Our recent retreat has stimulated a great deal of conversation in the College. The focus was on diversity and ways in which we can not only better understand and appreciate our differences, but ways in which they can help us create a richer environment and context for our work—all good things indeed.

But I will be honest with you. I was equally struck by how our own personal experiences not only color our world but also dominate our interpretation of how we think, feel and behave. That reminded me of something I read about related to firefighters. It was the notion of “drop your tools,” an analogy for unlearning and allowing our current knowledge and perspective to be challenged and adapted.

It stems from the finding that 27 firefighters were killed within sight of safe areas when they failed to follow orders to “drop their heavy tools.” How did this happen? They simply could not let go of their ingrained beliefs, even at a time of crisis. Just as tools defined the firefighters’ group membership and were basic to their ability to fight fires, so too, our personal and professional perspectives define who we are and what we do. But the reality is that these are the very things that may operate as deadly barriers to new ways of thinking and behaving when new information, thoughts or behaviors challenge our personal or professional paradigms.

A second example of this was another group of firefighters who were trapped in a backfire. One of them yelled to his colleagues to “fall to the ground and let the fire pass over you.” But again, they held on to their established ideas of firefighting and could not modify their behavior, which ultimately led to their death.

My point here is simple. We all have our ingrained ideas, notions and conceptualizations and it is easy to think we are right and those around us are intolerant, misinformed or even prejudiced. But the one important lesson I took away from our retreat is that everyone is stigmatized in some way by some “ism” and that no one has an exclusive claim to negative cultural experiences.

The real issue is—how have you grown from your adversity; how have you transformed your cultural realities, and most importantly, can you “drop your tools” and listen to the perspectives of others without judgment or criticism and even change your thoughts and behaviors in the spirit of true open discourse and new learning?...Gail
Accreditation Site Visit Reminder

FACULTY AND STAFF - We are busy preparing the physical environment of the College to have it looking its best for the accreditation site visit. To that end, look at the bulletin boards in the hallways and your office doors. I would like you to remove all non-recent, non-essential, untidy and unprofessional materials so that we look our best! Please do this by Friday, September 4 so that we can do a complete walk through in early September.

Also for offices that will be visible to the visitors walking through the building please make them look as uncluttered, organized and clean as possible. Thanks so much...Gail

At an Elevator Near You

In preparation for the potentially serious flu season the College has purchased hand sanitizers. One has been placed near the elevators on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th floors of the building. Please use them freely.

Focus on Influenza Lecture

Plan to attend an interdisciplinary lecture presented by SC DHEC epidemiologist, Robert Ball, MD, MPH. “Vaccination Update: Focus on Influenza” is a timely topic as flu season is just around the corner. He will be focusing on Influenza, H1N1 and Pneumonia vaccine administration for health care personnel and patients and how to protect yourself during the flu season. This important lecture will be held on September 23 from 1 - 2 p.m. in Storm Eye Institute. All healthcare professionals are welcome to attend.

MUSC Excellence: Principle 7

We are moving forward on our journey to MUSC Excellence and this month the focus is on the 7th principle – Aligning Behavior with Goals and Values. In many organizations this is the toughest challenge of all.

When you think about it, it is relatively easy to create lofty goals and inspiring values. The hard part is “walking the walk” and transforming abstract words into concrete behaviors. Yet that is the heart of an organization’s transformation and an essential element of MUSC Excellence.

For us in the College of Nursing, it means that each year we not only identify our goals, values and priorities, but we also must assign specific behavioral measures to realize our vision. This is tough enough but the next step is even harder. It requires that we hold each and every one of us here in the College accountable for behaving in a way that is consistent with our goals and values and remediating individuals who do not.

Why is that difficult? Simply because most of us would rather overlook or ignore people whose behavior is not in alignment with our goals and values. But silence gives permission for inappropriate behavior to continue. So the challenge of this principle is for us to develop a collective spirit and will around our goals and values, and then to work together to achieve them.

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

Sounds of Progress

Construction of two new buildings in the former G parking lot at the corner of President and Jonathan Lucas has begun. The Drug Discovery and Bio-engineering buildings are projected for completion in 2011. The first phase of the project involves pile driving that will be noisy and can cause vibration. Pile driving will begin around August 21 - 24 and will continue everyday from about 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. for approximately three months.

Reserving a Room

To reserve a conference room in the College, please e-mail your request to Susan Sparks. All room requests are booked by 11 a.m. Any room request made after 11 a.m. will be scheduled the following morning. Susan may be reached at 792-3941 or sparkssa@musc.edu.
**SEPTEMBER**

10 **THURSDAY**
Hilton Head Advisory Board Meeting

11 **FRIDAY**
Education Committee of Dean’s Advisory Board
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

11 **FRIDAY**
CCHP Brown Bag Lunch Presentation
“Translating Evidence into Health Professional Education: Improving Communication with Older People,” presented by Dr. Boyd Davis, UNC Charlotte
12 p.m.
BSB 100

14-16 **MONDAY-WEDNESDAY**
CCNE Accreditation Site Visit

21 **MONDAY**
CCHP Core Directors Meeting
10 a.m.
CON 211

23 **WEDNESDAY**
Vaccination Update:
Focus on Influenza
Presented by SC DHEC epidemiologist, Robert Ball, MD
1 - 2 p.m.
Storm Eye Institute

28 **MONDAY**
Full CCHP meeting
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Historical Library

---

**WELCOME VISITORS**

The CCNE accreditation site visitors will be on campus September 14-16. During this time, they will be meeting with faculty, students and university administrators. The visitors will be using CON-401 as a resource/workroom. Please say “hello” if you see them in the College or around campus.

---

**Getting to Know...Mary Martin**

- **Position:** Assistant Professor
- **How many years at CON?** 5 years
- **MUSC?** 8 years
- **Hometown:** Vincennes, IN
- **Family:** Son, Chris Hamilton, RN (Chris is owner and operator of Family Medical Transport); a 3-year-old Shih Tzu, Callahan; and a 9-year-old cat, Samantha.
- **Superstitious?** No, but I do believe in Karma.
- **Worst habit:** Worrying
- **Collect anything?** Friends
- **What time did you get up this morning?** 6 a.m.
- **What music are you currently into?** Nelly Furtado, Pink and Beyoncé
- **What did you want to be growing up?** An English teacher.
- **Web page bookmarks?** USA Today, iTunes, Beliefnet, Kaiser
- **What book is on your nightstand?** Return to Sullivan’s Island by Dorothea Benton Frank
- **Last movie you saw?** Hangover (what a hoot!)
- **First concert you ever attended?** Jesus Christ Superstar
- **Superpower I’d most like to possess:** Levitation...the world might be safer without my driving skills.
- **If you could attend any event, what would it be?** The upcoming Winter Olympics.
- **I’d love to trade places for a day with:** Oprah Winfrey
- **In your opinion, what is the world’s greatest problem?** Lack of education, which is the primary cause of poverty, which is the primary cause of crime.
- **Talent I’d most like to have:** To be a soprano.
- **Coke or Pepsi?** Neither
- **My very first job was...** typing envelopes for a jewelry store on Wednesday nights during my junior year of high school.
- **Biggest pet peeve:** Tailgaters
- **Three adjectives your friends would use to describe you:** Funny, sincere, inquisitive (as told to me by my best friend).
- **Last thing you experienced buyers remorse with?** A 2002 Volvo stationwagon
- **Three things in your bucket list:***
  1) Attend my granddaughters’ weddings
  2) Travel to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.
  3) Write a novel.
- **FAVORITES:**
  - **Flower/plant:** Gardenia
  - **Animal:** Dog or cat
  - **TV Show:** Grey’s Anatomy
  - **Movie:** Dr. Zhivago
  - **Sports team:** St. Louis Cardinals
  - **Magazine:** House Beautiful
  - **Cookie:** Warm chocolate chip
  - **Board game:** Chutes & Ladders
  - **Place you’ve traveled to:** Paris, Rome, Milan, Madrid & London
  - **Thing to do on a Saturday night:** Party with the Grands.
  - **Thing to do on a Sunday afternoon:** Recover from partying with the Grands.
WebCT to Blackboard
MUSC will be transitioning its course management system from WebCT to Blackboard this academic year. It is anticipated that all courses will be converted to Blackboard by fall 2010. The Center for Academics and Research Computing, headed by Mary Mauldin, PhD, will be providing classes for faculty and students to prepare for this transition.

