial residency program.
3. NTC personnel will collect certificates and deliver to Student Services. If you do not attend orientation, you must bring, mail or fax the certificate of completion to Student Services at (843) 792-9258.
4. Student services will track students who have completed the WebCT orientation course.
5. The Monday following student orientation week, Student Services will send a list of undergraduate and graduate students who have not completed the WebCT orientation course to NTC. The Director of the Doctoral Program will track PhD students for completion.
6. NTC will send an e-mail to students and their course coordinators stating they will be “disabled” (blocked) from all WebCT courses within 72 hours unless a certificate of completion is turned into Student Services. Once the certificate is received in Student Services, the student will be re-activated for access for all WebCT courses.

Be Prepared

The Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) is proposing that a GRE prep course should be offered in spring 2008 to MUHA’s nursing employees who would like to continue their education to their next advanced degree. The minimum scores on the GRE for MUSC College of Nursing applicants is a cumulative score of 1,000 (500 verbal, 500 quantitative) prior to admission. The GRE must have been taken within the last five years.

If the proposal is accepted, the CAE will be offer this course under the direction of Dr. Jennie Ariail, associate director of the CAE. More details to follow.

STUDENT MEETING TIME

The second Monday of each month from 2:15 - 4:15 pm has been designated as the student meeting time. No classes or conferences will be scheduled during this time. Students can use this time to have SGA, SNA or class meetings.
Congratulations to Drs. Stuart and Laken, who were both awarded funding from the Duke Endowment. Dr. Laken received $296,098 for three years for her proposal, “Partnerships with Title One Schools to Reduce Health Disparities,” and Dr. Stuart received $568,713 for three years for her proposal, “Simulation in Nursing Education.”

Stephanie Brown-Guion joins the College of Nursing as Grants Administrator in the Office of Research and Evaluation. She comes to us from MUSC’s Center for Health Disparities Research, Department of General Internal Medicine/Geriatrics. Stephanie is also a doctoral student at Capella University. Please stop by room 411 and welcome Stephanie!

Last week Kimberly Harris-Eaton successfully passed her Comprehensive Examination and plans to submit her integrative review of the HSC/AACN Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency program to the Journal of Nursing Management. Congratulations to Kim!

On November 12, the Office of Research sponsored a well-attended Brown Bag to review various aspects of grant management. If you have suggestions for other Brown Bag topics, please let Dr. Elaine Amella or another member of the Office of Research know.

**Research For Lunch**

**Monday, December 17**

**Time and location to be determined**

The Center of Community Health Partnerships will present a concept paper for the R03 NIH Partners in Research Program.

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**Faculty Database**

As presented in the Faculty Assembly, full-time, regular faculty are reminded that you are responsible for maintaining your scholarship information in the Faculty Database. This is the data that the Dean’s Office will use when preparing the Annual Report and the Department Chair will use when preparing your annual evaluation.

When you log into the database:

**The areas that you are responsible for maintaining are:**

- Community Leadership Positions
- Books
- Chapters
- Journals
- Monographs
- Abstracts
- Professional Leadership
- Awards/Honors
- International/National/State Presentations
- Committees (CON Committees, MUSC Committees)
- Employment
- Biography
- Clinical sites
- Grants

**The areas that should NOT be updated by faculty** (these sections will be maintained by the appropriate administrative office):

- Employment
- Biography
- Clinical sites
- Grants

If you were not present at the November Faculty Assembly meeting, or need some assistance with entering your data, please contact Jo Smith in the Dean’s Office at smithjo@musc.edu to arrange a time to review the database.
On November 4, **Dr. Charlene Pope** presented a paper at the 39th Biennial Convention of the Sigma Theta Tau International Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Her paper, entitled “Membership Categorization: How language use constructs difference and disparities in health encounter talk,” was part of a research methods session at the convention. The Membership Categorization concept comes from sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology, and offers health professionals a means to demonstrate how disparities in practice emerge from less than conscious speaking practices. Charlene is using the data collected from this project to show how interdisciplinary theory can help improve research about disparities in care. This project is sponsored by the Hispanic Health Initiative which was funded by the Duke Endowment.

The Neonatal Pharmacology Conference 2007 “Incorporating Evidence-Based Practice into Clinical Decision Making” was presented by the College of Nursing’s Office of Continuing Nursing Education, the College of Medicine’s Office of Continuing Education, the College of Pharmacy’s Office of Continuing Education, and the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) Team of the Medical University Hospital Authority and was a huge success! The conference was held at the Francis Marion Hotel November 4 - 6 and brought in a crowd of 200 attendees, 15 speakers and 12 vendors, from as far away as Canada, Texas, Idaho and Missouri. Many thanks go to **Robin Bissinger, Carmen Dooley, Dr. Dave Annibale** and the NNP committee for conference planning.

Special thanks to **Carol Whelan** for her outstanding work organizing the conference, David McDougall and **Meredith Van Ruymbeke** for computer support, and **Maria Toler** for helping with site management.

**Hispanic Health Initiative News**

Congratulations to **Amy Parker, Maria Olimpio, Mary Lambert, Lauren Rushing, Amanda Baxley, and Rebecca Weil** for being admitted into the accelerated baccalaureate program by the Hispanic Health Initiative. These scholars met the selection criteria that included a GPA of 3.0 or above, a minimum grade of 85 on professional socialization and teaching-learning papers, and a letter of recommendation by a clinical faculty member. In addition, these students were selected based on their interest in working with the Hispanic population. Their studies will begin in January 2008.

