From the Desk of Dr. Stuart

A Clean Sweep

Our College of Nursing’s clean sweep was a smashing success! At last count, we used 24 containers that were 90 gallons each, filled to the brim with paper, magazines, and books. That is equivalent to about 3.6 tons of paper.

That amount of recyclable paper saves 61 trees, 25,200 gallons of fresh water, 1,512 kilowatt hours of energy, 216 pounds of air pollutants, and 97 cubic feet of landfill space. Zowee - that is truly something to feel good about!

A part of the cleanup I liked just as much as our environmental contribution was the feeling of cleansing, liberation, and freshness that comes with such a major purging. I think we all tend to put off this type of work because it is so unappealing. But, just like exercising, once you’re finished the onerous task you feel really great and so very good about what you have accomplished.

It also makes me wonder why we feel compelled to keep so much “stuff” in our lives. One reason is the idea that we might need it in the future. Of course when it is buried on the bottom of a closet that you can’t even open, it’s not likely that you will be using or even finding it with ease. Another reason may be that rather than organize and make critical decisions, it is simply easier to toss it in a drawer and tell yourself that you will decide about it later. And of course “later” becomes weeks, months and even years later.

So, while I am not one for New Year resolutions since I believe in fully living in the moment each and every day, I’d like to suggest that we make a collective College of Nursing resolution to use technology to reduce our paper trail; toss everything that is not essential or irreplacable; and think more about treasuring our ideas, values and relationships rather than the “stuff” in our lives. …Gail

The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty.
The activist is the man who cleans up the river.

-Ross Perot
FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMICS

Board Pass Rates
College of Nursing students’ National Board pass rates for the last quarter of 2006 averaged 94 percent. The average pass rate for the 2006 calendar year was 92 percent. This is outstanding news for the college as the State’s average pass rate for 2006 was only 89 percent. Way to go!

Pre-register for Summer ‘07
Pre-registration for the Summer semester is February 19 - March 2. Registration instructions can be found at http://webadvisor.musc.edu/registration.

University’s Smoking Policy
Smoking by any employee (faculty and staff), patient, student, volunteer, contractor or visitor is prohibited in all buildings and spaces either leased or owned by the Medical University, (including but not limited to elevators, rest-rooms, shuttle buses, classrooms, and other common areas) except in outside designated smoking shelters/areas with signage. MUSC Department of Public Safety and Medical Center Security staff will be primarily responsible for reporting violations of this policy to the appropriate manager or supervisor, but employees are also expected to assume leadership roles, both by example and by reminding those smoking of the outside designated areas.

For a full copy of MUSC’s smoking policy and designated smoking shelters and areas can be located at www.musc.edu/hrm/policies/policy49.

Interested in an MSN/MBA Degree?
The MUSC College of Nursing and USC Moore School of Business have partnered to initiate the state’s first dual Masters in Nursing and Masters in Business Administration degree.

This curriculum is designed to prepare nurse leaders for management roles in healthcare. The dual degree confers two masters degrees in two and a half years of full-time course work. The MSN/MBA degree program offers students a combination of advanced clinical practice, as well as business management skills. Additionally, the unique program is provided in a distance learning format (online and streaming video) by two pioneers in the field of distance education.

If you are interested in learning more about earning a MSN/MBA degree, then drop by for an informational session on Tuesday, February 20 from 4 - 6 p.m. at the College of Nursing (99 Jonathan Lucas St.).

To register online go to www.con.musc.edu/msnmba/
On Saturday, February 24, the College of Nursing Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Students and the Hispanic Scholar Nursing Students will be involved in a community project called **Countdown to Kindergarten**. The students and faculty will provide vision and hearing screenings, and weight, height and body mass index readings. School readiness materials will be provided to participants.

