The Colbert “Bump”  
By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, APRN, FAAN

Never pass up an opportunity...you never know which one will pay off. Last year I sent Stephen Colbert a letter and enclosed our NURSESTRONG wristbands (honoring nurses) with a request that he feature them on his show as an addition to, or replacement of, his own red wristband (honoring broken wrists). Sadly I never heard back from him. In all fairness, I really don’t know if the letter even reached him or was discarded by someone on his staff.

So you can imagine how excited I was to learn he would be here for our graduation! He was very nice and every bit as engaging as he is on television – reflected in the photo of me with my new “BFF.” So I seized upon the opportunity to try once more. This time, with all the publicity and events surrounding the graduation, I decided to give the letter to his wife, who assured me that she would see that her husband received it.

I haven’t heard anything yet, but I do look forward to opening my mail each day in the hope of something good. At the very least, it helps us smile and keep perspective. I think Colbert would like that....Gail
TV Hot For Nurses
It looks like not only medical dramas are having a resurgence on TV, but that shows focused on nurses are all the rage. This month the cable network Showtime raises the curtain on “Nurse Jackie” while TNT delivers “HawthoRNe.”

“Nurse Jackie” is a dark comedy starring Edie Falco and takes place in the surreal world of a New York City hospital, where Falco plays Jackie, a nurse battling the insanity of everyday life in the American health care system. Jackie is a genius at what she does, but she’s also deeply troubled, with looming shadows of prescription drug addiction.

“HawthoRNe” is a medical drama told from the nurses’ point of view. Jada Pinkett Smith plays Christina Hawthorne, a compassionate and headstrong chief nursing officer heading up a group of dedicated nurses who spend many hours on the hospital’s front lines. Christina is the kind of nurse who fights for her patients and when necessary, she takes on doctors and administrators who are overworked, distracted or just unable to see the human being behind the hospital chart.

Here’s hoping that one or both will be worthy of a refill. “Nurse Jackie” premieres June 8 at 10:30 p.m. on Showtime while “HawthoRNe” will debut June 16 at 9 p.m. on TNT.

MUSC Excellence: Developing Leaders
This month we are exploring the fourth principle of MUSC Excellence, which is to “Develop Our Leaders.” Clearly, every organization needs a strong cadre of leaders. But our take on this principle in the College of Nursing is a bit different, as we believe that all of us are leaders in some fashion.

Each of us, whether student, staff or faculty has a responsibility to move our College forward and, in so doing, actualize one’s leadership qualities. As a healthy, vibrant organization there can be no “them vs. us” or other dichotomies of people or positions. Rather, we are all in this together and share equal responsibility for both the process and outcomes of our activities. In this frame, developing our leaders takes on added significance, as it requires that we allow each and every one of us to work to our potential and maximize our contribution to the College. Thus at the CON, developing leaders also means that a rising tide raises all boats—a fitting analogy for us here in Charleston!

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

Kudos to Lifelines
Each issue of our magazine, Lifelines, continues to excel! The spring issue was focused on Community Partnerships and we received many positive comments about it. Kudos to Beth Khan and Jo Smith for their excellent work. Here is one of the comments we’ve received.

Ciccarelli Goes to Harvard
As part of the MUSC Trustees Leadership Academy’s Capstone Experience, Denise Ciccarelli has been accepted into the prestigious Harvard Management Development Program, a component of Harvard’s Graduate School of Education. This is an executive education program designed for deans, directors, and other higher education administrators. Denise will be attending this leadership program in June. Congratulations!
### June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>RWH Scholars meeting</td>
<td>12 p.m. Historical Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>HHI Cohort 7 New Member Welcome</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. CON 524</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Student Leadership meeting with the Dean</td>
<td>12 p.m. CON 4th floor conference room</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-12</td>
<td>Pre-registration for fall 2009</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>VA Nursing Academy Site Visit</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Independence Day Observed</td>
<td>CON closed</td>
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### July

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Night at the Riverdogs</td>
<td>7:05 p.m. Joe Riley Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>Summer Nursing Camp</td>
<td>with MUHA and Chas. County Schools</td>
</tr>
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### Getting to Know...

