DNP at CON?

So what’s this I hear about the DNP and the College of Nursing?

Yes, that’s right...the recent “buzz” has been about our College of Nursing moving toward opening a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. Our CON faculty have, in fact, been analyzing this new program of study for over a year – examining what it is, what it means for the profession, and what it might mean for our College of Nursing.

It’s a complex issue that was stimulated by AACN’s statement in 2004, that by the year 2015 advanced practice nurses should have the DNP degree. Over 45 schools across the country have opened DNP programs and another 150 schools are in the planning stages.

The DNP is different from the PhD. Most simply stated:

- The PhD prepares independent nurse researchers. It is the terminal academic degree that crosses all disciplines and professions.
- The DNP prepares advanced practice nurses who can translate research into best practices, evaluate and improve systems of care and are expert clinicians. It is the terminal professional nursing degree.

A wealth of information on the DNP is available on the AACN website: www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/index.htm. I suggest you spend a little time on their site and learn more about the implications of this degree for the nursing profession.

But what will the DNP mean for the CON?

That answer unfolds a bit more each day. The process of opening a new program requires approval at many levels, including the university and state. And each time we talk about moving in this direction we get more information to consider in our planning and decision-making.

The faculty have voted to move forward and request permission to open a DNP (continued on page 2)
DNP (cont. from page 1)

program here at MUSC. However having made that decision the process is fluid and open to change as one decision effects another and so on.

Much needs to be done in the near future. We need to design the course of study and ways in which it will articulate with our other programs. We need to do a needs assessment (a survey will soon be posted on our website) and evaluate how we will use our existing resources to open yet another program without incurring new costs. We are a data-driven college and we are carefully evaluating the cost of each of our current programs and which ones can and cannot be sustained in the current environment.

So here is where we are in our thinking as of right now. Please let me underscore that this is a work in progress and we will steer the College to the right or left as the tides dictate and the shoreline changes.

• We are currently working on designing the “core” of what will be our new graduate program of study to incorporate the essentials of the DNP.
• If all goes well, we will admit both part-time and full-time students into our newly designed graduate program in fall 2009.
• We then hope to open a post-masters DNP program in fall 2010.
• We have suspended all admissions to the midwifery program.
• Students who enroll in the fall 2009 program will be able to exit with a masters degree if they so wish.
• We anticipate that students in our newly designed graduate program will be able to become certified as an NP when they exit the program with either a MSN or DNP.
• We will then move to having two entry points for the DNP – post-MSN and post-BSN.

Since this is an evolving process, elements of the above might change somewhat in the days ahead. But I will continue to keep the CON community informed through updates in eConnections. So stay tuned.

This is an exciting and transitional time in nursing. We here at the College are committed to being leaders in the realities of today and the promises of tomorrow…Gail

Empowered Healthy Women

On November 3, The League of Women Voters of SC will present “Healthy Women = Empowered Women: A Public Forum,” at Trident Technical College in North Charleston. The forum, made possible with generous support from New Morning Foundation, League of Women Voters Education Fund, Millennium Campaign and a number of local sponsors, is open to women of all ages.

Through a series of panel discussions, this full-day forum will explore how public policy, innovations in reproductive care, provisions for reproductive health services and sexuality education impacts health care disparities among females in our local communities.

For more information or to register, visit http://charleston.sc.lwv.org. Registration is $25 and includes continental breakfast and box lunch. Students will be admitted free with school ID. The program provides 5.5 continuing education credits to all participants.

Uninsured Americans

More than one-third of Americans were uninsured last year. Approximately 89.6 million Americans—more than one out of three people under 65 years of age—were uninsured at some point during 2006-07, according to a new report from Families USA.

The report, based mainly on U.S. Census Bureau data, showed that most of these uninsured individuals lacked coverage for lengthy periods of time: nearly two-thirds were uninsured for six months or more; and more than half were uninsured for nine months or more. Four out of five uninsured Americans were part of working families.