**Hispanic Health Initiative**

On January 12, faculty and students from the **Hispanic Health Initiative (HHI) Honors Program** welcomed the second group of accelerated baccalaureate students to the group. The new HHI students are Kimberly Chavis, Katie Barry, Lauren Johnson, Katherine Chike-Harris, Lauren Young, Ruth Kennedy, Erin Brister, and Grace Stearns. These students will be mentored by the following fourth semester Hispanic Initiative Honors Students who include: Heather Cheek, Erin Miller, Jennifer Bussey, Leigh Reid, Madeline Mills, Sara Cavazos, Kristen Rogers, Katie Benefield, and Lynn DiVecchio.

Throughout the upcoming months, the new students will be mentored by faculty and students to promote engagement within the Hispanic community.

In an effort to acquaint the students to the community, they will participate in local health fairs. Additionally, students will complete a clinical experience at the Mom’s Morning Out program in North Charleston.

In preparation for their immersion into the Hispanic community, the students will participate in the following seminars:

- Voices from the Hispanic Community,
- Assessment of Depression in Primary Care Practice,
- Immigration Law and the Health Care Provider, and
- Comfort Measures for the Childbearing Family.

At the end of their rotation in the HHI program, students are asked to write about their experiences. Below is an excerpt from Lynn DiVecchio’s essay. (It has been edited for space and context.)

I first met the mother-to-be in a pregnancy centering class at the Florence Crittenton House in September 2006. Since our initial meeting, we have become very close. I met her boyfriend and family and we’ve all been through an amazing experience. This new mother is someone I plan to keep in touch with even after I’m finished with this semester.

I highly recommend working with the Florence Crittenton House to those seeking future nursing experiences. I see a huge need for these girls to have someone in their corner during their pregnancy and at the hospital for delivery. You can participate in their educational process or just stop by to chat whenever your schedule allows. The environment at Florence Crittenton ensures that you get to know each individual.

There is such a need that I hope there is a way to include the house as a possible addition to the Women’s Health clinical rotation for future CON students.

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**WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS**

**FEBRUARY 7**
A line-up of upcoming Health 1st events and hand massages

**FEBRUARY 14**
Healthier Desserts, & Announcement of Healthy Desserts Contest

**FEBRUARY 21**
Heart Health and Exercise, Quiz & Cardio testing with Annie Cruzan and Annie Lovering

**FEBRUARY 28**
Down Memory Lane...Boosting Your Memory with Joy Wymer

**WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES**

**EVERY TUESDAY**
Reach 2010 is providing free weekly classes to employees about diabetes

**FEBRUARY 15**
Weight Loss Seminar with Diane Conte, Prevention Partners

**FEBRUARY 20**
Smoking Cessation Programs with Xavery Hopkins, Prevention Partners

**STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**

Masters in Health Administration students Atyia Sapp and Beka Hardin are working with Frank Rupp and Annie Lovering on a variety of Health 1st projects.

College of Nursing students Abi Painter and Ashley Miller will be assisting with the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Wellness team competition for improving employees’ healthy habits and general health.

Also, Rhoda Ascanio, Kathy Neeley, and Teneane Foster will be working on projects related to employees who have diabetes.
The Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) membership elected Dr. Elaine Amella to serve a one year term as President-Elect. Her official term of office will begin February 24 and runs through February 2008, at which time she will assume the office of President, from February 2008 through February 2010.

Dr. Mary Martin is the co-author of an article on lateral violence that has been accepted for publication in Issues in Mental Health Nursing.

Drs. Phyllis Bonham, Tara Hulsey, Carolyn Jenkins, Teresa Kelechi, and Yvonne Michel authored the ABI-TBI study that was published in the new January/February issue of JWOCN.

Congratulations to Dr. Tara Hulsey who was just funded by the South Carolina March of Dimes for her research entitled, “Centering Pregnancy for Prematurity Prevention.” Dr. Sheila Smith is the co-investigator on this project that will test the efficacy of the Centering Pregnancy model vs. standard care for prenatal care in the African American community.