**Sally Stroud**

- **Position:** Associate Dean of Academics
- **How many years at CON?** 15 years
- **How many years at MUSC?** 15 years
- **Most rewarding thing about your job?** Working with students and faculty.
- **Alma Mater:** Auburn University
- **Hometown:** Seattle, WA
- **Family:** Michael Cadoret, fiancee
- **Astrological sign:** Libra
- **Superstitious?** No
- **Webpage bookmarks?** Facebook, Harry & David, iTunes
- **What book is on the nightstand?** The First Patient by Michael Palmer
- **Last movie you saw?** The Reader
- **First concert you ever attended?** James Brown
- **Favorite place you’ve traveled to?** Florence, Italy
- **If you could attend any event what would it be?** A Bette Midler concert
- **Talent I’d most like to have:** Carry a tune
- **My very first job:** Nurses aid in a newborn nursery
- **Three things in your bucket list:**
  1) Raft the Grand Canyon for a second time
  2) Visit Greece
  3) Travel around the U.S. in a motor home

**FAVORITES:**

- **Color:** Yellow
- **Flower:** Daisy
- **Sports team or player:** Auburn Tigers
- **Outdoor activities:** Kayaking, camping
- **Board game:** Sequence
- **Movie:** West Side Story
- **Fruit:** Apple
- **Favorite thing about living in Charleston?** It is a beautiful place with lots of great restaurants.

### Save the Date

**August 11**

**Faculty & Staff Retreat**

8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

**James Island County Park Edisto Hall**

### Check It Out

Next time you’re surfing the web check out this web site: [www.youtube.com/edu](http://www.youtube.com/edu).

Top-tier universities are giving the public free online access to their best lectures. Maybe we should consider this as well?
AENT and NFLP Awards
The College of Nursing will receive $77,445 from HRSA for the Advanced Education in Nursing Traineeship (AENT) grant award for 2009-2010. This traineeship is awarded to student nurses enrolled in one of our graduate programs. Students will be notified soon about applications for funding for fall semester.

We are still awaiting notification on the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) award for 2009-2010. The NFLP is a student loan program for nurse educator students who plan on working as nursing faculty and can get up to 85 percent of the loan repaid if they work so many years as a nursing faculty.

Night at the RiverDogs - June 19
Faculty, staff, and students are invited to join the Student Nurses Association for a Night at the RiverDogs on Friday, June 19. The RiverDogs will be playing the Sand Gnats beginning at 7:05 p.m. Fireworks will follow the game. Tickets are $6 and may be purchased by contacting Katie Caldwell at caldweca@musc.edu.

Congratulations to Convocation Award Recipients
Students and faculty were recognized at Convocation held at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church on May 14. There were 50 accelerated BSN students, 29 MSN students, and two PhD students celebrating completion of their academic programs.

An amazing four students completed the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Catherine Coker, Ashley Plonk, Ashley Ragan, and Andrea White shared the honor of First Honor Graduate. In addition, two students, Jennifer Lewey and Kimberly Greisemer, completed the Master of Science in Nursing degree with a 4.0 GPA. Both Jennifer and Kimberly are graduates of the accelerated BSN degree program.

This year, the College was pleased to present a $2,000 Alumni Association Lifetime Membership Scholarship to Cassie Carroll. Cassie completed the accelerated BSN program with honors and is continuing her education in the DNP program. This scholarship rotates among MUSC’s six colleges.

Grace Laird was the recipient of the Josephine A. Fogle Award and Ashley Plonk received the Community Service Award. The Alumni Association also presented the Outstanding Student Awards to Zerlinna Shannon, accelerated BSN program, and Jessica Shuford, MSN program.

The Student Government Association presented the Golden Lamp Award to a professor they would most like to emulate as a professional nurse. Students from the BSN program selected Ann Hollerbach and students from the MSN program selected Cindy Allen. Mary Lee Lavelle was selected by the students to receive the Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award.

A faculty member from each of the programs was also recognized for excellence and role modeling: Jane Anderson, BSN program, Barbara Edlund, MSN program, and Elaine Amella, PhD program.
New Clinical Research NIH Web Site

NIH recently announced the launch of its new Clinical Research web site: [http://clinicalresearch.nih.gov](http://clinicalresearch.nih.gov). The site provides a comprehensive, consumer-friendly look at NIH Clinical Research, including information on how clinical research is conducted and the role that clinical trial participants play in the process. There are personal testimonies of volunteers who have participated in clinical research as well as a state by state breakdown of NIH research funding. With links to “Research Results for the Public” and “NIH News in Health” the site also provides information on the successful gains in knowledge resulting from clinical research and the impact being made on public health.