In addition, Mary has been appointed to lead the MUSC Library’s development of a Student Learning Commons. Under her leadership, the Library and campus partners will envision and establish a state-of-the-art technology and information center with program and services devoted to supporting the study, learning and research needs of all MUSC students. Flexibility, innovation, collaboration, and responsiveness to the changing educational environment and the perceived and expressed needs of students and faculty will characterize the Learning Commons.

Sharing Meds Not So Smart
Think twice about sharing medications with your friends. In SC, giving Adderall (or another stimulant) to someone else for whom it was not prescribed is a felony which can result in up to five years in prison. If the “sharing” takes place within ½ mile of a college campus, the crime becomes distribution in proximity to a school, a felony with a possible 10 year sentence!

Reminder
College-wide, program-wide and class lists located on WebAdvisor are not to be used to advertise goods or services or to announce unapproved events. To receive approval for sending a message through one of these addresses, contact the CON Office of Academics at 792-3815. To send a message to the entire MUSC student body, please visit http://www.musc.edu/studentbroadcast.

H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu)
MUSC is actively developing a plan for a possible outbreak of H1N1 influenza (Swine Flu) that will include strategies to insure minimal disruption to the academic calendar and facilitate student academic progress. A variety of mechanisms for dissemination of important information regarding Swine Flu will be utilized. Please watch your e-mails and broadcast messages for these notifications.

Current guidance for universities in response to Novel Influenza A (H1N1 virus) from the CDC include the following:
• No recommendation to cancel classes
• Students, faculty or staff who have influenza like illness (ILI) should self-isolate for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except for medical care or other necessities. They should keep away from others as much as possible.
• If possible, persons with ILI who wish to seek medical care should contact their health care provider or campus health services to report illness by telephone or other remote means prior to seeking care.
• If persons with ILI must leave their home or dorm room, they should cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. A surgical loose-fitting mask can be used.
• Persons at high risk of complications from H1N1 should consider their risk of exposure if they attend public gatherings where H1N1 is circulating.

To prevent transmission of the influenza virus:
• Wash hands thoroughly and often
• Cover your cough with your sleeve, not your hand
• Stay home if you are sick
• Eat a healthy diet and get plenty of rest

For further information of Swine Flu visit http://pemp.library.musc.edu/page.php?id=1513. Or watch a MUSC video on how to properly use protective clothing when treating patients with H1N1 flu at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pW1dYagv22E.
Funded Projects Congratulations!

Charliene Pope, PhD has received an ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) Administrative Supplements funding from NIH/NLM for her grant titled, “Carolinas Conversations: A Multiethnic Digital Corpus of Speech for Older Persons.” The project period is September 15, 2009 to September 14, 2010 for the amount of $65,010.

Elaine Amella, PhD (Co-PI) and to Martina Mueller, PhD (Co-PI) have received funding from a subcontract with Clemson University. Clemson, MUSC and SCRA received a USDA grant award for the project: “Pilot Study to Determine the Effect of a Nutrition/Food Safety Intervention Targeting Older Adults Participating in the South Carolina Congregate Nutrition Program.” This inter-institutional project reflects a successful new collaboration effort between Clemson and MUSC that was initiated through the National Research Council. The project period is from September 15, 2009 to September 14, 2010.

Gayenell Magwood, PhD, and Patricia Sharpe, PhD, research professor at the University of South Carolina (USC) have received funding from NIH/NIDDK for an R01 supplement to a parent grant titled, “Behavioral/Support Intervention for Diet and Exercise Among Underserved Women” at USC. The project period is from August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2011 and will allow her to spend 75 percent of her time to further build her program of research.

In collaboration with PPRNet, Lynne Nemeth, PhD (co-investigator) was recently funded for the project “Reducing Inappropriate Prescribing of Antibiotics by Primary Care Clinicians (ABX-TRIP).” The two-year project began in August and will be led by Arch Mainous, PhD, professor of Family Medicine at MUSC. The project will assess the facilitators and barriers to use, as well as the impact on antibiotic prescribing, of a clinical decision support system for diagnosis and management of acute respiratory tract infections.

