From the Desk of Dr. Stuart

What Is Our QEP?

Do you know the answer to this question? If not, it is critically important that you read on. On March 27 - 29, MUSC will have a visit from a SACS Accreditation team. One important part of their visit is to inquire about our QEP or Quality Enhancement Plan. Everyone in the MUSC community is expected to know what our specific plan is and how we are going about its implementation. In fact, if you are on campus during these days someone might very well stop you and ask — what is MUSC’s QEP? Your answer should be: MUSC’s QEP is interprofessional education. Here is a brief overview that will help you be informed and informative in the days ahead.

Summary of SACS Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Creating Collaborative Care (C3)

The focus of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) is interprofessional education, and has been entitled Creating Collaborative Care (C3).

From an educational perspective, C3 offers a continuum of knowledge and team building experiences, from acquisition, to application, to demonstration. It represents a dynamic process of student engagement in increasingly more sophisticated and expansive opportunities promoting and advancing interprofessional education while receiving their formal education. Each step of this continuum is motivated by four inter-dependent goals:

GOAL 1: Students will acquire a set of defined teamwork competencies—knowledge, values, attitudes, personal and interprofessional skills, principles, beliefs and standards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
GOAL 2: Students will acquire knowledge, including the values and beliefs, of health professions different from their own discipline that will enable them to define interprofessional health care delivery or research.

GOAL 3: Students will apply their teamwork competencies in a collaborative interprofessional health care delivery or research learning setting.

GOAL 4: Students will demonstrate their teamwork competencies in a collaborative interprofessional health care delivery or translational research context.

These goals will be achieved through a carefully structured organization that focuses on four primary domains: formal curriculum; informal extracurricular activities; the Teaching Scholars Academy; and Clinical Effectiveness and Patient Safety. Each of these domains will have a Team Leader who will report to the C³ Director having overall responsibility for the initiative within the Office of the Associate Provost for Education and Student Life. A proposed C³ Council, chaired by a senior academic officer, will be established to assist the C³ Director in reviewing progress, resolving major barriers, and addressing major changes/improvements. In addition, an Assessment Team will be composed of institutional researchers to provide objective analysis to issues requested by the Associate Provost, the C³ Council and/or the C³ Director. One of their primary tasks will be to assess the progress of C³ regarding QEP standards.

MUSC faculty, staff, and students understand C³ as an essential pathway to improving education and the provision of health care at all levels with all professions working together. If successful, it may also serve as a model for other academic health centers.

Health Care Update

It does seem like the cost of everything is going up each day. But health care may be taking the biggest bite of the “inflation apple.”

Over the next decade, U.S. health care spending is expected to double from today’s level, reaching $4.1 trillion and consuming almost twenty cents of every dollar spent, federal forecasters report in an article published as a Health Affairs Web Exclusive. Health spending in 2006 was projected at $2.1 trillion, which accounts for 16 percent of the gross domestic product.

The average annual growth in health care spending is projected to remain relatively steady at 6.9 percent from 2006 through 2016, predict economists and actuaries from the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in their annual forecasting report. The CMS authors say that the addition of the Medicare drug benefit, slower projected growth in Medicaid, and slower growth in private health care spending are among the factors contributing to these trends. Despite the mild expected slowdown, in 2006 consumers’ out-of-pocket spending on health care was expected to reach $250.6 billion. Additionally, it is projected to climb to more than $440.8 billion by 2016.

Hospital Spending

By 2016, the cost of hospital care is projected to climb to more than $1.2 trillion, compared with the $651.8 billion level expected in 2006. The decline in the growth of spending is largely attributable to slower growth in public spending. However, a rebound in public and private spending trends is expected to spur an average annual growth rate in hospital spending of 7.0 percent during the next decade.

Physician Services

Growth in total physician and clinical spending is projected to decelerate from 7.0 percent in 2005 to 6.1 percent in 2006, driven by slow price growth. However, price growth is expected to accelerate to 4.5 percent by 2016. CMS researchers predict that physician spending will reach almost $819.9 billion by that date, even with restraints on Medicare physician reimbursement called for under current law, compared with a projected $447.0 billion in physician spending for 2006.
The Wound Care Specialty Course is proud to announce that two SC nurses have been awarded scholarships to attend the February/March 2007 Wound Care Specialty Course: Kenisha Brantley of Beaufort, and Katrina Bair of Orangeburg have been selected to receive this year's scholarships. These funds are made possible by a generous contribution to the Health Sciences Foundation by Dr. Mary Mauldin and her family as a memorial for Mary’s mother who was cared for by a graduate of our Wound Care Program prior to her death.

