Cell Phone Etiquette

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

The lovely spaces of quiet and solitude that used to surround us is now often broken with the strident rings and loud conversations engendered by cell phones. What ever did we do before they were invented? And how much of what we discuss on these phones is really necessary or important?

Personally, I often long for the time when people called and left a message that you could respond to in your own time and place. I am not sure I like being instant messaged, constantly tracked, or feeling like I need to be reachable every minute of my day and night.

However, since cell phones are here to stay, I would like to suggest three brief cell phone etiquette tips that we observe here in the College of Nursing.

1. Turn off your phone when you are in meetings or class and keep them off the desks or tables. If you’re in a class or meeting give it your attention and don’t be distracted by phone messages. You may finish up the meeting sooner or learn more from the class and then you can attend to your phone.

2. Speak softly in the phone. I have noticed that many people speak very loudly into their phones – more loudly that they would speak to you in person. I’m not sure why this is but it surely is annoying. So please lower your voice and keep your conversation private.

3. Don’t share personal information that you don’t want others to hear when you are on your cell phone in public places. I can’t believe some of the things I have heard from people on this campus who I don’t know…way too much information there!

My final tip is that spring is here, so why not turn off those phones for a little while each day and enjoy the chirp of birds and the emerging sounds of nature....Gail
CON Tribute Booklet
The College of Nursing has launched a wonderful, yet simple way to let someone know that you are thinking of them. Instead of rushing out to buy cards and gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations or memorials – consider a more meaningful option. Make a donation to the MUSC College of Nursing as a way of remembering your special someone. To help you get started, we will send you a “Tribute Booklet” and for a donation of $10 or more, a beautiful linen card will be mailed to whomever you wish letting them know that you have honored them in this most meaningful way.

To request a MUSC College of Nursing Tribute booklet, contact Denise Ciccarelli at 792-8421 or ciccarel@musc.edu. These gifts are tax deductible.

MUSC Excellence: Building a Service Culture
This month we are focusing on the third principle of excellence: building a service culture. It’s easy to think of service in relation to the retail industry, but some people find it a more foreign concept when applied to academia. In a broader sense, however, it is simply the fact that anyone who is working in a job must realize that he or she is providing a service and there is a receiver or customer of that service.

Here in the College, it is clear that our students are our number one customers and so responsiveness to their needs and professional development is critical. But other faculty, other staff, other units of the university, and other groups and organizations we interact with across the community and the nation also are, in many ways, our customers or recipients of our “service.”

So, starting with this month, let’s keep our service culture forefront in our mind and seize every opportunity to ‘deliver the goods’ with a smile, a respectful presence, and true MUSC Excellence.

To learn more about the MUSC Excellence Program, visit http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/univ_excellence.

Homecoming ‘09
The MUSC College of Nursing Alumni Association celebrated Homecoming on Saturday, March 28. That morning, more than 40 alumni attended the open house in the College that included a tour of the Simulation Lab. Later that same evening, more than 150 students and alumni gathered together at The Citadel’s Altman Center for a celebration and silent auction that raised money for nursing scholarships.
Getting to Know... Lynne Nemeth

- **Position:** Associate Professor
- **How many years at CON?** One year; but I was modified faculty for three years in a shared MUHA/CON appointment.
- **Alma Mater:** Stony Brook University, Boston College & MUSC
- **Hometown:** New York, NY
- **Family:** Steve Ornstein, Joseph and Joellen Ornstein (away at college)
- **Astrological sign:** Libra
- **Superstitious?** No
- **Worst habit:** Procrastination
- **Webpage bookmarks?** Mostly quality and research resources

- **What book is on the nightstand?** *Belong to Me* by Marisa de los Santos
- **Last movie you saw?** Revolutionary Road
- **First concert you ever attended?** The Beatles at Shea Stadium when I was 11 years old.
- **Favorite place you’ve traveled to?** On safari in South Africa and seeing the Capetown area’s natural beauty.
- **If you could attend any event what would it be?** Opening day of the Nordstrom anniversary sale in Seattle.
- **Love to trade places for a day with...** Michelle Obama.
- **Talent I’d most like to have:** Enough athleticism to actually compete in a sport.
- **My very first job:** A summer camp secretary in NJ.
- **My hero is...** Tina Fey.
- **Three things in your bucket list:**
  1. Take a cruise around the world
  2. Finish the unread books piled up
  3. Create a photo blog of the world travels and experiences

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The CCNE Accreditation visit has been changed to September 14 - 16.

All faculty and staff will be expected to be present during this site visit.