Grant Submissions

In May, Deborah Williamson submitted a grant proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Healthy Kids Healthy Communities entitled “Health Empowerment Zone.” This grant, along with the Center for Community Health Partnerships (CCHP), will represent a group of researchers, clinicians, educators, and community partners engaged to promote optimal health in SC. The project will focus specifically on the city of North Charleston to address childhood obesity problems. It is composed of three phases. Phase 1, will collect community information and link it to existing data sets. Phase 2 will establish a culture within the environment to promote healthy eating and active living among children, youth, and families; build a system support, and form sustainable solutions from strong community partnerships that are essential to address childhood obesity. Finally, the third phase will address the dissemination of the model to other municipalities and regions.

Charlene Pope and Amy Joseph submitted a grant to the VA Educational Innovation Infrastructure Support for Graduate Medical Education Enhancement and VA Nursing Academy. The grant’s title is “Raising the Stakes: The Integration of Gaming Strategies to Address Nurse Sensitive Care Indicators.”

Funded Projects

Congratulations to Elaine Amella and Mark Delegge for the recent award presented by the National Institute on Aging, for their R21 proposal entitled, “Feeding in Elderly Late-Stage Dementia: The FIELD Trial.” This project which was submitted by the Digestive Disease Center/ART DDSL and will begin June 1.

Charlene Pope (PI) was notified of funding for a one year study at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center entitled, “The Role of Communication in CHF Care Coordination in Home Telehealth.” Her research team includes, Jan Basile, Boyd Davis, Maureen Distler, Marie Doherty, and Clare Pittman. This grant is funded as a Rapid Response Proposal of the VA Health Service Research & Development (HSR&D) QUERI Program (Quality Enhancement Research Initiative).

PhD Student Corner

Many congratulations to Sharon Bond and Pamela Murphy. Both successfully defended their dissertations and received their PhD degrees. Sharon’s dissertation was entitled, “Preventing Cervical Cancer: Challenges in Implementing HPV Vaccine Strategies Among Medically Underserved Populations.” Pam’s dissertation title was “Postpartum Depression and Vitamin D.” Both were guided under the mentorship of Teresa Kelechi. Congratulations!

Brian Conner, a second year PhD student, received notification of funding for $1,500 from the Self Regional Healthcare Foundation towards his pilot study on prevention of hospital-acquired, catheter-associated urinary tract infections.

PRESENTATIONS

**Abrazos Completes Third Year**

It is hard to believe that the Abrazos program is about to complete its third year. The children and the mothers have learned a lot over the past year! One mother noted, “The classes have helped us gain information that we would not otherwise have been able to learn and have empowered us by allowing us to know more about health and community issues concerning ourselves and our families.”

We are very thankful to the many presenters who have taken time out of their schedules to come and speak to the women about different community and health topics. Low Country AIDS Services, Trident Safe Kids, My Sister’s House, Family Literacy and many other great organizations and people have all shared very important information with the women. If you or your organization is interested in presenting health or community information to the women of Abrazos this fall, contact Anna Tecklenburg at (843) 792-8526.

**Staff News**

**Anna Tecklenburg**, research assistant with the Hispanic Health Initiatives, attended the South Carolina Latino Teen Pregnancy Prevention Roundtable in Columbia, SC on April 24. The event was attended by professionals from all over the South. The roundtable proved to be very informative and will provide information for future grant applications by the Office of Practice.

**Students Reach Out**

On April 22, the Office of Practice held an outreach activity at Franklin C. Fetter Community Health Center, Inc. The event, held on Johns Island, was organized in an effort to raise awareness about critical health issues. CON students enrolled in the Teen Health Leadership Program distributed pamphlets they had created on diabetes and stress. Since the area has a large Hispanic community, students who took the College’s Intermediate Medical Spanish course served as interpreters in order to better serve Spanish speaking patients.

**Wound Care Course Update**

The Wound Care Specialty Course is now accepting applications for the fall 2009 WOCN accredited course. Courses will be offered from August 15 - September 5 and October 3 - 24. If you would like more information, contact Carol Whelan at whelanc@musc.edu or 792-2651.