For more information go to www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/wrong-direction.html.
Getting to Know... Peggy

Name: Peggy Sires
Position: Student Services
How many years at CON? 14
How many years at MUSC? 14
Most rewarding thing about your job? Helping the students.
Hometown: Yorges, SC
Describe your hometown in three words: Beautiful oak trees
Pets: Granddog named Pixie
Astrological sign: Virgo
If you could invite four guests (living or deceased) to dinner, who would they be? My mom, grandmother, and two nephews so I could tell them one more time how much I loved them.
What did you listen to on your way into work today? Talked to my sister on my cell phone.
What book are you currently reading? Baby books to the grandchildren.
Last movie you saw? Sweet Home Alabama
Favorite place you’ve traveled to? Bahamas
If you could attend one sporting event what would it be? The Kentucky Derby
One thing you’ve never done but hope to do one day? Travel around the United States
In which store would you like to win a $3,000 shopping spree? An antique shop
What do you enjoy most doing in your spare time? Toddling in the boat.
Favorite flower: Yellow rose
Favorite sports to play: Skiing
Favorite sports player or team: Clemson Tigers
Favorite outdoor activities: Boating
Favorite TV shows: American Idol
Favorite movie: The American President
Favorite magazine: Southern Living
Favorite Chips/Snacks: Pork rinds
Favorite Candy Bar: Snickers
Favorite thing about living in the Charleston area? The friendly people and its beauty.

MUSC Excellence Update

The MUSC Excellence initiative continues to gain momentum across our campus. At the recent leadership retreat, the areas of progress were noted and goals were set for the next quarter. There was a commitment made to increase and decrease targeted behaviors.

Areas for increased activity include:
- Complimenting others on work well done
- Demonstrating a positive attitude at work
- Maximizing communication in the work setting
- Implementing the 10/5 rule everywhere on campus – at 10 feet away make eye contact and at five feet away greet or acknowledge the person
- Lead by example

Areas for decreased activity include:
- Less criticism of others with whom we work
- Decrease the time spent with colleagues who are low performers
- Eliminate negativity in our MUSC environment
- Don’t use MUSC technology for personal use
These are simple but powerful actions each of us can take every day…and they will make a difference!

For more information about this initiative, go to www.musc.edu/muscexcellence.

New Logo for MUSC

A new MUSC logo has been unveiled and you will soon see its use in upcoming MUSC advertising campaigns. The design reflects the growth of the institution and the expansion of clinical services and medical expertise. The logo will begin to be phased in on new business cards and stationary orders beginning Oct. 15. See the Sep. 28 issue of The Catalyst for more details.
Before airline deregulation in 1978, Rule 240 was literally a federal requirement. Nowadays, it's a term describing what individual airlines will do for late or stranded passengers. In fact, the major airlines have filed “conditions of carriage” with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) guaranteeing their respective Rule 240s.

If your flight is delayed or cancelled, or if you’ve missed your flight connection, these policies may give you free meal vouchers, hotel accommodations, phone calls, and other amenities. You may be booked on a substitute flight -- even on another airline -- and you may be compensated or given a full refund if the flight problems persist.

How can you use Rule 240 to protect your rights?
Always carry a printed copy of your airline’s Rule 240. Though the DOT requires airlines to keep a Rule 240 copy available for passengers at every ticket counter, don’t count on that. Read Rule 240 carefully before you use it. Many airline ticket agents do not know these policies, so you should be the expert.

For example, Rule 240s generally apply only to delays that are absolutely the airline’s fault, such as mechanical delays. They do not apply to what the airlines call “force majeure” events: weather, strikes, “acts of God,” or other occurrences that the airlines say they cannot control.

Be polite but very firm about your rights under Rule 240. You’ll win most battles at ticket counters when you say the phrase “Rule 240” and show the agent your printed copy of the airline’s policies. However, don’t hesitate to keep going up the chain to supervisors if you’re not satisfied. Sometimes, airlines will even go beyond Rule 240 requirements in the name of customer service. (Not always, but it’s worth a shot!)

Source: www.mytravelrights.com/travellaw

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New ANA Benefits
The American Nurses Association (ANA) wants to expose students to all that ANA has to offer while they are in nursing school by giving them access to the Members Only section of NursingWorld.org at no cost to them! This will give them access to information that they can use in school and help prepare them for their nursing career. Highlights include:

- Access to full ANA Position and Policy papers on important nursing issues
- A chance to sign up for Smart Brief -- our members only daily news feed that brings together nursing and healthcare news from around the country every business day
- Access to the current electronic versions of The American Nurse and the ANA columns in American Nurse Today
- Access to the OJIN -- a peer reviewed electronic journal available to ANA members on the hot issues facing nursing today
- Discount opportunities on a variety of personal and professional products

To sign up, go to: http://nursingworld.org/students. When prompted use the promo code “PROF”.

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The College of Nursing Student Government Association will be hosting a hot dog sale on Monday, October 8 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the portico at the Horseshoe!
**Dr. Teresa Kelechi** was extremely busy this summer...take a look at what she’s accomplished over the past several months. First, she was informed that her two-year R21 proposal to the NIH/NINR for $275,000 entitled “Cryotherapy for Chronic Venous Disorders: A Pilot Study” was funded. This study will investigate the affect of applying cooling gel wraps to reduce microcirculation in skin affected by chronic venous disease and where there is a history of leg ulcers. This is an interprofessional study that will be conducted at the General Clinical Research Center.