Deborah Williamson, DHA has received funding from the Charleston County School District for the project titled, “ABRAZOS” in the amount of $8,279. The project period is from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Abrazos is a bilingual early childhood development program designed for 3-year-old Spanish-speaking children in order to promote school readiness as well as improve their mother’s English skills.

Recently Published


CCHP Update

FIRST COHORT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARS

The Community Engaged Scholars (CES) program began on Friday, August 21 with an opening reception and introduction to community based participatory research by Jeannette Andrews, PhD. Six teams of partners will continue with the CES program over the next year with monthly meetings, mentorship and development of pilot project initiatives.


BEAT the flu Bug
Get your Shot!

HHI News

HHI SCHOLARS PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH FAIR
On June 28, College of Nursing HHI Scholars-Cohort 6 (Devon Licari, Emily Mayer, Mary Rinehart, Anna Stipp, Amanda Turner, Lauren Bennett, Aisha Choudry, Catir Cornett, and J’Vonne Hunter) spent the day taking blood pressures and performing glucose screenings of male and female soccer players. All screened individuals were members of the Hispanic Soccer League in North Charleston. It was a great opportunity for the Scholars to use the clinical skills they had developed over the past semesters, as well as practice their Spanish. Prior to the fair, the Scholars had researched information on diabetes and nutrition, which they shared with the soccer players.

HHI THINKS “IT’S COOL TO BE IN SCHOOL”
On August 15, HHI representatives including Angel Harmon, Romina McCandless, Lori Robinson, Judith Rundabaken, and Deborah Williamson along with Catherine Schikaris, a representative of Franklin C. Fetter, participated in the annual “It’s Cool to be in School” supply give-away event held at the North Charleston Coliseum. The event was created in an effort to increase school attendance on the first day of classes. HHI assisted by providing school supplies, measuring height, weight and calculating BMI, as well as by giving out information on diet, nutrition, flu and STIs. Hundreds of parents and students attended the event, and HHI was able to conduct around 100 BMI screenings.

HHI WELCOMES NEW GRADUATE INTERN
Please extend a warm welcome to Romina McCandless, our new graduate intern. Romina is currently an MPH student at the USC Arnold School of Public Health and is working on her degree in health promotion, education and behavior. For the past two and a half years, she was a Spanish interpreter at the University hospital. As fate would have it, she found her way to HHI and will be working closely with Anna Tecklenburg on various HHI projects. As we continue to grow our staff, we get a few steps closer to achieving our HHI goals. We are very excited to have her working with us.

Welcome Sam

Sam Cogdell is an interpreter and translator in the MUSC Interpreter Services department and will be the new instructor of CON’s medical Spanish courses, previously taught by Anne Lawn. He received a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and did graduate work in Latin American literature and cultural studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UT-Austin, and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Before coming to MUSC, he served on the Hispanic Studies faculty at the College of Charleston and the University of Kansas. He is a member of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care and the American Translators Association, and is an ATA certified translator (Spanish to English).

He stays busy following the discussion on health care reform and doing translation work for organizations involved in global health and social entrepreneurship. He enjoys traveling, reading about traveling, and listening to all kinds of music, and will pick up almost any stringed instrument (no banjos, please).

Does the US Provide the Best Health Care in the World?
Faced with the prospect of the first major national health reform initiative in 15 years, America’s airwaves are filled with debates about the pros and cons of ideas being proposed in Washington and on editorial pages across the country. A common theme is how the United States health care system stacks up when compared to the rest of the world and the impact that reform could have on it. Recent surveys show that the majority of Americans believe that despite spotty coverage, high costs and other problems, the U.S. health care system and the quality of health care delivered is the best in the world. But is it really? Read the policy brief for yourself at the link below. Remember, be informed, be proactive and MUSC nurses change lives!
http://www.rwjf.org/qualityequality/product.jsp?id=47508
CONL Donates $1,000 Scholarship

The Charleston Organization of Nurse Leaders (CONL) has offered Katie Caldwell a $1,000 scholarship. The organization hopes this scholarship will assist a future professional caregiver and leader. She will be introduced and recognized at their fall meeting.

Katie was selected for this scholarship based on her outstanding academic achievements and leadership in college activities. She is currently an officer in the Student Nurse’s Association, and has served as student representative on college task forces to improve specific processes such as student advisement. She is currently volunteering on a research project titled, “Building capacity for place-based research in the Center for Community Health Partnerships: Defining deprivation, identifying health disparities, and building partnerships.” She is collaborating with Lisa Vandemark, PhD, on this CCHP-sponsored activity.

Prior to Katie’s enrollment in the College, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and her Master of Arts in Psychology: Clinical Counseling at The Citadel. She has been a study coordinator at MUSC in the Rheumatology Department and has extensive experience clinical trials and various study projects.

Attention Classes of December 2009 and May 2010

The Office of Enrollment Management will be asking students graduating December 2009 and May 2010 to complete their degree applications online during the month of September. The application can be found at http://www.musc.edu/em/grad/instructions.html

You will also be able to order your cap and gown from this site. It is required to complete this form whether you plan to participate in Convocation or Graduation - it will generate your diploma.

For the first time this year, students will be able to order their announcements online through the Josten’s web site http://www.musc.edu/academics/grad/announcements.html. There are several packages available to suit your personal needs and budget allowances. This is a new and improved process for students.

Mark your calendars now for these important events:

CLASS OF DECEMBER 2009
Convocation, December 5, 2009

CLASS OF MAY 2010
Convocation, May 20, 2010

CLASSES OF DECEMBER 2009 AND MAY 2010
Graduation, May 21, 2010

RWJF Initiative on the Future of Nursing

The Institute of Medicine (IOM), in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), has established a major initiative on the future of nursing. Nursing faces a number of challenges that must be overcome to fulfill the promise of health care reform and meet the nation’s health needs. The future of health care is closely tied to the future of nursing, and it is critical to ensure that the nursing workforce has the capacity in numbers and skill competencies to meet present and future needs. The IOM committee will define a clear agenda and blueprint for action including changes in public and institutional policies at the national, state, and local levels. The committee’s recommendations will address a range of system changes, including innovative ways to improve health care quality and address the nursing shortage in the US.

On September 14, the second committee meeting of the RWJF Initiative on the Future of Nursing will take place. You are welcome to view a live video webcast of the discussion, which will be provided by Kaiser-network.org on the day of the meeting. It is not necessary to register to take part in the webcast.

Updated Student Handbook

The CON Student Handbook has been updated and the new version is now available on the College of Nursing web site, under the tab “Current Students” on the left-hand side of the CON homepage.
MUSC Nursing Students Volunteer Their Time

Under the leadership of Cindy Hudson, DNSc, assistant professor, 11 community health nursing students from MUSC spent several weeks at Crisis Ministries interviewing the guests and determining a service project needed around the shelter. The result was an educational seminar on hygiene and safe sex practices for both the male and female guests. The following is a testimonial from one of the students, Rachel Fuller:

In the summer sunshine when most students are on a break catching the rays, we, the MUSC nursing students, had unforgettable experiences developing relationships with the residents and staff of Crisis Ministries. Having never experienced homelessness, we began by interviewing the residents on how they came to the center, what resources they were using, and what they saw as the greatest need in their community. Almost all residents mentioned their health as being the root cause of their vulnerability. We each spent a day with the nurse, learning that she was the greatest advocate for the health and wellness of each resident. We served in the Soup Kitchen and diligently took notes on the nutritional status of the meal. Every student was impressed with the quality of the meal and the generous donations of local restaurants and grocery stores. With the information we gathered from the residents, we conducted seminars for the men and women on sexually transmitted illnesses, communicable disease transmission and prevention, and provided pamphlets that had been given to us by the Department of Health. The residents asked good questions and it was a great conclusion to our semester. Thanks for allowing us to spend our semester with you.


Accelerated BSN Poster Presentations

It was truly awesome and wonderful to see what our students are doing to improve the health of our local communities. Take a look below to see just a few of their outstanding projects.