Reality Balanced By Hope

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

If you have wondered how our state of South Carolina fared in budget reductions for higher education, wonder no more. As you can see in the figure below, South Carolina once more leads the nation – but not in something to be proud of. Our state reduced their appropriations by 17.7 percent - the highest budget reduction in the country and in sharp contrast to our sister states, North Carolina and Georgia, which increased their state support to higher education by 5.1 percent and 7.3 percent respectively. This is surely a sad commentary on the vision and values of our state lawmakers.
Hope (continued from page 1)

Nonetheless we must move forward with an abiding sense of hope and optimism. What is hope? It is something more than wishful thinking but short of expectation. It is a rejection of cynicism and despair, and a forward look to potential opportunities. And research has shown that hope is a key ingredient of resilience after adversity.

For the College of Nursing I believe that hope is relevant to the days ahead. Things can and will change for the better. Yes, we have become leaner and more focused. Yes, we have had to put aside some things we love but are not mission critical. And yes, our plate overflows with work. Still, we are on the cusp of achieving national prominence in many of the things we do, and the current challenges will only make us stronger. This is realistic hope.

Alumni Homecoming - March 29
Please mark your calendars and join the MUSC College of Nursing Alumni Association as we celebrate Homecoming on Saturday, March 28. The celebration and silent auction will be at The Citadel Altman Center (new location) and begins at 7 p.m. The cost is $35 per person.

This annual activity will honor three distinguished graduates for their accomplishments in the nursing profession: Caroline Counts, MSN, RN, CNN, Classes of 1968, 1982, and 1987, Emma Forkner, MS, RN, Class of 1972, and Catherine Landis, MSN, RN, CNAA, BC, Class of 1974. Five students will receive $2,000 scholarships and be recognized for their academic performance, leadership, and commitment to the nursing profession: Bonnie Shepherd, Class of May 2010, Devon Licari, Class of December 2009, Molly Lussier, Class of May 2009, Erica Damico, MSN Student, Class of May 2009, and Lee Horton, PhD Student.

To register for Alumni Homecoming, go to: http://alumni.musc.edu/colleges/groups/nurse_homecoming.pdf

Nancy Finch, Alumni Board President, is also soliciting items for the silent auction. If you are interested in making a contribution, please contact Nancy at finchn@musc.edu or Mardi Long at longm@musc.edu.

MUSC Excellence: Measuring Important Things

The second principle of MUSC Excellence focuses on measurement. The only way an organization can assess whether it is improving is to set behavioral targets and then routinely measure goal attainment. That is logical. What is challenging is identifying what you really want to achieve and then determining the best metric to evaluate it. This is where the consensus building must take place.

This principle also embodies the notion of transparency – or making all activities and outcomes visible to all stakeholders. In a climate of collegiality and trust this aspect of organizational life becomes a strength and motivator for future growth.

STANDARD OF THE MONTH - 10/5 RULE
The 10/5 rule means we are to acknowledge a person 10 feet away by making eye contact and smiling and at five feet away we should say hello.

LDI SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20
Selected campus leaders will attend the Leadership Development Institute (LDI) on Friday, March 20. This session’s discussions will include pillar goals, rounding and the use of standard agendas.

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

Special Shout Out

Susan Sparks, CON Facilities Manager, is to be commended for coordinating the monumental CON furniture swap! Susan worked with staff from Physical Plant, the University’s Warehouse, Movers, Surplus and Communications in order to move out the old and move in the new – or at least new to us – furniture that was donated by Bank of America. In all 12 desks, 23 credenzas, several conference tables, and over 150 desk and conference chairs were brought from storage to furnish CON offices. At least that amount of old, worn out furniture will also be moved out to surplus. Kudos for a job well done!
## MARCH