Kelechi has also received the first clinical trial funding to the College of Nursing for a study entitled “Safety and wound healing efficacy of the Taliderm-R Wound Dressing a poly-N-acetyl glucosamine-derived membrane material in humans with venous stasis ulcers: a pilot study.” This funding is from the Marine Polymer Technologies, Boston, MA for a one-year study of a new wound healing product. **Dr. Phyllis Bonham** is also funded by the grant as the wound consultant. Sites for this clinical trial will be Roper and St. Francis hospitals.

Finally, Kelechi will receive the Southeastern Regional Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse of the Year award from the Southeastern Region WOCN Society at the regional meeting in October. Congratulations on all these projects.

Congratulations to **Dr. Lynne Nemeth** who is Co-Investigator on a recently announced award from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality entitled “Medication Safety in Primary Care Practice-Translating Research into Practice (MS-TRIP).” MS-TRIP will be a three-year demonstration project in 20 private practices nationwide. Its goals are to define a set of medication safety quality indicators, incorporate these into practice performance reports and assess the impact of the quality improvement model on the indicators.
The glass display case across from the elevators on the third floor of the College has been designated the official bulletin board for the College to post important information regarding students and academic programs in the College. The center area will contain the names of student class officers, student committee representatives, SGA representatives, SNA officers, and honor council members. The other two sections will be designated for undergraduate and graduate student information. Any new policies or major program changes will be posted on the appropriate section. Students are encouraged to check this board frequently.

The office of Academics will use the following process to disseminate important information to the CON student body: mass e-mail to all students, publication in eCon-nections, posting on designated student bulletin board on third floor CON, e-mail to faculty to announce in classes held on campus

Prior to October 5, 2008, student services will be sending out e-mails to all students and faculty regarding new faculty advisor assignments. The student list with advisors will also be posted on the CON Intranet under the heading: Advising.

Pre-registration for Spring ’08 is October 8-19. Students are encouraged to contact their assigned advisor prior to registration to ensure timely academic progression.

Wound Care News

The Wound Care Education Program will conduct the Fall Wound Care Specialty Course Oct. 13 - Nov. 3.

The 2008 dates for the onsite courses are as follows:

Feb. 16 - Mar. 8
Apr. 12 - Aug. 2* (web enhanced/distance learning option)
Aug. 9 - 30
Oct. 11 - Nov. 1

A scholarship is available for a South Carolina nurse with a BSN to attend the Wound Care Specialty Course. Interested applicants should contact the Wound Program office for information about the scholarship (bonhamp@musc.edu or call 843-792-2651)

*The distance course will require an on-site visit in Charleston the week of April 12 - 19, 2008.

Lunchtime Presentation

Miriam Torres, USC Arnold School of Public Health, will be speaking on the topic of “Cultural issues in the Hispanic/Latino community that impact on the delivery of health services.”

This presentation will be held October 3 at noon in room 302 in the Basic Science Building. Lunch will be provided to the first 25 attendees - so get there early.

This program is supported by the Office of Diversity, Alliance for Hispanic Health, and the College of Nursing Hispanic Health Initiative.
Dr. Charlene Pope attended the NIH Conference on Building the Science of Dissemination and Implementation Research in the Service of Public Health at NIH on the Bethesda, Maryland campus Sep. 10 - 11. She attended the conference on behalf of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and faculty collaborators at the MUSC College of Nursing. Besides an orientation to the new Dissemination and Implementation grants and the science they involve, Dr. Pope and Dr. Gayenell Magwood had their concept paper for a potential PAR-06-072 grant selected for feedback. Their topic for development is Nurse Case Manager Motivational Interviewing via Telehealth for Veterans with Diabetes.

In addition, Dr. Pope attended the International Advances in Qualitative Methods Conference in Banff, Canada from Sep. 21 - 24. She presented the results of a methodological feasibility study of approaches to qualitative coding on behalf of Dr. Gayenell Magwood, Dr. Catherine Ling, Dr. Boyd Davis, and Dr. Carolyn Jenkins.

This secondary analysis used data from Dr. Jenkins’ NINR 1 R15 NR009486-01A1 grant from the National Institutes of Health and grant/cooperative agreement U50/CCU422184-05 from the REACH 2010 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The paper was entitled “Coding Matters: The Comparison of Qualitative Methods in the Pursuit of Social Contexts.”