Ms. Lynette Duley, MSN, RN who is a second-semester online doctoral student from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, submitted an application for a pre-doctoral fellowship to the “Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity” program sponsored by the American Academy of Nursing and the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Dr. Tara Hulsey submitted an application to the Bureau of Health Professions/ Health Resources & Services Administration to fund Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships for MSN and PhD students. We wish her well on this proposal.

Best wishes to doctoral student, Ms. Susan Newman, who submitted a proposal entitled “Community Integration after Spinal Cord Injury: Identifying Barriers and Facilitators through Photovoice” to the Rehabilitation Nurses Foundation.

Center for Community Health Partnerships

Every Monday morning at 10 a.m., faculty researchers and clinicians who are interested in improving care to the community meet in room 403 in the College of Nursing. This group is working toward achieving Center status at MUSC and has already made significant progress in defining an overarching framework of Community-based Participatory Research for a model that defines our research, practice and education. The group has been working on a Request for Proposals that will build teams of researchers within the College and place us in a better position to receive federal funding.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be trying to align the educational mission of the College with the Center. Interested faculty should attend.

Distinguished Leaders in Nursing Lecture Series

On February 14, Dr. Joan Austin, Distinguished Professor of Nursing at Indiana University, will be spending a full day with the faculty at the College of Nursing as part of the Distinguished Leaders in Nursing Lecture Series. She will guide us as we develop a Center for Community Health Partnerships.

Dr. Austin is well positioned to assist us as she is the Director of the Center for Enhancing the Quality of Life in Chronic Illness and a member of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research and its Strategic Subcommittee at the National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR).

Dr. Austin will spend the day meeting with faculty and at 4 p.m. will present a special lecture entitled, “Creating a Research Infrastructure: From Pilots to R01s”, to the university and community partners in the Basic Science Building, Room 202. Please plan to attend her presentation and take advantage of the following opportunities to interact with her.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Austin will be attending the Center meeting from 10 - 11:30 a.m. and has reserved time for small group/individual consultations from 2 - 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Austin, please contact Cheryl Brown at (843) 792-4620 or brownche@musc.edu.

Don't Forget!

The Research Lunch facilitated by Dr. Jane Zapka will be held February 19 from 12 - 1 p.m. in the Historical Library. This month’s topic is Proposals with Dual Principal Investigators – Drs. Elaine Amella and Mark DeLegge will be presenting.
Dr. Gail Stuart’s award-winning textbook, Principles and Practice of Psychiatric Nursing, has been published in Spanish. This book has now been translated into five languages including Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Chinese and Spanish. In addition, Dr. Stuart’s Pocket Guide to Psychiatric Nursing has been translated into Indonesian.

Dr. Barb Edlund has been asked to serve on the Education Committee of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. She is thrilled to be involved with this national organization.

Health Care Heroes
In case you missed the Christmas Day issue of the Charleston Regional Business Journal, Drs. Gail Stuart and Deborah Williamson received Health Care Hero awards from the business publication. Below are excerpts from the December 25, 2006 issue.

Nursing shortage not to be ignored
Since 2002, Gail Stuart, PhD, FAAN, has increased enrollment at the MUSC College of Nursing by 40 percent. Accomplishing an increase in nursing students was started when Stuart went from hospital to hospital to establish the South Carolina Nursing Collaborative. Stuart convinced six hospitals and MUSC that the nursing shortage could not be ignored and the solution was to increase class size. With more students, however, the college would need eight new professors.

In addition, her efforts raised $4 million and allowed the college to double the number of new nurses joining the workforce by graduating 100 baccalaureate nursing students. Stuart didn’t stop at increasing the number the students. She implemented online academic programs unique to South Carolina.

To further address the nursing shortage by focusing on “teaching the future teachers,” MUSC’s College of Nursing has made its doctoral program available online.

Stuart successfully acquired state funding to create a “simulated clinical laboratory” to better prepare health professionals. She raised an additional $3 million in private matching funds for the laboratory and is currently designing and planning the facility, which is projected to open in the fall of 2007.