**FAVORITES:**
- **Color:** Blue
- **Flower:** Peony
- **Sports team or player:** Venus Williams
- **Outdoor activities:** Walking or running on the beach
- **Board game:** Scrabble
- **Movie:** Slumdog Millionaire
- **Magazine:** Conde Nast Traveller
- **Breakfast cereal:** Steel cut oatmeal, cooked with berries and nuts
- **Candy bar:** Anything with dark chocolate
- **Chips/Snack:** Nuts
- **Favorite thing about living in Charleston?**
  The intercoastal landscape and beaches.
Accelerated BSN program is NOT CLOSING!

There seems to be some confusion as to what programs are closing at the College of Nursing and what are not. The accelerated BSN program at MUSC is NOT closing. The accelerated program is alive and well as we have many more applicants than we can accept. At this time there are no plans to stop the accelerated BSN program!

However, due to severe budget cuts, the College of Nursing will be closing the online RN-BSN and RN-MSN programs in August 2009. No new applications are being accepted. Students currently enrolled in these programs will graduate in 2010. For more information contact Student Services at 843-792-8515.

Our Graduates Excel

Once again, we have a 100 percent pass rate for ALL of our MSN graduates who took their ANCC certification exam as adult, family, psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioners. Congratulations to all!

Ernest Just Symposium

The Ernest Just Symposium was held on Friday, February 27. Over 20 students from various Historically Black Colleges and Universities indicated an interest in nursing and participated in our scheduled activities. SNA Breakthrough to Nursing Director Hannah French coordinated a student panel to speak to the prospective students about “a day in the life” of a nursing student. Other panel members included Catherine Coker, J’Vonne Hunter, Devon Licari, Amanda Oswald, and Ashley Plonk. A special thanks to them for making this activity such a success!

Get Your Compliance Training Early

Just a reminder that the 2009 education modules are now available on CATTS. If you would like to complete your training sooner rather than later you can access CATTS via the web at www.musc.edu/catts (use your net ID as your user name and password). The deadline for completion is December 1, 2009.

MUSC Ranks in Top 100

_Nursing Professionals_ magazine recently announced its 2009 Top 100 Hospitals to Work For List. Early in 2008, the magazine surveyed 25,000 randomly selected hospital nurses throughout the country measuring their job satisfaction in areas such as personal training and development, family-friendliness, flexible working arrangements, equality and diversity, and strength of the nursing voice. Southeastern states facilities appearing on the list include:

- Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, NC
- Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC
- Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, GA
- Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
- Mission Hospital, Asheville, NC
- Saint Joseph’s Hospital of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
- University of Alabama Hospital at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
- University of North Carolina Hospitals, Chapel Hill, NC
- Wake Forest Univ. Baptist Medical Ctr., Winston-Salem, NC

Bissinger Named Graduate Programs Director

Robin Bissinger, associate professor, has been named to lead the College of Nursing’s new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and its Master degree programs. First appointed to the faculty in 1994, Robin is Board Certified by the National Certification Corporation as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, past president of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, past president and current executive director of the Carolina’s Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners. She is currently Chair of the National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, secretary/treasurer of the National Certification Corporation, and Liaison to the Perinatal Executive board for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Robin will bring enormous energy and great ideas to the College’s mission and work. Congratulations, Robin.
Research Corner

Congratulations to Deborah Williamson, Anna Tecklenburg, and team for being selected to submit a full proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation application, “Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities.” There were a total of 540 applications submitted, and Deborah’s submission was one of 100 requested to submit a full proposal. The title of this project is the Health Empowerment Zone and it is a collaborative grant with community partners that addresses childhood obesity and the built environment in the City of North Charleston. If the full proposal is accepted, the grant will begin in December and continue over the next four years.

Jeannette Andrews and Melissa Cox, on behalf of the Center for Community Health Partnerships, submitted a U-13 proposal in March to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development entitled, “The MUSC-Charleston Childhood Obesity Conference Series.” The goal of this conference series is to provide a forum for the development of partnerships to conduct community based participatory research in childhood obesity.

Sally Stroud submitted phase two of an application to the Office of Heath Resources and Administration Services, Nurse Faculty Loan Program. The purpose for this application is to secure financial loan support for students enrolled in the PhD, DNP and MSN degree programs at the College of Nursing in order to address the ever-growing need to produce nursing faculty.

Mia Barron, MSN student and clinical nurse coordinator in the Progressive Care Unit/Heart and Vascular Center at the MUSC Medical Center, submitted a proposal to the Daisy Foundation’s J. Patrick Barnes Grants for Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Projects. The proposal entitled, “Unlocking the Mystery of Lupus and Cardiovascular Health,” will assess knowledge of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) risk factors among minority populations in communities in South Carolina with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE).