The scholarships are designated specifically for Registered Nurses with baccalaureate degrees from South Carolina who wish to become certified wound care nurses and who need financial assistance to attend the course.

SC Hispanic Affairs Summit
The SC Hispanic Affairs Summit is an opportunity for community leaders, business owners, students, and people interested in Hispanic affairs to learn about the issues affecting Latinos. The summit will strive to find the common ground to establish collaborative efforts, regardless of organization, business or geographical area, to effectively work in favor of the Hispanic community in South Carolina.

The summit will be held on Friday, March 2, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Columbia College (1301 Columbia College Dr., Columbia SC 29203).

The agenda will include a presentation by Tammy Beshershe, from Appleseed Legal Justice Center. Her presentation will focus on the legislation proposed by the State Senate Immigration Study Committee Meetings. The summit’s Keynote Speaker will give a national and regional overview on new laws and immigration findings, followed by a Round Table with Hispanic leaders who are actively advocating for the Hispanic community in SC. Finally, the Summit includes a lunch/networking session.

There is no charge for attending the summit, but seating is limited. Please RSVP to presidentschlc@gmail.com as soon as possible. There are a few scholarships available to cover lodging and/or transportation costs for individuals attending from outside the Columbia area. Email presidentschlc@gmail.com for details.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Please consider nominating those you feel are deserving. The deadline is March 2. Go to www.itlab.musc.edu/nomination for more details.

The FY 07–08 SC Appropriations Bill includes funding for both One Voice One Plan (OVOP) and Allied Health Initiatives. The Commission on Higher Education was allocated $1 million in recurring dollars for 15 new nursing faculty salaries under the OVOP and will bring greater visibility and consideration to the Plan as the budget process moves forward. The Allied Health Initiative, received $6 million in non-recurring dollars. - South Carolina Hospital Association

Remember Daylight Savings
Time at begins 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 11. The time will revert back to Standard Time on Sunday, November 4.
Best wishes to **Dr. Teresa Kelechi** who submitted two proposals in February: an R21 proposal to the NIH/ NINR entitled, “Impact of Cryotherapy Intervention on Patient Outcomes in Chronic Venous Disease”, and “Safety and Wound Healing Efficacy of a Poly-N-acetyl Glucosamine-derived Membrane Material (sNM) in Humans with Venous Stasis Ulcers: A Pilot Study” to Marine Polymer Technologies, Inc./Syvek. We wish her good luck on these excellent proposals.

**Drs. Teresa Kelechi** and **Yvonne Michel** who presented a paper at the annual conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society in Galveston, Texas on February 24. Their paper entitled, “A Descriptive Study of Skin Temperature, Tissue Perfusion, and Tissue Oxygen in Patients with Chronic Venous Insufficiency,” was very well received.

The Southern Nursing Research Society will be announcing two doctoral dissertation awards of $3,000 each, an open award for $5,000, along with an award from The Council for the of Advancement of Nursing Science by March 1.

To qualify for the dissertation awards, students should have their proposal approved by their committee. There will be a short turn-around time to apply for these awards. The expected deadline is March 31, but funding should start by mid-June. Please check the SNRS web site at www.snrs.org for details.

On February 22, **Dr. Elaine Amella** assumed the position of President-elect of the Southern Nursing Research Society at their annual meeting in Galveston, Texas.

**Dr. Yvonne Michel’s** work with Dr. Leonard Egede was highlighted in the widely distributed “Research Activities” by AHRQ.

The findings from their study, which was published in 2006, “Diabetes Care”, disclosed that “trust in medical care does not differ by race among indigent people with diabetes, but more trust can improve quality of care.”
BRIEFS

Former College of Nursing staffer, **Mandy May**, gave birth to a healthy baby girl named Alexandra Marie May on February 2. Mandy, Brian and big brother Andrew are all doing great.

There are two official College of Nursing PowerPoint templates available on the Intranet. Please use these for all of your PowerPoint presentations to enhance the visibility of our MUSC College of Nursing.

Remember to save these into your ‘My Documents’ folder first before using them. You can do this by right clicking on the file and selecting ‘Save Link As’ or ‘Save Target As’.