Taking nursing beyond the walls of the hospital
Dr. Deborah Williamson, associate dean for Faculty Practice at the Medical University of South Carolina’s College of Nursing, has been a health care hero throughout her three decades of service as a certified nurse-midwife, according to assistant professor Charlene Pope, who nominated her.

Williamson has taken nursing beyond the walls of the hospital and was instrumental in sustaining the Enterprise Center’s clinical operations, according to Pope. The Enterprise Center operates a clinic in association with Franklin C. Fetter Community Health System and serves low-income and underserved residents in the neck area of the Charleston peninsula.

Williamson is principal investigator for the Hispanic Health Initiative and has worked with the sisters of Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services and with the Wellness House on Johns Island to secure support for maternity services for Hispanic women and others, combining midwifery practice with nursing community outreach.

Most recently, Williamson helped secure two grants that will help increase Hispanic student and faculty recruitment, improve cultural competence education in the MUSC College of Nursing curriculum and stimulate Hispanic health research.

Brieves
Heather Halford, FNP, started working at Employee Health Services in November 2006. She works one day per week performing Pre-employment physicals and treating work-related injuries. Halford has been a Family Nurse Practitioner for six years. She is married and has two young children.

The word on the street is....
...that our IT people (Dusti Annan, Jason Flamm and Brian Getsinger) are the best and among our most valuable assets in the CON - always helpful and technologically. Thanks for all you do.
**New MSN-MBA Dual Degree Program**

- Designed to prepare nurse leaders for management roles in healthcare
- Two master's degrees in two and one-half years
- Offered via distance learning—online and streaming video
- Combines advanced clinical practice with business management skills
- No residency requirement
- Nursing license required

**INFORMATION SESSION:**
Tuesday, February 20, 4–6 p.m.
MUSC College of Nursing
99 Jonathan Lucas St., Charleston, SC
Register online at con.musc.edu/msnmba/

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**Creating a Research Infrastructure: From Pilots to R01s**

Dr. Joan Austin, Indiana University, School of Nursing Distinguished Professor

February 14, 2007
4 - 5 p.m.

Medical University of South Carolina
Basic Science Building, Room 202
173 Ashley Avenue • Charleston, SC

Consultations with individuals and small groups will be available on the same day from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in BSB, Room 420A.
To make reservations, contact Cheryl Brown at brownche@musc.edu.
Alumni Homecoming

Saturday, March 3, 2007

Schedule of Activities

10:00 am - noon - OPEN HOUSE
College of Nursing - 99 Jonathan Lucas St.
Dean Gail Stuart and the Nursing Alumni Board cordially invite you to drop by for coffee and danish and a nostalgic visit to the College of Nursing. Dr. Stuart and other college representatives will be on hand to greet alumni and talk with you informally about the life and progress of the College.

6:30 pm - OYSTER ROAST AND BARBEQUE
Holliday Alumni Center - The Citadel, 69 Hagood Ave.
Come one, come all for this evening of fun, fellowship, and delicious Low Country fare for you and your guests to enjoy. Other activities that will take place include:

• A silent auction, organized by the Nursing Alumni Board, will offer a variety of items donated by area businesses. Proceeds will go to the College of Nursing Student Scholarship Fund, and winners will be announced at the close of the evening’s festivities.

• The presentation of the Alumni Associations’ 2007 Outstanding Alumnus Award and other student scholarships.

Dress is casual. Parking is available in front of and beside the alumni center and across the street at Johnson Hagood Stadium.

Class Reunions

Some anniversary-year classes are planning individual class activities on Friday or Saturday, as announced to class members. In addition, a special invitation is extended to graduates from classes ending in “2” and “7” to return to campus during the homecoming to renew ties with the College of Nursing, visit with classmates, network with nursing alumni colleagues, and meet some of the College’s current students, faculty and staff.

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at (843) 792-7979.