**May ’09 Grad Chosen for Fellowship**

**Shannon Vallaincourt**, a May 2009 PNP graduate, was notified that she will be one of two PNPs chosen for the Oncology Fellowship Program at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Currently, there are only two active oncology fellowships in pediatrics for NPs in the US. Congratulations, Shannon!

**HHI Cohort 7**

Congratulations to the newest group of Hispanic Health Initiatives (HHI) student scholars.

- **Brooke Jackson**
- **Mildred Pochet**
- **Jessica Hayes**
- **Elizabeth Gesing**
- **Lori Tisdale**
- **Angela Caraviello**
- **Katey Holahan**
- **Grace King**
- **Andrea Robison**

**HHI COHORT 7 MEETING**

New Member Welcome
Tuesday, June 9
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
CON 524

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*eCONnections* is published monthly by the MUSC College of Nursing. Send inquiries, comments and suggestions to: Beth Khan • MUSC College of Nursing • 99 Jonathan Lucas St., MSC 160 • Charleston, SC 29425 • barnette@musc.edu
Two Faculty Promotions

At a recent Board of Trustees meeting two of our eminent faculty were promoted. Congratulations to **Elaine Amella** who was promoted to Professor, and **Charlene Pope** who was promoted to Associate Professor. The College’s senior ranks are stronger with these well deserved professional appointments.

Bonham to Serve as WOCN President

On June 10, **Phyllis Bonham** will become president of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses (WOCN) Society at the annual WOCN Conference in St. Louis, MO.

Founded in 1968, the WOCN is a professional, international nursing society of more than 4,200 health care professionals who are experts in the care of patients with wound, ostomy and incontinence. The organization supports its members by promoting educational, clinical and research opportunities to advance the practice and guide the delivery of expert health care.

Phyllis will serve as president for the next two years. Congratulations, Phyllis!

Dean appointed to NINR National Advisory Council

**Dean Gail Stuart** has been appointed to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR), the principal advisory board for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).

The Council provides the second level of review of grant applications submitted to the NINR, and recommends to which applications should be approved and considered for funding. These recommendations are based not only on considerations of scientific merit, but also on the relevance of the proposed project to the Institute’s programs and priorities. In addition, the Council reviews the Institute’s extramural programs and also makes recommendations about its intramural research activities.

The 21-person council consists of six ex officio members, and 15 members appointed by the Secretary. Two-thirds of the appointed members are among the leading representatives of the health and scientific disciplines (seven of these members are professional nurses who are recognized experts in the area of clinical practice, education or research) and one-third of the members are from the general public and include leaders in the fields of public policy, law, health policy, economics and management. Each member serves a four-year term.

The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and the exercise of ordinary qualities. These may for the most part be summed in these two: common-sense and perseverance.
Congratulations, Susan Sparks!

Susan Sparks has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 CON Staff of the Year Award. This award was presented at the Administrative Professionals Day celebration held on April 22. Susan has been with the College of Nursing since 2000 and currently serves as the Facilities Manager. Her efforts during the past year—especially during all of the College’s many physical moves—were a shining example of MUSC Excellence at its finest!

Well Deserved Shout Outs

The College’s staff is a talented and dedicated group. This was most evident during the recent solicitation for Staff of the Year nominations. Thirty-three nominations were received. Below are a few of the affirming and heartfelt comments…

“I am constantly amazed by Melissa Cox and her energy and commitment to making our community a healthier place for all that live there. Her infectious enthusiasm for making a difference in our community exemplifies the spirit of the work we do here in the College.”

“Joanne Langdale always has such a positive and can-do attitude. What a good first impression of the College for new hires!”

“Mardi Long has had a cheerful attitude for as long as I have known her. She goes out of her way to help students with many types of problems—often above and beyond what would be expected or required.”

“Carlos Lopez always does his job with a smile and a positive attitude. Never grumbles or seems to be overwhelmed.”

“Sonya Smalls is what we call value added! She is committed to her work and to her community.”

“Maria Toler is an amazing person who works hard to do a wonderful job with every assignment. She is excellence personified.”