The results of this study will provide a rationale for a particular approach to coding when looking for social context factors (situational analysis as developed by Dr. Adele Clarke (UCSF) and a means for triangulation (stance analysis as developed by Dr. Boyd Davis MUSC & UNC-Charlotte, and her collaborator, Dr. Peyton Mason).

Thanks go out to Alan Lopez, David, Fulmer, Nicole Staubes, Jessica Leinbach and other CON SNA students for their help at the Sea Island Cultural Arts Festival on September 8. They performed over 100 blood pressure screenings, explained the readings, and disseminated information to fair-goers.

Hispanic Health Initiative News

The Hispanic Health Initiative welcomes Elizabeth Welch, MNA as a student intern. Welch will work on developing a marketing plan while she works at Sea Island Medical Center and with the Hispanic Health Initiative on community outreach.

The Hispanic Health Initiative will host a video conference featuring Dr. Debra J. Perez, Sr. Program Office in Research and Evaluation at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The topic of the discussion will be “Eliminating Disparities in the Hispanic/Latino Community: Strategies that work.” The video conference will be held October 24 at 10 a.m. in room 202 in BSB.

Debra Pérez Joy, M.A., M.P.A., Ph.D., is a program officer in Research and Evaluation where she is responsible for the Foundation’s work on disparities in health care and public health. As program officer, she is responsible for three major initiatives: Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change at University of Chicago, Leading Change: Disparities Solutions Initiative at Partners Health in Boston and the Speaking Together: National Language Services Network in Washington, DC.
FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to Nancy Duffy! The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education has selected Duffy has as a finalist for the Governor’s “Professor of the Year” Award.

Claire DeCristofaro, MD presented an abstract at the 13th Annual Sloan-C International Conference on Online Learning, Orlando, FL entitled, “An Online Course Assessment Tool (OCAT) for Faculty Peer-assessment of Self-assessment” (Nov. 8, 2007). Abstract: An Online Course Assessment Tool, designed to be used for confidential faculty peer-evaluation, as well as faculty self-evaluation, and for faculty development. Tool can be used to evaluate existing online courses, or to help develop new online courses.

STAFF NEWS

The Hispanic Health Initiative’s Tiffany Williams, PNP at Sea Island Medical Center (SIMC) and nursing administration intern Elizabeth Welch attended the open house at Frierson Elementary School on Wadmalaw to inform parents about new providers at SIMC and provided handouts on Child safety.

Everyone in the College will miss Cheryl Brown who resigned her position as Grants Administrator in September. Brown has already begun her new position as director in the Office of Surgical Research. Her new phone number is 792-4084.

STUDENT NEWS

Students Honored for Community Service

The Exchange Club of Charleston has awarded three College of Nursing students each with a $1200 scholarship. They were selected by the Club to receive these scholarships based on their residency, academic progress, financial need, and history of community service.

Meaghan Askea, a Charleston resident, is a rising 4th semester student in the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. Askea has been a member of the MUSC Student Government Association and has been involved in the Hispanic Health Fair on Johns Island, the Children’s Bridge Run, and a Charleston city clean-up project. She has previously volunteered for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Mia Barron is a first semester student in the Master of Science in Nursing degree program. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College, and has most recently been employed by MUSC as a clinical nurse coordinator for the Progressive Care Unit and Vascular Center and Department of Rheumatology. She has served as a lupus health educator for the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. as well as a program coordinator for the Office of Women’s Health within the US Department of Health and Human Services. Barron grew up on Edisto Island and currently resides in North Charleston.

Kim Chavis is a fourth semester student enrolled in the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. She is a resident of the Isle of Palms. Prior to her enrollment in the College of Nursing, Kim served as a deputy sheriff, and K9 Law Enforcement Officer. She is active in the community and has volunteered extensively at the Ronald McDonald House, Storm Eye Institute Fight for Sight, USMC Toys for Tots, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She is a member of the National Student Nurses Association and serves on the MUSC Ethics Committee.
We have newly appointed student representatives to our doctoral committee meetings. Please welcome Amanda Budak, Christy Smith, and Pam Murphy.

Our continued thanks goes to Berry Anderson and Susan Newman who served for two years. Anderson and Newman have done an outstanding job of relating student concerns and ideas to the faculty, and we are grateful for their consistency and ability to always protect student anonymity.

Congratulations to Berry Anderson for successful defense of his dissertation proposal on September 25. The title of his research proposal is: “A comparison of the visualization of movement method and electromyography (EMG) method of determining motor threshold in transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).”