I recently attended the wedding of friends in a lovely resort off the coast of Riviera de Maya, Cancun. Now I could be writing about the lush scenery, the turquoise gulf waters, or the balmy weather, as it is true that all those aspects were most wonderful. But what I really want to share with you are those things that made my experience truly unforgettable. It was the people at the resort – what they did and the way they did it.

First it was clear to me from the moment I arrived until the day I left that everyone loved working there. It showed in everything they did. For example, whenever anyone approached them, everyone, and I do mean every single person, from the grounds keepers to the servers to the maids to the receptionists, stopped what they were doing, looked directly at you with a grand smile and said “hola” (the Spanish word for hello). At first it was almost startling, but by the end of the first day you eagerly returned the greeting and smiled back. In one day I counted that I said hola 32 times!

The second item of note is that they each took immense pride in where they worked. No matter what their regular duties were, they would stop to help answer a question, straighten a chaise or deposit discarded items. In fact, the resort was immaculate and after two days I understood why that was. Everyone took pride in and ownership of the resort, and I am sure that they realized that their future livelihood depended on its success.

So my point in sharing this with you is that I realized while I was there that I was actually experiencing what MUSC Excellence is striving to achieve. And even more importantly, that it is achievable! So the next time I see you I am likely to smile, look you in the eye, and say “hola”….and I hope you will do the same…Gail
Nurses embrace social and digital media resources

Patients are not the only ones with a presence online, according to Manhattan Research’s Taking the Pulse® Nurses study. Nurses are also taking an interest in social media and are becoming digitally savvy.

While the vast majority of nurses who are online use social networking sites for personal reasons, Manhattan Research recently reported that approximately three out of four nurses in the United States recommend health-related websites to patients. Nearly all nurses use the Internet in between patient consultations and often recommend online resources to their patients, thus impacting their patients’ healthcare decisions.

When researching information for their patients, nurses turn to a mix of online resources, such as blogs, conferences, drug references, healthcare professional portals, search engines, podcasts, pharmaceutical websites, sales representatives, continuing education and many more. Nurses as a group also view e-newsletters as a credible source of information.

According to the Journal of the Medical Library Association, 53 percent of nursing schools use Web 2.0 tools, such as blogs, wikis, video casts and podcasts in their curricula. Based on the results in the study, a greater percentage of nursing schools use Web 2.0 tools in their curricula compared to medical schools, but medical school students use social media tools for personal use more than nursing school students. The JMLA study also found that 58 percent of nursing schools planned to implement Web 2.0 tools in their curricula during the last school year, compared to half of all medical schools.

Source: Johnson & Johnson Nursing Notes

DNP accreditation update

While the College won’t receive official word until spring 2011, the CCNE visitors found the DNP program to be in full compliance with no concerns or recommendations – a perfect score! This is a truly amazing accomplishment given that the DNP program is just one year old. It speaks profoundly to the incredibly dedicated faculty and staff here in the College of Nursing who truly made this possible.

Another note worth mentioning is that the CCNE lead team member pulled Dean Stuart aside and told her that they have never seen a school that had such an atmosphere of positive trust, communication, collegiality and support, along with such high standards.

Many kudos to all who helped make this visit so successful…and of course to the College’s wonderful students who amaze everyone each day with their many talents and their commitment to the nursing profession.

Tips, tools, and technology

Sally Kennedy will present Tips, Tools & Tricks to Help Tame the Technology Beast. This series of trainings and information-sharing workshops will focus on technology; what’s new, how to use the “old” tools, and strategies for effective online teaching. Below is a list of topics and dates.

Faculty and students wishing to attend, please RSVP to Sally Kennedy at kennes@musc.edu. The location will be announced via email. Also, please send any requests you may have for training. Each class will be held from 10:15 until 11:45 a.m.

NOVEMBER 29 → Best practices in online course design
JANUARY 24 → Podcasts: What tools are available and how to use them
FEBRUARY 21 → Collaborative teaching environments: Wiki’s and GoogleDocs
MARCH AND BEYOND → TBD (send ideas for topics!)

Saying goodbye to Denise

Denise Ciccarelli will be leaving MUSC after eight years as the director of development for the College of Nursing. Denise has accepted the position as director of corporate and foundation relations for the College of Charleston. Her last day at the College will be November 11. There will be a reception to honor her service to the College on November 8 at 12:30 p.m. in the Historical Library...stop by and wish her well on her new adventure.
Getting to know...Brian Conner

Position: Assistant professor.
How many years at MUSC? 2 years as a PhD student.
How many years at CON? 4 months.
Alma Mater: Broward Community College and University of Phoenix (BSN & MSN), MUSC (PhD).