### 2 MONDAY
Town Hall Open Forum with Dean Stuart
12 p.m.
Basic Science Building 302

### 9–13
Spring Break

### 16 MONDAY
RWJ Leadership Dinner
6:30 p.m.
Wickliffe House, Ashley Ave.

### 19 THURSDAY
Education Committee of the Dean’s Advisory Board
1 - 3 p.m.
CON/Historical Library

### 27 FRIDAY
Dean’s Advisory Board Meeting
1 - 3 p.m.
CON/Historical Library

### 27 FRIDAY
SNA Trivia Night
6:30 p.m. (Bar opens at 6 p.m.)
Burns Alley, Kings St.

### 28 SATURDAY
College of Nursing Homecoming & Silent Auction
6 p.m.
The Citadel - Altman Center

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### Getting to Know...

**Joanne Langdale**

**Position:**
CON Personnel Manager

**How many years at CON?**
Almost 4 years

**How many years at MUSC?**
7 years

**What was your first position at MUSC?**
Internal auditor

**Most rewarding thing about your job?**
Working with all the great people here.

**Hometown:**
St. Louis, MO

**Describe your hometown in 3 words:**
Great Italian Food

**Family:**
Daughter: Alexandria; Son: Reid; Pet: Darby (Golden Retriever)

**Astrological sign:**
Virgo

**What did you listen to on the way into work today?**
Mike & Mike

**If you could invite one guest (living or deceased) to dinner, who would it be?**
My dad...I really miss him.

**What book are you currently reading?**
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski

**Last movie you saw?**
The Reader

**First concert you ever attended?**
Journey

**Favorite place you’ve traveled to?**
Maui; but the wine country in Northern California is a close second.

**If you could attend any sporting event what would it be?**
UNC vs. Duke basketball game at Cameron Stadium in Durham.

**One thing you’ve never done, but hope to accomplish one day?**
Travel through Europe.

**In which store would you like to win a $3,000 shopping spree?**
Nordstrom’s

**What do you enjoy most doing in your spare time?**
Spending time with my awesome family and friends.

**FAVORITES:**

**Color:**
Blue

**Flower:**
Tulip

**Sport to play:**
Volleyball and golf

**Sports team or player:**
St. Louis Cardinals

**Outdoor activities:**
Golf, boating, going to the beach

**Board game:**
Clue

**TV show(s):**
Lost and Chuck

**Movie:**
Miracle on 34th Street

**Magazine:**
Southern Living

**Breakfast cereal:**
Life

**Cookie:**
Shortbread

**Chips/Snack:**
Gardetto’s snack mix

**Favorite thing about living in Charleston?**
The location, the beach and the history.

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### 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.
E*Value
The College of Nursing faculty voted to discontinue the policy of giving students one point of extra credit in each course for completing all assigned course evaluations. Beginning with the summer 2009 semester, students will no longer receive points towards course grades for completing course evaluations. It is the belief of the faculty that completing course evaluations is a professional responsibility and students should not be awarded additional points towards their final course grade. Please remember that course evaluations are a very important part of quality improvement for the College. Feedback from students is vital and is used for course revision and refinement, annual faculty evaluations and most importantly required for our continuing accreditation.

NCLEX Pass Rate at 98 Percent
For the 2008 calendar year, the College’s NCLEX pass rate is 98 percent for 105 first time takers. This is the highest cumulative pass rate we have had in many years. Congratulations to our excellent students and our dedicated and expert faculty.

In other NCLEX news, the South Carolina Board of Nursing has initiated a new $54 fee for a background check required for all NCLEX-RN applicants. This new fee will take effect on March 3, therefore, all spring 2009 nursing graduates will be charged this additional fee.

Clinical Rotation News
Beginning in summer 2009, clinical rotations for undergraduate students will change from being conducted on a Tuesday or Thursday schedule to a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday schedule. This will allow for more effective use of faculty and clinical sites. Thanks for your understanding.

Programs Closing
Due to severe budget cuts, the College of Nursing will be closing the RN-BSN and RN-MSN programs. 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.