Botswana Update

In 2008, Susan Benedict retired from her active faculty role in the College of Nursing and was named Professor Emeritus. Now she is working in Botswana, South Africa, where she is a professor of nursing at the University of Botswana. The following is correspondence from Susan.

Life in Botswana continues to be interesting. No two days are the same. Summer is finishing and the weather is becoming much more comfortable. The fall will begin in April and it will getting cold here during the nights. No houses, including mine, have heat so sweaters are going to be required.

The MSN students are very dedicated. Each is sponsored by their site of employment so they are expected to do well. In fact, all students here at the University of Botswana are sponsored by either the government or, for graduate degrees, their places of employment. The cost of living here is about half of that in the US but so are the salaries (including mine). The main government enterprise is the diamond industry but, given the global economy, the demand has dropped and people here are being furloughed.

Botswana is a beautiful place with very generous people. The nation has never been to war and is using its diamond reserve for education. The wonderful wildlife reserves are just amazing. I am still in awe that elephants and cheetahs roam wild less than 30 minutes from my apartment.

I am learning much and look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards to each of you, Susan
Unnatural Causes Event

After showing the *Unnatural Causes* film series on campus last fall, the Center for Community Health Partnerships has partnered with the REACH Georgetown Diabetes CORE group to host a town hall series in Georgetown, SC.

The first of three town hall meetings was held on March 18 at the Chopee Health Complex. Residents and community members have chosen to view two episodes of *Unnatural Causes* as a catalyst for the development of an action plan to address health issues in their community. The remaining two town hall events are scheduled for April.

Community Engaged Scholars

The Center for Community Health Partnerships will launch a Community Engaged Scholars program in the summer of 2009. This program will provide training, pilot funds, and mentorship for up to five teams consisting of an academic and community partner who have interests in community based participatory research. The goal of this program is to increase the capacity of academic-community partnerships to conduct research, and ultimately, improve the health of our communities in South Carolina and beyond. A call for nominations for teams will be released in April with the program set to begin in August. For more information, contact Melissa Cox at coxme@musc.edu or 792-2215.

Health Fair a Success

The Alcance Health Fair was a huge success. The fair which offered free health screenings to over 250 visitors from the Hispanic/Latino community—mostly young men aged 24 - 38 years old—was held March 21 at the Franklin C. Fetter Family Health Center (FCFFHC) on Johns Island.

The FCFFHC staff performed cholesterol and glucose level screenings and blood pressure readings, and Vanessa Diaz, MD, advised each person on their results.

Many thanks to Judith Rundbaken and Anne Lawn who helped out at the event. Judith, patient navigator at the FCFFHC, answered questions on health services and disseminated information while Anne, who volunteered on her day off, performed BMI, weight and height measurements.

Abrazos Program

The Abrazos program provides Spanish-speaking mothers and their 3-year old children an active, fun and educational experience. The program meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Midland Park Ministries in North Charleston. As the children are developing their gross motor skills, fine motor skills, speech and language, cognitive and social abilities, their mothers are focusing on learning English as a Second Language, computer skills and participating in health classes.

Currently, BSN students are regularly attending Abrazos on Tuesdays as part of their psychiatric clinical rotation. This semester, each BSN student is in a classroom for most of the morning helping and observing the children. Additionally, Charleston County School District has approached the College of Nursing about replicating the Abrazos program at another location in North Charleston. They plan to roll out this program in the fall.

Welcome, New Interns

The Office of Practice welcomes two interns from the College of Charleston this semester. Emily Scott is a senior majoring in psychology and Libby Hazzard is a senior majoring in sociology. Both young women have contributed tremendously to the initiatives of the Office of Practice. Emily focuses her time with Melissa Cox and the Teen Health Leadership Project on Johns Island while Libby joins Anna Tecklenburg with the Abrazos program in North Charleston.

**BREAKFAST SEMINAR SERIES**

- **April 13 • 9 a.m. • BSB 502**
  “Bringing the Science to the Community” by Jeff Randall, PhD

- **May 4 • 9 a.m. • BSB 302**
  “Community Advisory Boards: Best Practices” by Jeannette Andrews, PhD, RN

- **June 1 • 9 a.m. • Room TBA**
  “Mentorship in Health Services Research” by Charlene Pope, PhD, RN

Sponsored by: The Center for Community Health Partnerships
News

Congratulations to **Gigi Smith** who has been accepted into the PhD program at College of Nursing beginning in August 2009.

In addition, Gigi has been named as a co-director of the 8th Annual MUSC Pediatric Neuroscience Update that will be held on Kiawah Island from March 20 - 21. Way to go!

In order to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, **Phyllis Bonham** presented a workshop on the role of wound ostomy continence nurse specialists to physical therapy students in the College of Health Professions on March 4.

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**Recently Published Faculty**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


[www.advanceweb.com/nurses](http://www.advanceweb.com/nurses)


doi:10.1177/1524839909332139


doi:10.3122/jabfm.2009.02.080108

Nietert, P.J., Jenkins, R.G., **Nemeth, L.S.**, & Ornstein, S.M. An Application of a Modified Constrained Randomization Process to a Practice-based Cluster Randomized Trial to Improve Colorectal Cancer Screening, *Contemporary Clinical Trials*, 2009, 129-132


**BOOK CHAPTER:**


**POSTER PRESENTATIONS:**


“I always remember the axiom: a leader...is like a shepherd.
He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind.”

~ Nelson Mandela
Convocation & Graduation Details

Congratulations to the Class of May 2009! Convocation is scheduled for Thursday, May 14 at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church. The program will begin at 3 p.m., however graduates are asked to arrive by 2 p.m. so you may be assisted with robing and line-up for the processional. There will be a rehearsal for this special event on Wednesday, May 13 at 3 p.m.

Convocation generally lasts one and a half hours and includes the pinning of the undergraduate students and the hooding of the master’s and doctoral students. Several awards and recognitions are part of the ceremony as well. Family and friends are invited to attend; no tickets are required. Each graduate should use their best judgment regarding number of people to invite. Parking is available in the area, specifically at the garage adjacent to the Francis Marion Hotel and the Charleston Visitor’s Center. Car-pooling is advised.

Graduates will wear their graduation robe and hoods. Caps are not worn at Convocation.

There will be a light reception in the St. Matthew’s Fellowship Hall following Convocation.

The morning of Friday, May 15 is Graduation. This event begins at 9 a.m., but graduates are asked to arrive at the Institute of Psychiatry (IOP) Auditorium Lobby by 7:30 a.m. so you may be assisted with robing and line-up for the processional. Graduates will wear their graduation robe, hoods, and caps. Comfortable shoes are recommended as you will be walking from the IOP to Ashley Ave. Sun-screen and sunglasses are also suggested. Water will be provided. You may wear what you like under your gown.

The Web site for Commencement is: http://www.musc.edu/academics/grad/index.html. This site has information for candidate’s guests (including disability accommodation), as well as information about news releases, photos and videos, and adverse weather plans. There is also a map for candidate and audience seating.

If you are unable to pick up your gown prior to Convocation rehearsal or Convocation, Mardi Long will have it for you at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church. For additional information, contact Mardi at longm@musc.edu or 792-6683.

Choudry Receives Scholarship

Aisha Choudry is the recipient of the Earl B. Higgins Scholarship. This will be presented to her at the Annual Earl B. Higgins Achievement in Diversity reception on April 1.

Aisha is completing her second semester of coursework in the accelerated BSN degree program. She earned a place on the Dean’s List after her first semester and was selected to be part of the College of Nursing Robert Wood Johnson Scholars Program and the Hispanic Health Initiative Scholars Program. She is currently enrolled in the Honors Research course, a member of the College of Nursing Honor Council, and the community director for the Student Nurse’s Association. Additionally, Aisha is a 2-1-1 Crisis Hotline volunteer. She is also leading an interest group for students considering nurse anesthesia as a career path.

Achieving academically and committing to community service is not new to Aisha. She previously earned a degree in Biology from Wofford College and was recognized by that institution as a Bonner Scholar which required students to volunteer at least ten hours a week during the four years of college and acquire 280 hours of service for two summers. Immediately following graduation from Wofford, Aisha became a certified nursing assistant which solidified her choice of nursing as a career.

Aisha has many qualities that will ensure her success as a nurse. She has a passion for helping others and ensuring quality patient care. She has excellent communication skills and will be a valuable contributor to the healthcare team.

Capitol Day

Seven College of Nursing students attended Capitol Day, a statewide Student Nurse’s Association (SNA) activity designed to raise awareness among legislators about nursing education and the nursing profession. Thank you to SNA President Zerlinna Shannon for her leadership organizing this activity and making sure MUSC students were visible. Other participants were Britney Diaz, Elsa Edwards, Jonathan Edwards, Emily Mayer, Amanda Oswald, and Leigh Spearman.