Family: Wife, Connie (a senior VP and CNO); daughter, Melissa (a practice administrator for GI practice...she’s also an acupuncturist and a herbal therapist); son, Brad (assistant professor of psychology at Temple University, as well as a well-funded researcher).

Superstitious? My office room number is 313...and I like it.
Collect anything? Wood carvings, bowls, etc...
What time did you get up this morning? 6:15 a.m. every morning and out the door for a jog at 6:40.
What music are you currently into? Smooth jazz.
What did you want to be growing up? A basketball coach and some kind of teacher.
What book is on your night stand? Rogers’ Diffusion of Innovations.

In your opinion, what is the world’s greatest problem? Poverty/hunger.
Talent I’d most like to have: To play piano like Jim Brickman.
Coke or Pepsi? Either will do...as along as it is diet.
If you could possess any superpower it would be...To make the day longer than 24 hours.
My very first job was...A dishwasher.
Biggest pet peeve: Inconsiderate drivers who don’t yield for pedestrians.
Three adjectives your friends would use to describe you: Productive, easy going, respectful.
Three things in your bucket list:
1) Graduate with my PhD.
2) Stay healthy, teach and conduct research until I’m 70.
3) Play golf at Augusta National.

FAVORITES:
Flower: Hibiscus
Animal: Teddy bear
Sports team: Miami Dolphins
Movie: Stand & Deliver
Place you’ve traveled to: Grand Cayman

Things to do on a Saturday night: Dinner and a movie
Things to do on a Sunday afternoon: Watch football or golf
Things about living in Charleston: Jogging or walking over the Ravenel Bridge.
Religious viewpoints antidiscrimination act

The Associate Provost for Education and Student Life has shared a memo from MUSC’s Office of General Counsel. The memo reads: “Although I am not aware of any present issues concerning student groups, we should be aware that in May, 2010, the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act was passed and codified in Section 59-1-435. This law prohibits discrimination against a student’s expression of a religious viewpoint and allows religious beliefs to be expressed in “homework, artwork, and other written and oral arguments”. It also grants students the right to organize religious student organizations or gatherings and mandates that such groups have the same access to school facilities as non-religious student organizations.”

New faces at CON

Mat Gregoski, PhD is a post-doctoral scholar mentored by Dr. Frank Treiber. He most recently completed a one year NIH T32 funded post-doctoral research fellowship (HL66993) in integrative research cardiovascular biology at the Medical College of Georgia. He received his doctoral training in kinesiology from the University of Georgia and his primary course work focus was in advanced statistical general linear modeling, and machine learning analytic methods (e.g. CART). His research interests involve the field of predictive preventive personalized medicine in which the individual’s genetic, behavioral, cognitive and other psychosocial factors (e.g. community, family functioning) are used to determine what types of behavioral and/or pharmacologic interventions will most likely lead to improvements in chronic disease risk factors, functioning and/or quality of life.

Brenda Brunner-Jackson, MPH, NCPT, CCRC is originally from Maryland but lived in Augusta, GA for 20 years before moving to the Charleston area in September. Her undergraduate degree is in biology/genetics from The Johns Hopkins University and recently earned her Master of Public Health from the Medical College of Georgia. Brenda’s area of expertise is human research protection.

She and her husband, Jeff, have been together for 23 years and is the proud owner of two cats and a parakeet. Her hobbies include bird watching, crocheting and playing Sudoku. She looks forward to exploring Charleston and the surrounding area and working with the College to improve the health of the community and communities across the nation.

The College of Nursing would like to welcome Moby Madisetti, MSc to the staff as a part-time program coordinator. He will be working with Dr. Elaine Amella in support of the R21 FIELD study. Originally born in Jamaica, Moby was educated in London, England where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in social psychology from the London School of Economics. He also earned his diploma and masters in bioengineering from the University College London. He is a licensed certified addictions prevention professional. Prior to joining MUSC, he worked as a grants writer, a charter school principal, and an addictions counselor. Moby also performs independent consulting services to many non-profit organizations both locally and in the Florida Keys where he moved from five years ago.

COMPLIANCE REMINDER

The deadline for CATTS compliance training is DECEMBER 1.

To view your account, go to www.musc.edu/catts.

Please complete all assigned modules as soon as possible. If you need assistance, contact Maria Toler at tolerm@musc.edu or 792-2051.

Faculty positions available

The College of Nursing is actively seeking applicants for two faculty positions in the following specialty areas.

Click on the links below to view the full description.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING
FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER
Funded projects

Congratulations to Sally D. Stroud, EdD, ANP, BC for receiving funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the Advanced Nursing Education Expansion (ANEE). This five-year award for the amount of $1,425,600 is for the support of students enrolled in the newly implemented online Doctor of Nursing Practice/Master of Science in Nursing (DNP/MSN) primary care Nurse Practitioner (NP) program of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Nursing (CoN). The objective of this ANEE Project is to maintain the high number of full-time nurse practitioner (NP) students who are enrolled in this program by providing additional funding for full-time enrollment. The second objective is to offer strong MSN students who apply part-time an opportunity to come into the program in a full-time position with financial support.

Grant submissions

Charlene Pope, PhD, MPH, BSN (Subcontract PI), and Paul Darden, MD (PI – University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center) submitted an application to the Health Resources and Services Administration for the R40: Maternal and Child Health Research Program (MCHR). The proposal title is: “Communication Intervention for Adolescent Immunizations: Cluster Randomized Trial.” Dr. Pope will be responsible for overall project direction and coordination at the community sites affiliated with the College of Nursing sub-contract and South Carolina Pediatric Practice Network (SCPPRN), supervision and facilitation of the study coordinator and participation of MUSC investigators (Drs. James R. Roberts and Deborah C. Williamson), collaboration with Dr. Boyd Davis and Dr. Peyton Mason on linguistic archiving (UNCC). This study will record 120 spoken interactions pre- and 120 post-intervention between providers and diverse adolescents and parents in community-based sites in South Carolina and Oklahoma discussing recommendations for tetanus/diphtheria toxoid/acellular pertussis (Tdap), meningococcal vaccine (MCV4), and human papillomavirus (HPV) at preventive health visits.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Gayenell Magwood, PhD, MSN, RN. In response to her application, she received an invitation to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Connections program Fourth Annual Research and Coaching Clinic to be held concurrently with the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Exposition. The Research and Coaching Clinic will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, November 5 - 7 in Denver, Colorado. The Research and Coaching Clinic aims to increase the visibility and enhance the skill sets of New Connections grantees and potential applicants. Applicants to New Connections are early- to mid-career researchers from underrepresented communities. The Research and Coaching Clinic will serve as a forum for junior investigators and mid-career consultants to gain professional skills and network with one another and senior scholars.

Presentations


Gailliard, S. “The VA Nursing Academy as a community partner in a population-focused baccalaureate nursing class.” Conference on Enhancing Nursing Undergraduate Teaching and Learning in the Clinical Setting: What do we know and how do we move forward?, Arlington, VA, October 2010.


Skipper, J. “So far, so good! So now you’re teaching students? Aren’t you special?” Conference on Enhancing Nursing Undergraduate Teaching and Learning in the Clinical Setting: What do we know and how do we move forward?, Arlington, VA, October 2010.
Presentation for Hispanic heritage month

Anna Tecklenburg, MA and Romina McCandless, MPH presented on Abrazos and PASOs as part of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at MUSC. The title of the presentation was “Programs Serving the Latino Community.” Abrazos is a family literacy program serving Spanish-speaking women and their 3-year-old children in Charleston County.

PASOs is a new program that serves as a resource for pregnant Hispanic mothers in the Charleston area. Rich Robinson from Nuevos Caminos, as well as Monique Hill from Hands on Health presented information on the services that their organizations provide. For more information about any of these programs or services, contact Anna Tecklenburg at tecklenb@musc.edu or 792-8526.

Beginning Spanish offered

The College of Nursing will be offering the IP 705 Beginning Spanish for Health Professions during spring semester. For additional information, email Sam Cogdell at cogell@musc.edu.

Course: IP 705 Beginning Spanish for Health Professions
Class meeting day/time: Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Course dates: January 12 - April 27
Meeting place: College of Nursing DE 220

VANA Academy

What is it? Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask?

The VANA Academy exists as a mutually beneficial partnership between the CON and the Charleston VA. One of the ways it does this is by providing opportunities for educational and practice innovations as well as increasing student enrollment at the CON.

Students are able to work closely with veterans at the VA hospital during their first, second, and third semesters of the program in Adult Health I, II, Mental Health and their Community classes.

See a letter from VA physician, John P. Bride, MD on page 7 for how these clinical experiences are mutually beneficial to both the students and the veterans.

Teen Health Leadership Program

The Teen Health Leadership will make several presentations this fall at state and national conferences. In October, students and coordinators including Melissa Cox and Candace Moor presented at the South Carolina Library Association Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. Following that trip, Melissa will travel to Denver, CO to present on the structure and results of the project at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association.

“To do what nobody else will do, in a way that nobody else can do, in spite of all we go through; that is to be a nurse.”
—Rawsi Williams

SC Nurses Foundation Walk

2nd Annual Nurses Care walk will be held Saturday, November 6
Wannamaker Park, 8888 University Blvd. (N. Charleston)
Registration begins at 9 a.m.
For directions, visit www.scnursesfoundation.org.

Walk to Prevent Suicide

2010 Out of the Darkness walk will be held Sunday, November 7
Hampton Park, 30 Mary Murray Blvd. (Downtown Charleston)
Registration is from 1 -1:30 p.m. (walk begins at 2 p.m.)
For directions, visit www.outofthedarkness.org.
Winter convocation set for December 4
The College of Nursing will hold Convocation to celebrate the Class of December 2010 on Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m. at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 405 King Street.

There will be a light reception in the adjacent Fellowship Hall following the ceremony. Graduates should wear full regalia (not caps) and arrive at the church by 9 a.m. to line-up for the processional.

Graduates should read their e-mails for information regarding regalia distribution. There will be a rehearsal for graduates on Wednesday, December 1, 4 - 5 p.m. at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church.

Faculty should wear full regalia and arrive at the church by 9:30 a.m. to line-up for the processional.

Student Elections
Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the College of Nursing Student Government Association and Student Nurse’s Association!

CON STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Elizabeth Roehner – President
Katie Brasseur – Vice President
Lindsey Tredex – Treasurer
Carrie Cooney – SGA/SNA Liaison
Kelli Masters – Policy Writer
Gina Turner – Social Coordinator

STUDENT NURSE’S ASSOCIATION
Carrie Cooney – President
Caitlin Connelly – Vice President
Shelly Graham – Secretary
Historian – Krystena Coppola
Community Director – Mary Gosselin
Legislative Director – Danica Goff
Breakthrough to Nursing Director – Kat White

Charleston County Medical Society Alliance Scholarship awarded
Martha Burwell, a first semester ACC BSN student, is the recipient of the Charleston County Medical Society Alliance Scholarship. The scholarship will be presented to her at their holiday luncheon in December.

Martha completed her prerequisite coursework at the University of South Carolina, where she excelled academically and was a member of the President’s and Dean’s Honor List. She has been involved in Younglife Christian Ministries and Habitat for Humanity. She was a candy striper at MUSC while she was in high school. Her hobbies include hiking and running, and she looks forward to being in a challenging career which will make a difference in people’s lives.

This scholarship, also known as the Sally Thompson Seignious Scholarship, is given to a native of Charleston County. One $1,000 scholarship is presented to a College of Nursing student and another $1,000 scholarship is presented to a College of Medicine student.

Letter of praise
The following letter was sent to CON clinical instructor and VANA faculty member, Janice Skipper, MSN, RN from John Bride, MD, FACP, commending CON student Ashley Hergenroeder. Dr. Bride is a Veteran (active duty Army for 6 years – three tours in Iraq) and still in the Army Reserve. Like many other employees, he has a special interest in providing outstanding service every day to his patients.

Janice,
As we spoke just now on 4BN, I highly commend your nursing student, Ashley Hergenroeder, who yesterday discovered the cold foot on one of our Veteran patients on the Medicine team. [The patient] is going to the OR to have this repaired today and I believe your student saved this Veteran much suffering. Her dedication both to her learning and to our Veterans here shows great credit to her instructors here and to the VA learning environment as a whole. Please extend to her my thanks and also the rest of the Medical staff and Veterans here in Charleston.

Sincerely,
John P. Bride, MD, FACP
Geriatrics and Extended Care,
Hospice and Palliative Care
VAMC Charleston, SC

Faces & Places
Next time you spot one of MUSC shuttles take a closer look. You may recognize one of the faces featured in the new ad campaign photos on the MUSC Health webpage and on the shuttles is Marlee McKenzie, class of May 2009!