Student CATTS Module Must be Completed by mid-March
In order to demonstrate compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) and campus regulations, the University is required to distribute student information in writing and students must acknowledge receipt of this information. Therefore, the University has developed a CATTS module that all students must complete by March 15. Compliance with these regulations is a condition of the University receiving funds under any federal program. All CON students should have received a broadcast message and an e-mail in WebCT concerning this important issue and the process for completing the module. For assistance, contact Anette Hebebrand-Verner at 792-9054 or hebebran@musc.edu.

DNP News
The DNP Curriculum Task Force groups are meeting and refining the DNP courses for implementation in fall 2009. Applications are now being accepted for fall admission to the DNP program for the Post BSN and the Post MSN options. Also, the GRE requirement for MSN and DNP admission has been dropped.

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.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”
~ Aristotle
2009 SNRS Conference

Successful conferences don’t take place by chance and the 23rd Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) conference held in February in Baltimore, MD was no exception. The wildly successful conference was pulled off by its planning committees and SNRS officers led by MUSC’s own Elaine Amella. Elaine, a CON associate professor, was elected to serve as president from February 2008 – 2009. Under her leadership the conference entitled, “Interdisciplinary Research: A Road More or Less Traveled,” was a huge success with over 627 attendees, and 19 submissions from MUSC.

The mission of the SNRS is to advance and promote nursing research, as well as, facilitate the career development of nurses and nursing students as researchers. SNRS was founded in 1986. With over 1,300 members, SNRS covers the Southern U.S. including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. In 1991, the boundaries were expanded to include the Caribbean, Latin America and the Bahamas. Way to go, Elaine!

Jenkins Receives Award at SNRS

Carolyn Jenkins, the Ann Darlington Edwards Endowed Chair in Nursing, received the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) 2009 Award for Research in Minority Health.

The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of an individual or group conducting and/or promoting research that has significance for improving the health care of minorities and other under-represented groups in the Southern region.

Carolyn’s 25 year career has been devoted to working with communities throughout South Carolina to improve health outcomes related to diabetes and its complications, especially for the state’s underserved African Americans. The focus of her work is on reducing racial disparities, and creating effective academic community partnerships. She has leveraged more than 10 million dollars to improve community health. In collaboration with others, she has co-led negotiations for annual funding of the Diabetes Initiative by the South Carolina State Legislature and has influenced the passage of a statewide bill that establishes a minimal level of care for persons with diabetes and provides reimbursement for diabetes education. Congratulations, Carolyn!

Students Recognized at SNRS

These CON doctoral students are representative of the students that attend SNRS. They are bright, articulate, and excited about what they will contribute to nursing science and nursing research.

Jodi Protokowicz, doctoral student, received second place in the Best Poster Award category for her poster entitled, “Screening for Depression in Pregnancy” at the conference. There were over 220 posters presented at the conference.

We are very proud of Jodi’s recognition of her scholarship.

CON doctoral students: Lucy Megginson and Jodi Protokowicz.
SNRS Conference (continued from p. 5)
MUSC had 19 presentation and poster submissions at the SNRS conference along with Charlene Pope and Jeannette Andrews who gave podium presentations. The following faculty collaborated for one of these presentations entitled, “Community Advisory Boards: A Synthesis of Best Practices,” included:

Elaine Amella
Jeannette Andrews
Melissa Cox
Janet Grossman
Carolyn Jenkins
Marilyn Laken
Gayenell Magwood
Susan Newman
Charlene Pope
Sheila Smith
Lisa Vandemark
Deborah Williamson

Grant Proposals Submitted
Congratulations to Susan Newman for submitting her K23 proposal entitled, “A Peer Navigation Intervention for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury” to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the NIH.

Also, Susan submitted a K-12 Mentored Career Development grant through SC Clinical and Translational Research (SCTR) that will cover 75 percent of her salary, 5 percent for mentors, and $10,000 will be awarded for research expenses.