**STAND**

A Student Anti-Genocide Coalition

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) is launching a campaign to inform people about the genocide in Darfur, Africa. The group’s hope is to have people fill out postcards and send them to legislators. A box has been placed in the second floor mail room with blue postcards and information. The campaign will run through Friday, March 9.

**HEALTH 1ST**

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

MARCH 1
General Nutrition Guidelines
Location: Children’s Hospital Lobby

MARCH 7
Fad Free Foods
Location: Children’s Hospital Lobby

MARCH 21
Fear Factor Foods Plan B birth control
Location: Children’s Hospital Lobby

MARCH 28
Food Supplements
Location: Children’s Hospital Lobby

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 16 - MAY 4
WISEWOMAN is a CDC program designed to help women over 35 reduce their risk for heart disease and promote a healthy lifestyle. WISEWOMAN classes & counseling sessions teach women how to eat healthily and encourage them to be more active, two behaviors that help protect woman from chronic diseases. These free classes are offered each Friday for eight weeks so attend as many as you like. The first class will take place in room 109 of the Education/Library Building. To register, email health1st@musc.edu.

**FACULTY NEWS**

Dr. Phyllis Bonham has been recognized by the Southeast Region Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses (WOCN) Society. Bonham was highlighted in the Spotlight on a Mentor column of the Winter issue of Southeast Region News. She was recognized for her dedication, motivation and excitement for the WOCN practice and serves as a mentor and role model for us all.

Bonham

Alex May

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Evidenced-Based Psychiatric Nursing Practice

Presentation Subtitle Can Go Here

Firstname A. Lastname
Associate Professor
Developing Careers in International Health: An Introduction to the Global Health Council

How can we best use our collective experiences, resources, expertise, passion and humanity to help change the fundamentals of global health? Not alone in narrow disciplines, but through partnerships that draw on differing perspectives, differing knowledge and experience, and differing priorities. All of us need to understand better how to mobilize such partnerships, how to make them most effective, and where to turn for experience and help.

The Global Health Council’s 34th Annual International Conference is dedicated to exploring these relationships: how they are built, what they have and can deliver, and how those living in poverty and disease can best benefit. All of these joint efforts are means to our common end: to tackle complex health problems and find solutions to these problems at all levels, and in so doing, improve the health of the world.

This year’s event will take place May 29 - June 1 in Washington, DC and will offer panel, roundtable and workshop sessions. In addition, annual awards will be handed out to honor those who have made a major contribution to the field of global health. Dr. Sanjay Gupta, CNN’s Chief Medical Correspondent for the health and medical unit, will be the Emcee for the 2007 Global Health Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 31.

A fund has been established for one nursing student to attend this year’s conference at no charge. If you would like to find out more about how you can attend this event free, come listen to last year’s recipient, Katherine Hall, present her experience from the last year’s conference. Bring a bag lunch at 12 p.m. Friday, March 23 to the College of Nursing (Historical Library) to learn how this conference can be an invaluable tool for you in the future.

KaiserEDU.org’s First Annual Student Essay Contest is now open. Submit an original essay on the topic below for a chance to win $1,000. Deadline for submission is March 30, 2007. Prizes will be awarded to the top undergraduate and graduate student entries.

ESSAY TOPIC: You have just accepted a job as a senior advisor to a presidential candidate (does not have to be based on an actual candidate) for the 2008 election. Your first task is to prepare a memo for the candidate outlining your recommendation for the candidate’s health plan.

Your memo should discuss what the centerpiece of the candidate’s health plan should be, why this issue is important to the voters, the potential challenges that your candidate may face in promoting the plan, and how it would be communicated to the public. Your candidate can have any political affiliation you choose. Please be original.

What: Essays must not be more than 1,500 words in length and must be original work, prepared by one author only.

When: All essays must be submitted by March 30, 2007, 5 p.m. EST.

Where: Entries must be submitted by email to EssayContest2007@KFF.org, with two Microsoft Word document attachments only: Entry Form and essay.

How: Undergraduate and graduate-level students will be judged separately. Entries will be judged by a panel of professionals with experience in health policy and politics from inside and outside the Kaiser Family Foundation, including Michael McCurry, former White House Press Secretary. Judges will base their decisions on originality, expression of ideas, strength of argument, and clarity.

Prizes: Winners will be notified by May 1, 2007.
First Place -- $1,000
Second Place -- $500
Third Place - Honorable Mention

For more information about rules and requirements, visit www.kaiserEDU.org.
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.