“Carol Whelan is one of the most organized, patient, kind, efficient, and committed people with whom I have ever worked. I rarely mark “always” on such surveys, but in Carol’s case it is uniformly true.”

Two Join CON Staff

Evans Jenkins has joined the College of Nursing staff as a systems administrator and developer. His primary duties will be assisting with WebCT and other web based tools. As part of the Nursing Technology Center (NTC), he will also be providing desktop support to the College.

Evans was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant and earned an undergraduate degree in business administration from The Citadel. Currently, he lives on James Island and has an 11-year-old daughter, Cameron.

The CON welcomes Alisha Simmons to the staff as the cessation counselor for the Sister to Sister Research Project. Her responsibilities will be to coordinate and lead the tobacco cessation smoking group interventions and provide study participants’ nicotine replacement therapy and evaluate measures for interventions.

Alisha is a native New Yorker but has lived in Charleston for the past 10 years. She graduated with a psychology degree from Limestone University and earned a MBA from Bridgewater University. Prior to joining the CON, Alisha served as the director of finance and human resources administration for the National African American Tobacco Prevention Network. She serves on several cancer boards and is the grandmother of three grandchildren.

Stephanie Brown-Guion in not new to the CON, but will now serve as a program coordinator for the Sister to Sister Research Project (Stephanie joined the College in 2007 as a grants coordinator). Her new duties will include serving as a liaison between community members and the research team. She will also facilitate meetings with research participants to provide support for quitting smoking, and assist with the implementation of smoking cessation strategies into public housing neighborhoods.
CON SGA Elects New Officers

The College of Nursing Student Government Association has elected new officers. Congratulations to these outstanding students and role models:

Cari Mitchell, President
Courtney Jordan, First Vice President
Nick Porter, Second Vice President
Rachel Fuller, Secretary
Lauren Harris, Treasurer

Katie Anderson, Policy Writer
Misty Seawright, Social Chair
Alex White, SNA/SGA Representative
Lauren Bennett, Third Semester Representative
Christine Blackwell, Second Semester Representative

This important student group serves as the communication liaison for students, faculty, and administration. They regularly provide feedback regarding students issues at the College of Nursing and meet with the dean and associate dean one time per semester. Their first meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15 at noon in the fourth floor Conference Room. If students would like to have an issue added to the agenda, please e-mail them to Cari at micchece@musc.edu.

Latin Honors for May ‘09 Grads

An exceptional group of students graduating from the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program were recognized at Graduation with Latin Honors.

Erin Barton, Cum Laude
Cassie Carroll, Magna Cum Laude
Catherine Coker, Summa Cum Laude
Kelli Coleman, Summa Cum Laude
Britney Diaz, Cum Laude
Kristin Douglas, Magna Cum Laude
Elsa Edwards, Summa Cum Laude
Maisie Hudson, Summa Cum Laude
Lindsay Kettinger, Cum Laude
Stephanie Kott, Summa Cum Laude
Donna Laird, Summa Cum Laude
Maureen McGinnis, Summa Cum Laude
Aaryn Markham, Summa Cum Laude
Allison McCraw, Cum Laude
Marlee McKenzie, Summa Cum Laude
Rachel Mullis, Summa Cum Laude
Abigail O’Bryan, Summa Cum Laude
Ashley Plonk, Summa Cum Laude
Ashley Ragan, Summa Cum Laude
Tyner Ray, Magna Cum Laude
Rebecca Reeser, Cum Laude
Zerlinna Shannon, Summa Cum Laude
Andrea White, Summa Cum Laude
Heather Williams, Summa Cum Laude

Mini-Orientation Planned for June 19

The students accepted to the accelerated BSN program for fall 2009 have been invited to come to campus on Friday, June 19. This activity provides the incoming students a time to meet current students and faculty who will be teaching their first semester courses. It is also great time to have their questions answered about required equipment, textbooks, and uniforms. There will be a short tour of the Simulation Lab.

Sixty students have been admitted for the fall 2009 semester. This group was selected from nearly 360 applications. They are stellar students with an average cumulative GPA of 3.3. While there are usually some adjustments in this cohort before the beginning of the academic year, there are 10 men accepted and 14 minority students. Forty three have a previous degree. Some of the feeder schools include the College of Charleston, Clemson University, The Citadel, Presbyterian College, the University of South Carolina, and Wofford College.