Kudos to Sally Stroud for submitting a Nurse Faculty Loan Program proposal to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

CON faculty and students show off their brain power at the 2009 SNRS Conference.


Results of the Summit will become part of the National Blueprint for Action, which will guide OMH and its public and private partners. The National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA) was developed by OMH as a means of strategically executing that blueprint effectively. For more information about the NPA, please visit http://omhrc.gov/npa.

SAVE THE DATE
PhD Residency Week
July 13 - 17, 2009

All PhD students in course work will travel to campus for a week of immersion that enhances their socialization with peers and faculty and stimulates their progression towards preparing for candidacy. The CON is currently accepting PhD applications for fall 2009 entry.
Developing an Academic Career: What it Takes

A series of mini-workshops on faculty role development, promotion and tenure will be presented by the College’s Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure (APT) Committee.

REVIEW OF APT CRITERIA
Review of each rank and expectations for each rank with examples.

March 2
4 - 5 p.m.
CON 524
Led by: Mary Martin

THE CV FORMAT
What is included in each section and what belongs where? Includes examples shared for discussion.

March 30
4 - 5 p.m. in CON 403
Led by: Marilyn King

Duffy Named to Advisory Council

Nancy Duffy has been named to the ELSEVIER's Nursing Education Advisory Council, a group of 15 talented leaders in nursing education from colleges and universities across the country. ELSEVIER is a leading publisher of health science books and journals, with titles available across a variety of media - print, online and CD-ROM. Way to go, Nancy!

EBP Workshop Offered

Take advantage of an excellent and inexpensive workshop for nurse educators. On April 3 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., a workshop entitled, “Evidence-Based Practice: The Key to Transforming Healthcare from the Inside Out and Simulation Technology/Online Testing” will be presented at Midlands Technical College (Airport location) in Columbia. The annual workshop is co-sponsored by the SC Council of Deans and Directors of Nursing Education and the South Carolina League for Nursing. The morning session includes presenter, Ellen Fineout-Overholt, a well-respected authority on evidence-based practice. Breakfast and lunch are included.

The workshop is modestly priced at $35 and is designed for nurse educators, but others are welcome. If you are interested in attending, contact Nancy Duffy for a registration form at duffynd@musc.edu. For more details, contact Margaret Kroposki at (864) 250-8382 or Margaret.Kroposki@gvltec.edu.

“We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
Sigma Theta Tau News - Leadership Intern Program

Are you a new inductee looking for a way to differentiate yourself from the pack? Are you eager to find a way to hone your leadership skills? Looking for opportunities to round out your educational experience? Each year, Gamma Omicron Chapter selects two leader interns via an application process and you could be one of them.

The Sigma Theta Tau Leadership Intern (LI) program began in 2004 and allows two members to learn more about Sigma and leadership opportunities within the local chapter. The LI sits on the board as a non-voting member, assuming various assigned tasks as designated by the president. The process for selection includes an application that describes their interest in Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) leadership and their ability to fulfill the outlined obligations to the chapter. The interns are selected each May by the Board of Directors and will begin serving a two year term in July. Each LI will be sent to the STTI Leadership Academy once during their two-year term. At the conclusion of their term, the LI agrees to assume a leadership position on the board for a minimum of one term. The leadership position can be one of an officer or committee member and is pending of an election by the chapter membership.

If you are interested, please contact Tanya Lott, chapter president, at (843) 402-1997 or TanyaLott@homesc.com. A completed application must be return to Tanya by March 30th.

In other Sigma Theta Tau news, the Gamma Omicron chapter will be meeting at MUSC on March 19 at 11 a.m. in CON’s Historical Library. Please join us for free Sigma giveaways, and an opportunity to attend the Sigma Theta Tau International Biennium Conference in Indianapolis this October. Board members will be available to answer any questions you may have about what membership in Sigma means and how to make the most of this wonderful Society through active participation.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day
March 17