On November 14, **Blair Tiller, Lori Robinson, Maria Toler**, and Hispanic Health Initiatives staff attended the “Immigration Law: Working with the Hispanic Community” seminar sponsored by the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Business Council. The seminar focused on how to develop and maintain a Hispanic workforce the right way and panelists shared information on immigration and labor laws.

**Melanie Slan** has accepted a librarian position at the Charleston County Public Library (John’s Island Branch). She will work in the Children's department developing programming for the story and activity hours and also work in the Reference Department. She will also begin work on her Master of Library Science degree. Her last day at CON will be December 14. Best of luck, Melanie.

The Office of Practice is wishing **Becky Gratton** (work-study student) the best on her future endeavors and good luck on her upcoming finals. Becky’s last day of work in the Office of Practice was November 21. She is currently looking forward to moving to Columbia and taking her State Board Exam in Occupational Therapy in August ’08.
Congratulations to Dianna Inman who has received a joint appointment as an Instructor in the Department of Pediatrics; and Gigi Smith as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics - both in the College of Medicine. In addition, Dianna has been accepted into the online DNP program at Arizona State University.

Dr. Gayenell Magwood was a panelist on ETV’s Our Health: The Medical Maze that aired on November 9 and 11. Gayenell, along with five other panelists, discussed how Health Literacy impacts our state due to the lack of skills needed to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services.

Dr. Carolyn Jenkins is planning to take sabbatical beginning January 2008. She will be working half time throughout the year.

An editorial was published by our Gigi Smith: Wagner, JL and Smith, G. (2007). Pediatric epilepsy: The role of the pediatric psychologist. Epilepsy and Behavior, 11, 253-6. This further supports our research and the established goals of Living Well with Epilepsy II.

Dr. Gail Stuart recently presented “Learning the Lessons and Possibilities for International Collaboration: The Impact of Change in the United States” at the conference of the Association of Nurse Consultants in Bristol, England. She then traveled to Stafford, England where she did a three day consultation with the South Staffordshire Trust on implementing the role of advanced practice psychiatric nurses.

Please welcome a familiar face to the College. Dr. Lynne Nemeth has accepted a faculty position in the College of Nursing and will begin December 3. Previously, Lynne worked as a research assistant professor in the College and a nurse researcher at the Medical University Hospital Authority.

Dr. Jeannette Andrews has also accepted a faculty position at the College and will begin January 2. Jeannette is a faculty member at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) in Augusta. Her research focuses on health disparities in community settings, with an emphasis on cardiovascular risk reduction among minorities. Her most recent funded project, Sister to Sister, focused on helping black female smokers in Augusta public housing neighborhoods quit smoking and remain smoke-free for at least a year.

Jeannette earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from MCG, a master’s degree in nursing from Georgia Southern University and a doctoral degree in nursing science from the University of South Carolina.

Ruth L. Stockdell has been recognized by the South Carolina League for Nursing (SCLN) as the recipient of the Faculty Graduate Student Scholarship for 2007. Ruthie was honored at the SCLN banquet on November 16 at the Clarion Town House Hotel in Columbia. Ruthie received $1,000 for her significant contribution to nursing and nursing education. Congratulations on this achievement!
**STUDENT NEWS**

**Attention Class of December ‘07**

Convocation is a special time for you to celebrate with your family and friends your academic and professional accomplishments. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, December 8 at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church (405 King Street).

Convocation rehearsal will be held Friday, December 7 from 3 - 4 p.m. at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church. If you are not able to pick up your caps and gowns prior to rehearsal, they will be available for you at the church that afternoon.

Please plan to arrive at the church by 9 a.m. Saturday. Student Services staff will assist you with your cap and gown. A group photo for BSN students is scheduled for 9:20 a.m., and a group photo for MSN students is scheduled for 9:30. Individual photos will be taken during the ceremony. You may wear whatever you like under the gown, but many students have preferred black dresses, skirts, or slacks.

The event usually lasts one hour and consists of award presentations and a guest speaker. This year’s speaker is Ms. Lynn Haney-Singleton, Associate Chief Nursing Officer, Summerville Medical Center. Graduates of the BSN program receive a MUSC CON pin, and the MSN students are hooded. A light reception will be held in the adjacent fellowship hall following Convocation.

Traffic is always bad in Charleston, so plan accordingly. Parking is available in the garage at the Francis Marion Hotel (corner of Calhoun and King Streets), as well as at the Charleston Visitor’s Center (Meeting Street), and the College of Charleston garage (St. Phillip’s Street). There are numerous hotels in the area, including the Francis Marion, Holiday Inn, and Hampton Inn.

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**New SNA Officers Elected**

Congratulations to the newly elected Student Nurse’s Association Officers:

President - Rebecca Freeman  
Vice President - Jennifer Brown  
Secretary - Amanda Baxley  
Treasurer - Jane Dobbins  
Breakthrough to Nursing - Melissa Palmer  
Legislative Director - Julia Perry  
Community Director - Caitlin Tabler-Bishop  
Historian - Lucy Wessinger

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“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”  
- Harold R. McAlindon
The Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing invites you to celebrate 125 years of providing excellence in nursing education.

Monday, January 7, 2008
4 - 5:30 p.m.
MUSC College of Nursing
99 Jonathan Lucas St.
Charleston, SC