Another top 50 rating!

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

You may recall that recently our College of Nursing ranked in the top 50 schools in the country in NIH research funding. While still celebrating that accomplishment, we learned this past month that we were ranked #50 among all graduate schools of nursing in the country in the 2012 edition of America’s Best Graduate Schools by the US News & World Report. This is up from our previous ranking of 54 in the 2007 report. The 2011 survey results can be seen online at: www.usnews.com/grad. The 2012 edition of the book will be available on April 5 and the nursing community is receiving it positively.

These are great accomplishments that speak to our CON’s distinctive programs and exceptional outcomes! We not only take great pride in what we do, but we also like to compare ourselves to our professional colleagues as a way of evaluating and continuously improving our performance.

That said, as we teach our students, we must examine the nature of the reports. In fact, the NIH ranking is data-based and straightforward, derived from NIH research dollars generated - pure and simple. You could argue that is does not include other important sources of external funding, such as those from other federal and state agencies or foundations, but that is not what it claims to do.

On the other hand, the US News ranking is quite a different story. All of the rankings are based solely on the results of surveys sent to deans and program directors at accredited nursing schools. The survey asks their perception – yes, that’s right, their “perception” – of the quality of each of over 450 programs. There are no descriptors or metrics used to define quality. It is all left to the subjectivity of the respondent. In addition, all schools are lumped together – private and public, large and small, full service universities, small colleges, and academic health sciences centers. There is no stratification or categorization of schools for more matched (and arguably more valid) comparisons. And finally there is the problem of a 33 percent response rate to the survey.

So putting on our researcher’s hat, we must conclude that the survey findings would be soundly rejected by any review body as totally inadequate in both design and methodology. It is even more ironic, however, that as educators we firmly espouse the critical importance
Moodle is coming
At the end of the spring semester MUSC will be saying farewell to WebCT and Blackboard and “hello” to Moodlerooms. Moodlerooms, the creators of the open-source courseware known as Moodle, has created a new learning management system for MUSC. However, the platform, called joule, is new and a bit different from the free version of Moodle.

Moodle is an acronym for “Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment.” Although it has its own unique language – we’ll call it “Moodle-ese” – the way it works is very similar to WebCT and Blackboard. The transition should not be difficult, and you will have lots of support. Students and faculty will be required to go through a self-paced, online tutorial prior to the summer semester. Training will begin mid-April for faculty and be available to students April 22. More details to come.

APRNs scope of practice
On March 24, Carole Bennett PhD, APRN and Stephanie Burgess, PhD, APRN testified before the SC State Board of Nursing regarding the expansion of APRN’s scope of practice and to eliminate the requirement for physician supervision. They represented recommendations from the APRN subcommittee of the Board of Nursing.

Dr. Bennett discussed the need for access to care in SC as 42 of 46 counties are designated as medically underserved. She also discussed the urgency because of poor health statistics that affect the citizens of this state. In addition, Dr. Bennett examined the cost of educating nurse practitioners (NPs) as opposed to primary care physicians and the differences in years of education required.

Dr. Burgess presented research that shows the quality of care provided by NPs as equal to that of physicians in the areas of wellness, prevention, management of chronic illnesses and many acute illnesses that can be managed successfully in outpatient care. Additionally, she discussed the obstacles that exist under the current SC Nurse Practice Act, such as NPs not being able to practice to the fullest extent of their education.

The board members were aware of the recommendations from the October 2010 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, “The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing healthcare.” This report is an important reference document for medical staffs considering revising APRN privileges, and the need for expansion of the work force to provide care expanded under the Affordable Care Act. The following are some key messages from the report.

1. Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
2. Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
3. Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other healthcare professionals in redesigning healthcare in the United States.
4. Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

The US has the opportunity to transform its health care system, and nurses can and should play a fundamental role in this transformation. However, the power to improve the current regulatory, business, and organizational conditions does not rest solely with nurses; government, businesses, health care organizations, professional associations, and the insurance industry all must play a role. Working together, these many diverse parties can help ensure that the health care system provides seamless, affordable, quality care that is accessible to all and leads to improved health outcomes.

Source: www.iom.edu.
**April**

- **4 Monday**
  Research for Lunch - R21: Enhancing Coping Skills and Self-Management in Youth with Epilepsy, presented by Gigi Smith and Janelle Wagner
  Noon
  CON Historical Library

- **6 Wednesday**
  Earl B. Higgins Achievement in Diversity Award Reception
  4 - 6 p.m.
  Wickliffe House (178 Ashley Ave.)

- **7 Thursday**
  Education Committee of the Dean’s Advisory Board
  1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
  CON Historical Library

- **8 Friday**
  Alumni Homecoming Awards Ceremony and Reception
  2 - 3 p.m.
  CON Historical Library

- **21 Thursday**
  Earth Day Celebration
  11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
  MUSC Horseshoe

**May**

- **19 Thursday**
  College of Nursing Convocation
  3 p.m.
  St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church (405 King St.)

- **19-20 Thursday-Friday**
  MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting

- **20 Friday**
  MUSC Graduation
  9 a.m.
  MUSC Horseshoe

- **30 Monday**
  Memorial Day holiday
  CON closed

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**Getting to know...Mohan “Moby” Madisetti**

**Position:** Program manager

**How many years at CON?** less than a year

**Hometown:** Wimbledon, London, UK

**Alma Mater:** University College Hospital London (UCL), London School of Economics (LSE) and Downside School

**Family:** Daughter, India (14); three cats, Oliver, Tomten, and Eliza

**Superstitious?** No way

**Worst habit?** Debatable

**Collect anything?** Good memories

**What time did you get up this morning?** 5:50 a.m.

**What music are you currently into?** Reliving the ’70s and ’80s

**What did you want to be growing up?** A doctor or professional athlete

**What book is on your night stand?** The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

**Last movie you saw?** A Walk to Remember

**Webpage bookmarks?** Finance, travel, music and grant funding sites

**If you could attend any event what would it be?** The 2012 Olympics in London

**First concert ever attended?** Yellowman

**I’d love to trade places for a day with...** Ben Southall

**Talent I’d most like to have:** To be an artist

**Coke or Pepsi?** Coke, if I must

In your opinion, what is the world’s greatest problem? Greed

If you could possess any superpower it would be... Mind control

My very first job was... as a psychiatric nurses aide in acute settings

Biggest pet peeve: Lying, rudeness, and mean people

What is the last thing you experienced buyer’s remorse with? A smart phone for my daughter with a $29.99 monthly data plan

Three adjectives your friends would use to describe you: Happy, patient, and calm

Three things in your bucket list:
  1) Ice fishing in Alaska
  2) Take a drive down the east coast of Africa
  3) Retire in the Caribbean and work with at-risk youth

**Favorites:**

**Flower/plant:** Passion fruit plant

**Animal:** Cat, of course

**TV Show:** Top Chef

**Board game:** Backgammon

**Movie:** Delicatessen

**Sports team:** Ashley Hall Panthers

**Cookie:** White chocolate macadamia

**Place you’ve traveled to:** Cannes, France

**Thing to do on a Saturday night:** Spend time with my daughter

**Thing to do on a Sunday afternoon:** Call my mum

**Thing about living in Charleston:** The pace of life
Bulldog Challenge  By Anne Powell, first semester accelerated BSN student
This past weekend, I had the opportunity to compete on a team in the fifteenth annual Bulldog Challenge. The Citadel Marines host this event each year in order to raise money for a scholarship fund in honor of a fallen graduate. The event also serves to provide the public with a sense of the physical rigor that our nation’s Marines face each day in the field. The challenge involves a ten-kilometer endurance course with 17 obstacles, among which include climbing a twenty-foot rope, carrying twenty-pound sandbags up every step of the Hagood stadium, and crawling through chin-deep pluff mud. The event provided hundreds of teams with a morning filled with camaraderie, competition, and an opportunity to obtain eternal bragging rights. Although this was one of the most rigorous physical challenges I have ever faced, the experience was an absolute thrill. The members of my team constantly motivated me and distracted me from my exhaustion. While the event left my muscles sore and my extremities spotted with bruises, I gained a heightened admiration of the effort that our troops continuously put into defending our nation. In addition to placing their lives at risk, our soldiers constantly challenge their physical limits. As I prepare to finish clinical rotation at the Charleston VA Hospital this spring, I am reminded of how much of an honor it is to serve our veterans.

NCIN funding news
New Careers in Nursing (NCIN), the program that provides scholarships for second degree, accelerated BSN nursing students from under-represented groups in nursing, is currently reviewing applications for funding of Round 4 proposals.

Proposals were submitted from schools across the country, including 18 first-time applicants and 98 returning applicants. The college has been notified that our proposal was selected as a finalist. Final decisions will be announced in June 2011. Full funding of the proposal would be $300,000 and fund 30 new BSN students, 15 in the fall and 15 in the spring.

The CON was funded in Round 1 for 20 students ($200,000) in 2008-2009 and in Round 3 for 10 students ($100,000) in 2010-2011. Students who were funded in the first round all completed the program and 19 are currently employed as nurses.

MSN, DNP students on campus
There will be quite a few MSN and DNP students on campus for immersions and/or project proposals the week of April 12 - 15.

DNP students will be presenting their project proposals in room 220 on April 12 - 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 14. Please stop by if you’d like to hear their presentations.
Grant submissions

Martina Mueller, PhD (Co-PI) and Carol Wagner, MD (Co-PI) submitted an R21 application to the National Institutes of Health titled, “Predicting NEC in premature infants.” The overall goal of this study is to develop an accurate Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) prediction model utilizing Nearest Related Neighbor (NRN) and Support Vector Machine (SVM) computer modeling that will utilize clinical and biological determinants available from three sources: data obtained prospectively from the mother alone, from the preterm infant alone, and lastly, from both the mother and her preterm infant.

Sally D. Stroud, EdD, ANP, BC submitted a competing continuation application to the Health Resources and Services Administration under the Nurse Faculty Loan Program funding opportunity announcement. This application is a request for financial loan support for students enrolled in a PhD in Nursing, a DNP, or a MSN degree program at the College of Nursing.

Robin L. Bissinger, PhD, APRN, NNP-BC submitted an application to the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation under the Faculty Scholars Program. This program is designed to identify and nurture the careers of educational innovators in medicine and nursing. The goal of the program is to develop the next generation of national leaders in medical and nursing education.

Dr. Bissinger’s proposal is titled, “Innovation in education focused on quality improvement and patient safety.” The acceptance of this application will transform the College’s current graduate program by redesigning the curriculum to fully integrate the most pressing health care issues of quality, safety, and patient-centered, accessible and affordable care. The goal of this innovative model of education is to prepare future APRNs and faculty in quality improvement, patient safety, and cost-effective initiatives to better meet the needs of the public.

Funded projects

Congratulations to Teresa J. Kelechi, PhD, RN for receiving funding from NIH/NINR for the R01 submitted in July 2010. The title of the proposal is “Preventing venous leg ulcers with cryo-therapy: A randomized clinical trial.” This study tests whether an innovative low compression cool gel wrap (cryo-therapy) applied to skin chronically inflamed by chronic venous disorders will reduce skin blood flow, decrease skin temperature, and reduce the incidence of venous leg ulcers during the 9 month study period. Our sequenced intervention augments current clinical practices, and—more importantly—tests a highly feasible, low-cost strategy that could reduce pain and improve morbidity and quality of life for millions of individuals.

NIH news

This year make a resolution to plan ahead and submit your NIH grant applications in advance of the deadline. With the elimination of the error correction window, submitting your application early is the best way to ensure success. All applications must be error-free by the deadline. Remember, you will still have a two business day application viewing window to view your assembled application before the deadline. The viewing window is your one chance to view your grant application just as the NIH reviewers will see it.

Also, the biosketch forms in NIH grant application packages have been modified to allow investigators to include information about personal circumstances that may have affected their productivity. The change will take affect for applications received for the May 25, 2011 receipt date and beyond.

Publications & presentations

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:

HHI organizes presentation on S. Bill 20
The College of Nursing’s Hispanic Health Initiative (HHI) has organized a presentation about the Senate Bill 20 on Immigration Status and Employment.

The SC Senate recently passed bill S.20 (34 - 9) which strengthens enforcement and added a fee to tax money sent by illegal immigrants to their non-resident relatives. The bill allows law enforcement officials to verify the immigration status of any person arrested, and inform federal authorities if the person is found to be in SC illegally. The bill also creates a new unit within the Department of Public Safety to enforce illegal immigration laws.

The presentation was held on March 28. Tammy Besherse from the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center explained what the bill, if passed, means for South Carolina and how it may affect the health of immigrants in our state. Victoria Middleton, executive director of the SC ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), was also on hand to offer comments and answer questions.

HHI to sponsor annual Hispanic HIV/AIDS roundtable
The College of Nursing Hispanic Health Initiatives (HHI) will co-sponsor the third annual Hispanic HIV/AIDS roundtable in conjunction with LowCountry AIDS Services. This conference will be held at the New Covenant Church in North Charleston on May 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact Anna Tecklenburg at tecklenb@musc.edu if you are interested in attending.

We want your feedback
Recently the College of Nursing released an online toolkit for primary care providers addressing interpersonal violence - www.IPVtoolkit.org. The website includes a survey and asks for your feedback about the website. Your opinions and comments will be greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE
May 25, 2011 • 12 - 1 p.m. • IOP Auditorium
Patricia Ryan MS, RN, director of VISN 8 Community-Care Coordination Service and associate chief consultant of the VHA Office of Telehealth Services, US Department of Veterans Affairs, will be visiting the CON to provide an overview of VA Telehealth, offer consultative advice and meet with faculty and students.

Contact Maria Toler at 792-2051 or tolerm@musc.edu for details.
Earl B. Higgins Scholarship recipient announced

Bridgette Copeland is the recipient of the Earl B. Higgins Scholarship. This scholarship is part of the MUSC Office of Student Diversity Annual Achievement in Diversity Award Presentation and Reception. Bridgette will be recognized at the reception on April 6, 4:00-6:00 pm at the Wickliffe House, Ashley Avenue.

Bridgette has a previously earned Bachelor of Science degree from Charleston Southern University where she was a scholar-athlete and named to the Big-South All Conference Team. After graduation, Bridgette was employed by DCI, Inc. as a Dialysis Technician. In this role, she monitored patient vital signs and initiated hemodialysis treatments. Bridgette is a first semester student enrolled in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program and is from Inman, South Carolina.

Earl B. Higgins was the Director of Diversity at the Medical University of South Carolina for several years. He died while serving in this role. His contributions were enormous, and he was particularly committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse student body. This scholarship is part of his legacy.

Inaugural Ruth Jaqui Skudlarek Scholarship

The MUSC College of Nursing is pleased to announce that Kari Wilson, Class of May 2011 is the recipient of the inaugural Ruth Jaqui Skudlarek Scholarship. Kari was selected based on input from faculty members Deborah Williamson, DHA, RN, MSN, CNM, Tiffany Williams, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC and Treva Mardis who taught her in the community setting.

The perfect match for this new scholarship, Kari has a previous Bachelor of Science in health, with a concentration in health promotion from Walla Walla University. While completing her Accelerated BSN, Kari is concurrently completing her Master of Public Health from Walden University and will finish in summer 2011. She has applied for admission to the College of Nursing’s DNP program.

Before attending the CON, Kari worked in California for Healthy Road Specialty Health as a health coach. She worked with clients over the phone helping them set goals for weight loss and tobacco cessation. “This was a great learning experience, but being on the phone eight hours a day does not compare with personal interaction with patients and their families. I know I will be able to use these teaching skills as family nurse practitioner, and help people toward a healthier lifestyle.”

Dr. Mary Skudlarek Sudzina and the Sudzina family decided to honor Mary’s mother, Ruth Jaqui Skudlarek, by establishing the Ruth Jaqui Skudlarek Nursing Scholarship in the College of Nursing. In 1943, at the age of 21, Ruth graduated from St. Peter’s School of Nursing in New Brunswick, NJ. After graduation, she became the head nurse for the Rutgers University Infirmary.

During World War II, Ruth volunteered and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps and served for two years, attaining the rank of first lieutenant. She was head nurse in the POW ward at Fort Dix, NJ, as well as head nurse in the ophthalmology unit.

Ruth’s favorite nursing position was working part-time for the Visiting Nurses for 10 years until 1970. She also loved visiting farms and ministering to migrant workers and their families in the Garden State.

This scholarship award will replace the Community Service Award previously recognized at Convocation. It will be awarded to a member of the December and May graduating classes. Recipients will receive a $1,900 scholarship following their third semester of coursework.

2011 convocation and graduation

The College of Nursing Convocation is the pinning ceremony for BSN students, and the hooding ceremony for MSN, DNP and PhD students. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 3 p.m. at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 405 King Street. (There is a rehearsal for candidates on Wednesday, May 18 at 3 p.m.) Convocation generally lasts one hour, and there is a light reception in the adjacent Fellowship Hall following the ceremony.

Students who have not picked up their cap and gown should contact Mardi Long, longm@musc.edu prior to May 18, otherwise it will be at the church on Thursday. Candidates should plan to arrive by 2 p.m. for assistance with their gowns and to line-up for the processional.

The MUSC graduation ceremony will be held Friday, May 20, 9 a.m. at the MUSC Horseshoe.

Candidates should go to http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/em/grad/grad_info.html for more information.

Faculty should go to http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/em/grad fac_info.html for more information.
CELEBRATING NURSES:
The Pearls of Health Care

OYSTER ROAST & SILENT AUCTION

FRIDAY APRIL 8
7:00 - 10:00 P.M.

LIVE MUSIC BY THE GIN HOUSE BOYS
BEER, WINE, OYSTERS, & LOWCOUNTRY FARE
VISITORS CENTER BUS SHED

TICKETS: $45 PER PERSON
$15 FOR STUDENTS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS
OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH PEERS

VIOLINIST BY THE GIN HOUSE BOYS
BEER, WINE, OYSTERS, & LOWCOUNTRY FARE
VISITORS CENTER BUS SHED

TICKETS: $45 PER PERSON
$15 FOR STUDENTS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS
OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH PEERS

2011 COLLEGE OF NURSING OYSTER ROAST REGISTRATION FORM

Mail or fax form to: MUSC Office of Alumni Affairs, 261 Calhoun St., MSC 182, Charleston, SC 29425 • Fax: (843) 792-7787

Name ____________________________________________
Class of __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ____ State ______ Zip _________________________
Daytime phone _________________________________
E-mail __________________________________________

We accept Visa and MC. Please make checks payable to MUSC Nursing Alumni Association

Early registration fees Postmarked after March 10, 2011 Subtotal

Oyster roast/silent action
Adults _____ @ $45 _____ @ $55 $ ________
Students _____ @ $15 _____ @ $20 $ ________

Total enclosed $ ________

Name of guest(s) __________________________________
_____________________________________________

Click to register online: