It’s Just Human Nature

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

It’s just human nature - the desire to keep things the same or in our comfort zone. Often I hear folks say “That’s the way we’ve always done it” or “That’s the way I was taught.” Hopefully we all value our past experiences and the ways in which we learned and developed. These leave powerful imprints on our brains, behaviors and emotions. They should be valued and preserved.

We also know that it takes 20 years to have an evidence-based best practice adopted and implemented. If you think about it, 20 years is one generation, suggesting that basically folks keep on doing exactly the same thing during the course of their career, even in light of evidence to the contrary…human nature at work.

It is interesting that we are discussing the social ecology framework for our evolving Center of Community Health Partnerships. I think we can use this framework to also help us reframe our notions about our current teaching-learning approaches. The fact is that our students live in a very different world than the one we have experienced. Those things that we found to be so valuable (such as lunches with faculty, leisurely exchanges in lounges, guest lectures in personal forums) may not be those valued or desired by our current cohort of learners.

Let’s be honest here. Our potential customers tell us what they want by registering (or not) for our teaching programs. They also tell us what they like and don’t like about our offerings (through course evaluations as imperfect as they may be). And I say “good for them”…let’s carry on that dialogue with an openness to new contexts of learning and new appreciation of contemporary learners!

That said, we also need to personalize learning as much as possible, which translates into more of “this” with one student and perhaps more of “that” with another. There is no one-size-fits-all in education. Variation is the norm in teaching-learning styles and preferences…all within a changing social context. Can we rise to the challenge? I think we can, since striving for excellence also is a part of human nature. - Gail
One Voice One Plan Update

Here is where we stand with the One Voice One Plan (OVOP) legislation. The OVOP legislation only created the Critical Needs Nursing Initiative Fund under CHE and established the priorities. It is the appropriations bill that will allocate the money.

For this fiscal year, the initiative only received $1 million in funding for faculty salary enhancements, however, it is recurring dollars. Unfortunately, this amount falls far short of what South Carolina really needs in order to address the nursing shortage, therefore, we will have to wait until next year for additional funding. A full-court-press will be needed as soon as possible to educate our legislators and help them see the nursing need we live with each day.

Never Forget

Our condolences to all the family and friends of the nine fallen firefighters. Our thoughts are especially with College of Nursing graduate Kimberly Benke (’97), wife of Captain Mike Benke who died in the tragic Sofa Super Store fire on June 18. Benke was a father of three and a 29-year veteran of the department. If you would like to send Kim some words of encouragement her address is listed below:

Mrs. Kimberly Benke
2130 Eve Circle
Charleston, SC 29414

Stroud Named Associate Dean for Academics

Sally Stroud, EdD, APRN, BC, has been named associate dean for academics at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing, effective July 1, 2007. In this position, Dr. Stroud will provide leadership in managing all facets of the academic nursing programs including faculty and student affairs, program coordination, resource development and allocation, marketing and public relations. Associate professor Stroud had been serving as the director of graduate programs and coordinator of the adult and family nurse practitioner tracks. Dr. Stroud will continue to serve as director of the graduate programs.

“Dr. Stroud has many years of experience both in education and clinical practice and will bring many strengths with her to this new role,” says Gail Stuart, PhD, dean of the College of Nursing. In 1968, Stroud received her diploma of nursing from University Hospitals and Clinics in Birmingham, Alabama. After working as a staff nurse for seven years, she returned to school and earned a bachelor of science in nursing from Columbus College in Georgia. In 1978, she completed a master of science in nursing from Vanderbilt University, specializing in medical surgical nursing. Stroud earned a doctorate in educational leadership and administration at Auburn University in 1987.

Dr. Stroud has been a faculty member at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing since 1993. In 1996, she completed the post master’s adult nurse practitioner program at Medical University of South Carolina. As a certified adult nurse practitioner, Dr. Stroud provides lower extremity and foot care services in an internal medicine clinic on the University campus. Congratulations!

Faculty Reminder

If you have a class with fewer than six or seven students please reserve one of the CON conference rooms rather than a classroom in the building. This will allow us to use the classrooms for larger groups.

“...even without success, creative persons find joy in a job well done. Learning for its own sake is rewarding...”
~ Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
Best wishes to **Dr. Gail Stuart** who submitted a proposal to the Duke Endowment entitled, *Simulation in Nursing Education* for $568,713. This proposal, if funded, will dramatically improve education for nurses in South Carolina over the upcoming years!

Best wishes to **Dr. Elaine Amella** who with Dr. Mark DeLegge, chair of the Digestive Disease Center, are Co-Principal Investigators on an R21 proposal for $275,000. The proposal was submitted to the National Institute of Aging and is entitled, *Feeding in Elderly with Late-stage Dementia: FIELD Pilot Trial*. This study contains both the formative development of educational materials and consents, as well as a small pilot study.

This project lays the ground work for a multi-site study which examines the outcomes of hand-feeding vs. tube-feeding in persons with late-stage dementia. Co-investigators on this proposal are Drs. Jane Zapka and Gayenell Magwood.

Congratulations to doctoral candidate, **Ms. Susan Newman**, who received notification that her dissertation proposal has been recommended for the Rehabilitation Nurses Foundation New Investigator Research Grant Award. Ms. Newman will be honored at the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Annual Conference in October in Washington, DC.

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**RESEARCH FOR LUNCH**

Research for Lunch will be held July 23 to accommodate Dr. Jane Zapka’s schedule and to allow the doctoral students to attend during their residency!

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**Office of ACADEMICS**

**Open House**

The Class of December 2008 Accelerated BSN and Accelerated BSN/MSN students attended an open house and information session on Friday, June 8.

This outstanding group of incoming students were welcomed by **Nancy Duffy**, director of undergraduate programs, and heard from representatives from financial-aid and housing. Thank you to current students: **Carli Dauer, Rebecca Freeman, Cathy Mulloy, Eli Sollie** and **Nicole Staubes**, who shared their wisdom and words of encouragement.
Dr. Charlene Pope submitted a revision as Principal Investigator to the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research & Development of her Merit Proposal entitled “Racial Variations in Communication, Decision Making, and Diabetes Outcomes” with her co-Principal Investigator, Dr. Leonard Egede.

In addition, Pope has the following presentations that have been accepted for the fall 2007:


Dr. Deborah Williamson received notice of a grant award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the amount of $291,047 for Nurse Education Practice and Retention. Congratulations!

Dr. Sally Stroud and Dr. Teresa Kelechi submitted an article to Advances for Nurse Practitioners on interdigit maceration, which is a common problem during the summer months. The toeweb spaces hold moisture, which can lead to infections. This is particularly problematic in patients with diabetes.

In addition, Kelechi has just returned from a conference in Oregon where she presented several lectures, including a keynote address on her contributions to the practice of foot and nail care in the United States.

**Congratulations!**

On May 31, the CON Office of Practice received congratulatory gifts from the UMA Compliance Department as they were the first department on campus to complet all of the annual compliance training. As a thank you, everyone in the Office of Practice received Godiva chocolates and personalized notes. This effort was led by Deborah Williamson and Maria Toler.

Thanks to all for helping support UMA/MUSC efforts!
EHS and Health 1st Move

The administrative responsibility for **Employee Health Services (EHS)** and **Health 1st** has been assumed by Risk Management, however, EHS will continue to utilize providers from the College of Nursing. CON faculty research and students will continue to work with both groups.

The shift in administrative responsibility to Risk Management was a way to create more efficiency in day-to-day operations and fiscal management. The College is looking forward to a continuing relationship with both EHS and Health 1st for faculty and student activities.

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Wound Care Education Program

The Wound Care Education Program is pleased to announce that **Dr. Mary Mauldin’s** family has again made a generous donation to the Health Science Foundation in honor of Mauldin’s mother, who was cared for by a graduate of the program. This scholarship will provide funds for a South Carolina nurse to attend the Wound Care Education Program. We are grateful for the on-going support of the Mauldin family.

**Dr. Phyllis Bonham** was installed as the President-elect of WOCN (Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses) National Society at the WOCN 39th Annual Conference in Salt Lake City. Bonham will serve two years as President-elect, two years as President and one year as Past-President of the WOCN.

In addition, Bonham received the *JWOCN* (Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing) Clinical Practice Manuscript Award for the paper, *Get the LEAD Out: Non-Invasive Assessment for Lower Extremity Arterial Disease using Ankle Brachial Index and Toe Brachial Index Measurements* that was featured in the 2006 Jan/Feb Issue of *JWOCN*.

Bonham was an invited speaker for two national conferences presenting: “Arterial Ulcers-Supporting Practice Through Research” at the 2007 Symposium on Advanced Wound Care in Tampa, FL on April 30 and “Compression Product Selection in the Management of Venous Insufficiency and Venous Ulceration” on June 10, in Salt Lake City, UT for the WOCN Conference.

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School Based Clinics

Congratulations to **Darlene Hamilton** for receiving an Exchange Club Scholarship. She was awarded this scholarship in recognition of her academic performance at Trident Technical College and for her community service which includes volunteering for MUSC at the Black EXPO and church activities. Darlene has been an administrative/medical assistant at the CON School Based Clinics since 2001.
Cindy Allen, PhD, RN, FNP, BC is now seeing patients in Moncks Corner. MUSC Children’s Care Moncks Corner provides preventative health maintenance examinations & episodic illness health care services for the pediatric population in an outpatient setting 5 days a week through the use of NP’s & MD’s, LPN, ancillary staff, and medical interpreters for both English speaking and limited English proficient patients/families.

Melanie Slan has assumed the position of program coordinator for the HHI (Hispanic Health Initiative) grant. Slan took over the responsibilities left vacant by Jason Roberson when he assumed his new position at Medical University Hospital Authority.

Congratulations to Catherine Ling, first year doctoral student, who has received the Gamma Omicron At-Large Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society Research Award for her research proposal “Step It off: Women Wearing Pedometers”

Congratulations to Susan Newman who’s paper entitled, The Plight of the Marsh Arabs, an Environmental and Human Rights Crisis: An Application of Complexity Theory from her NRPHD 702 course (Global & Environmental Vulnerabilities) was accepted for a special edition on health and human rights by Advances in Nursing Science (ANS). Who says you can’t turn those course papers into manuscripts?

Please welcome the following student interns who are working at the College of Nursing through the Hispanic Health Initiative (HHI).

Ruchir “Ricky” Patel, a University of South Carolina (’04) graduate, is a student who has completed his first year in MUSC’s Masters in Healthcare Administration program. This summer Patel will be working with the staff at Sea Island Medical Center on Johns Island and CON faculty to improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of care provided at the community health center.

Melissa Cox is a graduate student at the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. Since arriving at the CON she has been involved with program implementation and evaluation of the Domestic Violence grant. In collaboration with Ricky Patel, she has written a grant for upgrading the physical facility at Sea Island Medical Center, and will be working with Communities in Schools on an evaluation of their teen pregnancy prevention project this summer.

“Constant attention by a good nurse may be just as important as a major operation by a surgeon.”

-Dag Hammarskjold
Jacquelyn Campbell, Ph.D., RN

Jacquelyn Campbell, Ph.D., RN is the Anna D. Wolf Chair and a Professor in the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, with a joint appointment in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her BSN, MSN and Ph.D. are from Duke University, Wright State University and the University of Rochester.

Dr. Campbell has been conducting advocacy policy work and research in the area of domestic violence since 1980, and is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Nursing. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Family Violence Prevention Fund and the House of Ruth Battered Women’s Shelter, and also has been a member of the congressionally appointed US Department of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence.

This training is co-sponsored by the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault. The training presents no conflict of interest for the presenter, co-sponsors, or any of the members of the planning committee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SCCADVASA.ORG