On shining stars

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

The holiday season embraces many beautiful images. One of my favorites is that of shining stars – brilliant prisms of light illuminating the accomplishments of both the past and the present. I was reminded of this image on November 3rd at the Johnson & Johnson Gala, The Promise of Nursing for South Carolina. It was a grand, formal ballroom affair in which nurses from across the state celebrated their chosen profession.

But it was more than simply a social event. It truly gave testimony to what nurses contribute each day to improving the lives of patients and families from all walks of life. The attendees listened to the personal stories of their colleagues, and delighted in short videos highlighting scenes from the world of nursing. Each nurse felt honored and humbled by evening’s end.

The other sparkling part of the evening was that the gala raised almost $300,000 for nursing programs in our state. At a time of limited financial resources this represents a rich and important gift to our community and reflects a nicely wrapped present for the new year ahead.

I only wish that each of you could have attended the event, but hope you will enjoy seeing some of the photos of the evening. Most importantly let us celebrate this season remembering that every nurse is a special and unique shining star. Happy Holidays...Gail
Do physicians have a monopoly on the title “doctor?”

There has been a great debate of late about the use of honorifics, degrees and credentials in health care settings. The current practice is to only use the title of “doctor” when referring to physicians. However, as the number of nurses, pharmacists, and physical therapists earning PhD degrees continues to grow, a clash is raging over which health care professionals can use the prestigious title. Nurses are eagerly pursuing doctoral degrees in order to gain greater training, improve their university status and/or earn them more respect from colleagues and patients. According to the New York Times, 153 nursing schools gave doctor of nursing practice degrees to 7,037 nurses last year, compared with four schools that gave the degrees to 170 nurses in 2004.

The term ‘doctor’ is defined as one who has earned the highest academic degree in their field. Medicine seems to have permanently borrowed this title from academia. Physician is a professional title, as is physician assistant, nurse practitioner and pharmacist.

Physicians have never been the only doctors in our society. Juris doctors (law), medical doctors (medicine), and doctors of philosophy (theology) were the earliest doctoral degrees given and that reflected the historical separation of all university study into these three fields. In fact, the first academic degrees were law degrees, and the first law degrees were doctorates.

Instead of battling over the term doctor perhaps we should better educate the public about the changing roles in healthcare. If physicians are worried about patient confusion when the title doctor is used perhaps we can avoid this confusion about whether they are seeing a nurse or a physician by identifying yourself as a nurse, physician, chiropractor, dentist or pharmacist. Wear identification in order to alleviate any perplexity by the patient. As we all know, there will be plenty of work to go around due to the healthcare provider shortage and an ever-aging population that needs increasing levels of care.

Have a comment? Go to CON’s Facebook page and share your thoughts!

Faculty recognition

Congratulations to Tiffany Williams, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC! Tiffany was selected to receive the Graduate Student Scholarship from the South Carolina League for Nursing.

Nurses Care Walk

On November 5th, 16 walkers representing the College of Nursing participated in the third annual Nurses Care Walk. The event, a 5K run/walk, was held simultaneously in Charleston and Columbia and was sponsored by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation (SCNF). The CON raised $425 for the SCNF which uses the funds to advance the profession of nursing through awards, scholarships, research and grants. This year the CON was honored to receive several thousand dollars in scholarship funding from the organization.

PhD student raises 6k for cancer research

Susan Krause Flavin, MSN, RN, cancer survivor and PhD student, recently participated in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure, a 60-mile walk for women and men who want to make a personal difference in the fight to end breast cancer. Participants commit to raise at least $2,300 and spend several months training to prepare for the event. They devote the entire three-day weekend to the cause. Susan raised over $6,000 and had an amazing experience. She was able to complete the entire walk and was pleased that she didn’t have to ride on one of “sweep buses” that are available to those who are too fatigued/blistered/sore to continue. Congratulations to Susan for her remarkable efforts and for showing the community that MUSC nurses really do change lives!

“Experience and enthusiasm are two fine business attributes seldom found in one individual.”

— William Feather
DECEMBER
3 SATURDAY
Winter Convocation
Church of the Holy Communion
218 Ashley Ave.
10 a.m.

12 MONDAY
Faculty & Staff Holiday Party
CON Historical Library
Noon

6 FRIDAY
Interprofessional Day

16 MONDAY
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
CON closed

26 THURSDAY
Senior Photos
CON Historical Library
2 - 5 p.m.

30 THURSDAY
Dr. Susan Stillwell
Evidence-Based Practice workshop
CON Room 220

JANUARY
3 TUESDAY
CON Reopens

3-6 TUESDAY-FRIDAY
Accelerated BSN New Student Orientation

5 THURSDAY
Stethoscope Ceremony
St. Luke’s Chapel
4:30 p.m.

Purge, Purge, Purge!
Renovations are right around the corner. College of Nursing clean-up week...
December 12-16

College of Nursing will be closed
Dec. 21 thru Jan. 2.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year on Tuesday, January 3rd!

Like us on Facebook
Search Facebook for “MUSC College of Nursing” and like us to stay up to date on news and events happening at the College.

Or click here on the link below.
http://www.facebook.com/pages/MUSC-College-of-Nursing/218495264838673

The MUSC College of Nursing group will be archived in the near future and our group page is likely to disappear. If you are a member of CON’s group page be sure to like us on our new Facebook page so that we can stay in touch.
In my own words  By Deana Phouksouvath

The RWJ New Careers in Nursing scholarship students are required to do a leadership or volunteer activity. This is a summary by a 4th semester student (who will graduate this month) on her experience with the Sweet Grass Organic Farm.

As part of my RWJ leadership project I volunteered at Sweet Grass Organic Farm. It is a non-profit two acre farm on Johns Island using sustainable land management techniques and good agricultural practices to grow free organic produce for the poor and hungry of Charleston. Most of the produce is donated to the Lowcountry Food Bank. As a nursing student, I found this organization interesting because in the grand scheme of things I believe that it will improve health care and decrease social determinants in the area.

On a Saturday morning I arrived to Sweet Grass Organic Farm to meet Dale Snyder, who manages the farm, and Helen the “master gardener.” They informed me that they get multiple grants to run the farm, one is a grant from Clemson University to conduct research on fish compost. George Taylor, the owner of the farm, emphasizes the importance of healthy soil because he believes that is the key to great produce. Plants the farm grows include asparagus, rosemary, butter beans, broccoli, collard greens, and turnips (all of which will be the donated produce for the month of December). Dale explained to me the organic solutions of keeping deer off the farm. He listed many methods such as pepper and human sweat; however, what works best for them is bordering the garden with rosemary bushes because the plants are distasteful for the deer. Throughout the day, the rest of the volunteers, who included school aged children, and I were out on the field picking turnips and boxing them for the food bank, pulling out bushes of beans in order to rotate the soil, and weeding and raking. A lot of work was put in to the farm and a lot of care and love keeps it going.

Sweet Grass is a great way to provide for the poor and it truly is healthy for the body, mind, and spirit. The community gets involved; kids actively engage and learn; and the vegetables are delicious and healthy. I can vow for that myself! Even after 23 bug bites I had a wonderful experience and would encourage more people to try to be organic farmers at least once in their life!

RWJF Leadership Project - diabetes calendar

For her leadership project, Altonya McMillan (fourth semester BSN student) was asked by Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN, FAAN to develop a patient friendly way to promote compliance of the South Carolina Diabetes Initiative 2011 Clinical Guidelines among a low literacy patient population. Altonya created an easy to use, interactive diabetic calendar that can be used by patients with diabetes to better manage their disease.

The calendar uses various stickers to remind patients of required health care appointments. To communicate target goals, the calendar has illustrations of bull’s-eye targets that have written goals of the Diabetes Initiative in the center. An example goal is: A1C less than seven percent, blood pressure of 130/80 and cholesterol less than 150 mg/dl.

The calendar also includes pertinent patient education information such as limiting sodium and alcohol intake. Illustrations are used throughout the calendar to convey messages. For instance, a salt shaker with a line across it appears with the caption “limit sodium intake,” or a line drawn across a wine glass, with the caption “men: no more than two drinks/day, women: no more than one drink/day.”

Altonya and Carolyn are in the process of identifying a vendor to print the calendar. Initially, a small number will be test marketed and following revisions approximately 1,000 calendars will be printed and distributed in the community.

Winter convocation news

The College of Nursing will hold Convocation to celebrate the Class of December 2011 on Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Communion, Ashley Avenue.

Please note the change of location from previous years. There is limited parking at the church, and faculty are encouraged to park in their campus space.

Lisa Irvin (MSN, ’89), Vice President of Nursing, Roper Hospital, Roper – St. Francis Healthcare is the invited speaker.

Graduates should wear regalia, including hoods, but not caps and arrive at the church by 9 a.m. to line up for the processional.

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

Congratulations to **Deborah Williamson, DHA, RN, MSN, CNM** for receiving another year funding for a sub award from the University of South Carolina for the program titled, “PASOs (Perinatal Awareness for Successful Outcomes),” in the amount of $28,417. The project will provide coordinated leadership for the development and implementation of this program in the Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties.

Grant submissions

**Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN-BC-ADM, RD, LD, FAAN** and **Kathie Hermayer, MD** (Co-PI) submitted an application titled, “Coordinated action for transitional care from hospital to home (CATCHH),” to the National Institutes of Health in response to PAR-09-177: Planning Grants for Translational Research for the Prevention and Control of Diabetes and Obesity (R34). The goal of this innovative translational pilot is to adapt efficacious strategies into a multi-level hospital discharge intervention aimed at improving diabetes self-management, improving patient outcomes and reducing re-hospitalization, emergency department (ED) use and costs.

**Gayenell S. Magwood, PhD, RN**, resubmitted a Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) application titled, “Personalized bio-behavioral weight loss intervention for African American women,” to the National Institute of Health/ National Institute of Nursing Research. The broad goal of this research is to identify key components for development and implementation of efficacious personalized and socio-culturally tailored behavioral interventions for long-term weight loss in low socioeconomic status (SES) obese African American women. The personalization of the behavioral strategies will be based on the woman’s genetic markers for obesity-related health behaviors (i.e., diet and physical activity). The socio-cultural preferences will be incorporated into the communication of genetic information, and the adaptation of the format and delivery of the evidence-based Diabetes Prevention Program materials and approaches to promote weight loss.

Presentations


Hip, hip hooray!

Kudos to the following PhD students who passed their comprehensive exams or dissertation proposal defenses:

**SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED DISSERTATION PROPOSAL**

- Katherine A. Atassi (advisor: Dr. Lynne Nemeth)
- Amanda Budak (advisor: Dr. Lynne Nemeth)
- Robin Evans Matutina (advisor: Dr. Teresa Kelechi)
- Jill Marie Monfre (advisor: Dr. Teresa Kelechi)
- Gigi Smith (advisor: Dr. Jeannette Andrews)
- Julia Smith (advisor: Dr. Gail Stuart)
- Lynette Smith (advisor: Dr. Gail Stuart)
- Genevieve M. Thul (advisor: Dr. Gail Gilden)

**PASSED COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS**

- Rebecca Freeman (advisor: Dr. Marilyn Laken)
- Shannon Hudson (advisor: Dr. Marilyn Laken)
- Betsy Kennedy (advisor: Dr. Gail Gilden)
- James Pelletier (advisor: Dr. Charlene Pope)
### Stufflebean selected for SCLN scholarship

Third semester accelerated BSN student, Andrew Stufflebean has been awarded the South Carolina League for Nursing Annual Scholarship. He will graduate May 2012. Andrew is a second degree student, having earned a biology degree from the College of Charleston. He was recently inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society.

Andrew was recently voted president of the CON Student Nurses Association, and will be the student speaker at the January 2012 Stethoscope Ceremony. He has volunteered with the Charleston Miracle League and led a supply drive for My Sister’s House, a non-profit agency in Charleston which provides a safe haven for abused women.

Proficient in Spanish, Andrew is part of the Hispanic Health Initiative Scholars Program and is currently planning a health screening for residents in low-income housing, mainly assisting with translating and brief health screens.

Another activity that highlights Andrew’s leadership is his involvement with as a student assistant in a SAMMPRIS Trial, Neurosciences: Stroke Center at MUSC and his work as a study coordinator for a randomized Pilot Study at MUSC. His efforts have yielded two collaborative publications, one in the New England Journal of Medicine (September 2011).

### Brown receives Charleston Co. Medical Society Scholarship

Annakathryn Brown, third semester student in the accelerated BSN degree program has been awarded the Charleston County Medical Society Scholarship. She will be recognized at a luncheon on January 18 at the Charleston Yacht Club.

The Charleston County Medical Society provides one scholarship annually to a nursing student who is a native of and current resident of Charleston County. Community outreach is another important component of the selection process. Annakathryn has been involved in Medical Campus Outreach missions to Romania, volunteered at an orphanage in Thailand, and volunteered at Greenville Memorial Hospital. She has also been employed as an ED technician at Roper-St. Francis Hospital.

### Sigma Theta Tau induction

The 2011-12 Sigma Theta Tau, Gamma Omicron At-Large Chapter Induction was held November 10 in Baruch Auditorium. Two MUSC students were presented with awards: Kristen Bridgers (BSN) received the Paula G. Thielan Memorial Award and Janee Rivers (DNP) received the Founders Award. College of Nursing faculty Berry Anderson, PhD, RN, Vanessa Gant-Clark, and Martina Mueller, PhD were among seven inducted as nurse leaders.

#### BSN STUDENTS INDUCTED INCLUDE:


#### GRADUATE STUDENTS INDUCTED INCLUDE:

- Hannah Brearley, Rhonda Browning, Sonia Campbell, Antonia Corrigan, Jama Goers, Cameo Green, Elizabeth McGee, Janee Rivers, Lori Vick, Samantha Wadford, and Christina Weatherford.

### Take advantage of free IT help

Student technology support services is offered on the 4th floor of the MUSC Library every Tuesday and Thursday to help support all students from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Services include:

- General troubleshooting
- Wireless configuration (for laptops, smartphones and other mobile devices)
- Exchange email set-up (for laptops, smartphones and other mobile devices)
- Virus support
- Installing/upgrading virus protection software
- Academic software access (Tegrity, Moodle, iTunes U)

Save time—Log a call at [https://sp.musc.edu/chp/stss/sitepages/home.aspx](https://sp.musc.edu/chp/stss/sitepages/home.aspx).

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**Sally Stroud, EdD, APRN, BC** contributed to an article, *10 Home Remedies That Work*, for the AARP (American Association of Retired People). The article is about what you may find in your pantry for some surprising home remedies. Sally’s contribution (No. 5 on the list) is the use of menthol rub. You can find the entire article at [http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-11-2011/home-remedies-that-work2.html](http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-11-2011/home-remedies-that-work2.html). Thanks, Sally!
Join fellow MUSC College of Nursing friends on a journey that breathes life into the remarkable story of this inspirational woman and nurse pioneer. Travel from London, on a specially designed tour that will follow the footsteps of the legendary Florence Nightingale.

MAY 21 - 30

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS