I trust that you enjoyed the beautiful holiday weather we had this year – one of the reasons I love living in Charleston! I noticed in particular how, on those days that were sunny and bright with clear skies, I felt activated, energized, and optimistic. It seemed like everything I did those days was light and fun.

Then came those days at the end of last week when I woke up to the gray canvas filling my many windows, bereft of any view except that of a dense fog nestled in for a long winter’s nap over the landscape. I noticed how, on those days, I lost a bit of the spring in my step and I was slower, more sleepy and happy just to tinker on some unfinished tasks around my house.

All of this reminded me again of how important light is in regulating our moods, thoughts and actions. I also thought about how this parallels our interactions with others. I like being around people who see the glass as “half-full” and feel drained by those who persistently see it as “half-empty.” While I understand and respect the value of clouds, it is the sunshine that most inspires me.

In 2009, the College will face the most difficult challenges in our 125 year history. The days ahead will be filled with weather that we cannot yet predict and so we must be prepared for all skies. Nonetheless, while we cannot control future events, we can control our responses to them. I hope that as we have done in the past, we will continue to respond with sun rather than clouds. Let the day begin…Gail

“Celebrate your success and stand strong when adversity hits, for when the storm clouds come in, the eagles soar while the small birds take cover.”
ROI Funded

Congratulations to Jeannette Andrews, whose R01 entitled “A Social Ecological Based Smoking Cessation Intervention in Public Housing” was funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health!

Grant Proposals Submitted

Lynne Nemeth and John Welton both submitted brief proposals to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation under the Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Initiative (INQRI). Nemeth’s proposal is entitled, “The Beach Chair Position in Critically Ill Overweight and Obese Patients,” and Welton’s is entitled, “Improving Nursing Value Using Information Technology.” They will be notified in February if they have been selected to submit full proposals.

Carolyn Jenkins, Principal Investigator, submitted “Improving chronic care for diabetes prevention and control” to The Duke Endowment through its Health Care Improving Lives program.

Elaine Amella, Liz Erkel, and Gigi Smith submitted “Innovation in an online DNP program: Outreach to post-BSN and post-MSN nurses” to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Amella will serve as the project director. The submission proposes to establish an online DNP program with a residential component utilizing the MUSC Healthcare Simulation Center.

Doctoral student, Lucy Meginnson submitted a proposal entitled “Exploration of Nursing Doctoral Admissions and Performance Outcomes” to Sigma Theta Tau International under the Small Grants program.

We wish them all the best of luck!

Publications


Congratulations!

Ruth Stockdell has accepted an invitation to join the Respite Care Ministries Board. The Board has been in the area for almost 15 years. It is a faith-based working Board that assists dementia patients and their caregivers in the local community area.

Lee Horton passed her Comprehensive Examination and now is a PhD Candidate!

The MUSC Board of Trustees has approved a joint appointment as an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing for Laura Cousineau, MLS. Cousineau’s primary appointment rests in the Department of Library Science and Informatics. She also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine.

New SGA Officers Elected

Congratulations to the new College of Nursing Student Government Officers!

President - Melanie Almonte
Vice President - To be elected (TBE)
Secretary - Kiri Nevin
Treasurer - Sara Bowers
Social Chair - Nick Porter
Policy Writer - Elsa Edwards
SGN-SNA Liaison - Marlee McKenzie
Class Representatives - Stacey Simpson and TBE
Convocation Recognizes Excellence

Several students and faculty were recognized at the December 2008 Convocation held on Saturday, December 6 at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church.

**Nancy Finch**, CON Alumni Board President presented three students with pins for their selection as the outstanding student in their program. The recipients were **Ashley Bath**, Outstanding BSN Student, **Jamie Gilligan**, Outstanding RN-BSN Student, and **Teresa Atz**, Outstanding MSN Student.

**Natalie Judy** was selected to receive the prestigious Kimberly M. Limbaker Memorial Award presented to the undergraduate student selected by their peers who shows enthusiasm for life, a willingness to learn, caring and kindness to others, and love of the nursing profession. Mr. and Mrs. Limbaker, Kim’s parents, and their son, Skip, attended Convocation and assisted with the presentation of the award.

The First Honor Graduate for the Class of December 2008 was **Mary Laurel Lawton**, who completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with a 3.99 GPA, summa cum laude.

Two faculty were also recognized. **John Welton** received the Golden Lamp Award presented by the Student Government Association to the faculty who they would most like to emulate as a professional nurse. **Cathy Brannigan** received the Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award. This is presented to the faculty member who demonstrated respect and empathy for students, provided safe and supportive environments to practice and develop clinical skills, challenged student learning and facilitated self-evaluation, and encouraged and modeled collaborative practice and clinical expertise.

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**CON Student Kudos**

**Robin Matutina**’s recently published article entitled, “Recruiting middle school students into nursing,” was ranked 13th in the *Journal of School Nursing*’s top 50 most read articles in December. Most-read rankings are recalculated at the beginning of the month and are based on full-text and pdf views.

Matutina, a doctoral student, had her manuscript entitled, “Hope springs eternal” published in the October 2008 issue of *Cancer Nursing Practice* and has a third manuscript at press that will be soon be published in *Paediatric Nursing*. Way to go!

On November 20, **Molly Lussier** (4th semester CON student) and her team won the MUSC’s third annual CLARION (Clinician Administrator Relationship Improvement Organization) Interprofessional Case Competition. The contest brought students from different programs together to dissect a complicated health care case, to find root cause analysis, and to provide recommendations in an interprofessional fashion. The objective of CLARION is to broaden the educational experience of health care students through interprofessional interaction as well as raise awareness of each profession to increase patient health outcomes. The first place team will travel to the University of Minnesota in early April to compete at the National CLARION Competition. The first place prize to be won is $5,000. Congratulations!
Upcoming NCBI Workshops
The National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) is offering several workshops in 2009. If you are interested in attending any of the seminars listed below, email Dr. DaNine Fleming at flemid@musc.edu. If you would like to have a customized workshop for your class, organization, or department contact Dr. Fleming to arrange a workshop that will accommodate your needs.

EXPOSURE WORKSHOPS
Thursday, January 8 • 12 p.m. • Gils Grill - OR - Thursday, May 7 • 9 a.m. • Harper Student Center Auditorium.
This one hour interactive session is designed to expose individuals to limited aspects of the prejudice reduction modules of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI).

HANDLING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES
Tuesday, February 10 • 9 a.m. • Gils Grill - OR - Thursday, June 18 • 9 a.m. • Location to be determined
This three hour training session is designed to assist individuals within a group setting on handling tough, interpersonal intergroup conflicts.

WELCOMING DIVERSITY
Tuesday, March 10 • 9 a.m. • Gils Grill - OR - Thursday, July 16 • 9 a.m. • Location to be determined
This seven hour training session is designed to introduce participants to various aspects of diversity which include but are not limited to: identifying the information and misinformation we learned about other groups; to learn how groups, other than our own, experience mistreatment; to learn the personal impact of specific incidents of discrimination and how to interrupt prejudicial jokes, remarks, and slurs.

TRAIN THE TRAINER
Wednesday, August 19 - Friday, August 21 • Time and location to be determined
A three day session designed to train individuals to serve on the campus NCBI leadership team as trainers of the NCBI modules.