There is a very moving film titled, The Power of One. It is about a white South African orphan who is tormented by racist bullies in boarding school and is sent to live with a friend of his grandfather. There, the boy befriends a political prisoner who teaches him how to box. “Little beat big when little smart,” the prisoner tells him. “First with the head, then with the heart.”

Living by those words, the boy fights with his fists and leads with his heart as he grows to manhood. After years of witnessing injustice all around him, at age 18 he unites with a former boxing adversary to fight the uphill struggle against apartheid. He takes on the system and the injustices he sees around him – and finds that one person really can make a difference.

I have experienced that in my trips to Liberia. But instead of fists, the nurses there are leading and helping to heal their countrymen through knowledge. The capacity building nature of my work there inspires me to work harder in sharing skills with them. It also reaffirms the triumphant nature of the human spirit.

I saw that hopeful shine in the eyes of one of the young nurses, Helena, who attended my first workshop in 2011. Since then she graduated from the first class of Mental Health Clinicians and is now teaching psychiatric nursing with all that she has learned in one of their schools of nursing.

This is the power of transformation. This is the power of not doing “for” or “to” someone, but rather giving them the knowledge and skills so that they can become agents of change in their own communities. I hope that this program in Liberia is a global example of taking the “power of one” to become the “helper of many”….Gail
CON and AACN support Joining Forces

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) along with with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Nurses Association, National League for Nursing, and all sectors of the nursing profession have been encouraged to support the national Joining Forces campaign. Joining Forces is a national initiative that mobilizes all sectors of society to give service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned. Joining Forces is calling on all health professionals to be aware of the specific health issues facing service members, veterans, and their families. With the end of the war in Iraq and the drawdown in Afghanistan, over one million service members are projected to leave the military in the next five years. Some will return amputees, and some will quietly suffer with the “invisible wounds of war,” including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), depression, and other challenges. Our nation’s nurses must be prepared to care for this distinct patient population. MUSC College of Nursing has agreed to answer that call and pledge the following:

By 2014, nursing schools are joining forces and committing to:

• Educating America’s future nurses to care for our nation’s veterans, service members, and their families facing post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, and other clinical issues;
• Enriching nursing education to ensure that current and future nurses are trained in the unique clinical challenges and best practices associated with caring for military service members, veterans, and their families;
• Integrating content that addresses the unique health and wellness challenges of our nation’s service members, veterans, and their families into nursing curricula;
• Sharing teaching resources and applying best practices in the care of service members, veterans, and their families;
• Growing the body of knowledge leading to improvements in health care and wellness for our service members, veterans, and their families; and
• Joining with others to further strengthen the supportive community of nurses, institutions, and health care providers dedicated to improving the health of service members, veterans, and their families.

Together with the larger health care community, nurse educators commit to raising the quality of care available to our nation’s military and veterans in our work to prepare future generations of nurses.

For more information on Joining Forces, visit www.joiningforces.gov or www.ANAJoiningForces.org.

New student clinical policy

The faculty has approved the following new policy: It is considered unsafe and unacceptable for the student to work the shift immediately prior to a scheduled clinical day. The policy is found in the College of Nursing Student Handbook – section VII, p. 6, under Preparation.

Grant writers take notice

The College now owns a hardcopy of the “Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning’s 2011 South Carolina Health Professions Data Book.” This is a great source of valuable data on South Carolina’s health professional workforce. A copy is available in the Office of Research. The data also can be accessed at http://officeforhealthcareworkforce.org.

AACN Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars Program

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is currently accepting applications from students for Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars Program. This program is designed to address the shortage of nurse faculty and enhance diversity among nurse educators. This collaborative effort provides generous financial support, mentoring, and leadership development to graduate students from minority backgrounds with aspirations to teach in our nation’s schools of nursing.

AACN is currently accepting applications for the next round of scholarship awards. The deadline to apply is May 2, 2012, and new award recipients will be announced in August 2012. To download an application, visit www.AACN.edu.

“"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”
—Eleanore Roosevelt
MUSC shares research results with Sea Island community

On January 21, MUSC physicians, nurses and researchers shared outcomes from six projects that spanned over 10 years from research gathered from Sea Islanders. Representatives from MUSC and the College of Nursing, along with SCTr Center for Community Health Partnerships, presented results from research that occurred among the residents of the Sea Islands.

Over 200 people gathered at St. John’s High School on Johns Island to hear the findings. Charleston County Councilwoman Anna Johnson was the hostess for the night and began the program with a welcome from St. John’s High School Principal Bill Runyon, followed by Pastor Mary Stony, president of the Alliance of Sea Island Ministries and a representative from Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Charleston. One of the highlights of the evening was the testimonies from five patients.

Ida Spruill, PhD, RN, College of Nursing assistant professor, spoke to the crowd on the historical nature of the event because it marked the first time that MUSC researchers shared their results with the community. Dr. Spruill acknowledged support from research participants and non-research participants and she thanked them for their participation, and their unwavering support of the research studies conducted since 1996.

The Plantation Singers, a professional a cappella and percussion gospel group provided the entertainment. With a little coaxing, Dr. Spruill performed the song, “I done done what you told me to do.” CON’s Elisha Simmons and St. John’s United Methodist Church provided praise dancing.

Many thanks to the volunteers who provided invaluable service throughout the project including Dr. Karen Stewart-Cain from Trident Technical College who secured over $2,000 in gift donations, retired RN, Elizabeth Ganaway, and Charleston County Councilwoman Anna Johnson. Other volunteers included CON faculty members Gaynell Magwood PhD, RN and Jeannette Andrews, PhD, RN, along with SCTr Center for Community Health Partnerships staff, Sharon Wolf and Brandi White.

Below is an impression of the program by College of Nursing graduate and Presidential Scholar, Mary Gosselin, RN, BSN.

“I arrived at St. John’s High School anticipating a get together with a small group of locals sharing and receiving health information and walked into an amazing day of research, community, fellowship and learning. I arrived early and walked around the health fair tables before taking a seat and watching participants make their way inside. What started as 20 people soon multiplied until several hundred Johns Island community members filled the auditorium awaiting the presentation. I had no idea I was about to hear how this celebration was the culmination of years of planning and research with and for the people of Johns Island and the other Sea Islands of the Lowcountry. The researchers were there to share with the community the amazing results of projects many of them contributed to and all of them would benefit from. After each presentation we were also able to hear a testimony from a community member who took part in the research, all of whom challenged their fellow citizens to be the future faces of research. Between presentations we were treated to cultural entertainment from island singers and dancers along with prayers and blessings from community leaders. As a recent graduate from MUSC and a new health care provider I am thankful to have had the opportunity to participate in this unique day. The sense of unity, pride, and enthusiasm of the community participants was unlike any event I’ve ever witnessed and all involved should be proud of their efforts.”
**MARCH FOR BABIES UPDATE**

Since the “March for Babies” campaign began in March, the College of Nursing has received over 100 donations for the March of Dimes. And Team MUSC CON doesn’t plan to stop there. If you haven’t already made a contribution, please consider making a donation - large or small. Or sign-up to walk the walk. Go to www.marchforbabies.org/team/musccon.

To all of you who have already contributed—students, graduates, faculty, staff, emeritus faculty, MUSC Women’s Club, and Roper nurses—a heartfelt thank you!

If you have questions about the March of Dimes’ March for Babies team, contact Maria Toler at tolerm@musc.edu.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- That 93% of the money raised from the March for Babies event will be spent on research.
- 1 in 7 babies in SC are born premature.
- Over 580,000 babies a year in the US are born too small or too early.
- Over 5,000 babies will die.
- Over 290,000 will have a lifelong disability as a result of their premature birth.

**YOUR SUPPORT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

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**WALKING TOGETHER FOR STRONGER, HEALTHIER BABIES**

April 28, 2012

MUSC and the College of Nursing are participating in the March of Dimes Walk for Babies event on April 28. Go to www.marchforbabies.org/team/musccon to sign up to walk as a member of “Team MUSC CON.” Can’t make the walk? Sponsor CON representative, Maria Toler and she’ll do the walking for you. For details, contact Maria at tolerm@musc.edu.

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**APRIL**

4 Wednesday
Earl B. Higgins Awards Ceremony
Wickliffe House
4-6 p.m.

12-14 Monday - Friday
MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting

14 Friday
MUSC SGA Alhambra
The Windjammer
Noon - 5 p.m.

20 Friday
University LDI
Innovation Center (645 Meeting St.)
8:30 a.m. - noon

25 Wednesday
Administrative Professionals Day
CON Historical Library
9 - 10 a.m.

28 Saturday
March of Dimes - March for Babies
Cannon Park (261 Calhoun St.)
8 a.m.

**MAY**

10 Thursday
Confederate Memorial Day
State holiday - CON open

17-18 Thursday-Friday
MUSC Board of Trustees meeting

17 Thursday
CON Convocation
The Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul
126 Coming St.
3 p.m.

18 Friday
MUSC Graduation
MUSC Horseshoe
9 a.m.

21 Monday
Dr. Sally Stroud’s Retirement Party
CON Historical Library
3 - 5 p.m.

28 Monday
Memorial Day
State holiday - CON closed
Funded grants

Congratulations to Ida J. Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN, for receiving funds from the National Institutes of Health, for her R01 proposal titled “Ethno-cultural barriers to health literacy/disease management in African Americans.” This three year study will use a mixed method approach to examine ethno-cultural variations in health literacy (including the conceptualization of diabetes as an illness) among African Americans from four distinct regions in South Carolina. The study also will develop and test a new instrument, the Diabetes Cultural Health Literacy Survey, to assess illness perceptions, self-management strategies, cultural beliefs and learning preferences in adult African American men and women with type 2 diabetes (T2DM).

Deborah C. Williamson, DHA, RN, CNM, will receive funds from Coastal Community Foundation for a grant titled “Education, outreach and advocacy to reduce health disparities.” The purpose of this restricted grant is to increase the amount of discretionary funds available to support the College of Nursing’s community outreach, community health partnerships and practice activities related to addressing health disparities and the needs of underserved populations, especially Hispanic/Latino residents of South Carolina’s Lowcountry. In collaboration with local health, social, and academic professionals, as well as community members and leaders, the College will use education, outreach and advocacy strategies to remove barriers to access necessary health and social services. Barriers include language differences; mistrust and fear; misinformation about where, how, and when to access services; low literacy; lack of health insurance; and cultural differences related to health care practices and systems navigation.

Grant submissions

Jeannette O. Andrews PhD, RN, FNP, FAAN and Gayenell S. Magwood, PhD, RN submitted an R34 application titled, “Novel intervention linking public housing and primary care to prevent diabetes.” The goal of this R34 two year planning project is to develop, implement, and evaluate a pilot translational, multi-level diabetes prevention program (DPP) intervention. Intervening strategies will occur in the neighborhood, care coordination service, and primary care medical practice.

Janelle L. Wagner, PhD resubmitted an R21 application titled “Coping with epilepsy (COPE): A youth and caregiver self-management intervention.” The revised application represents an innovative, theory driven self-management intervention for a vulnerable population, families of youth with epilepsy. The overall aims of this study are to examine the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of the COPE intervention to improve self-management cognitions and behavior in youth with epilepsy and their caregivers.

Ida J. Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN, submitted a subcontract to Clemson University. The title of the study is “Predicting hypertension in subgroups of African American women.” Two aims are proposed: 1) Use psychosocial (depressive episode, SES, chronic burden, cognitive function, anger, racism) and demographic variables (age, education) to predict hypertension (HTN) risk in subgroups of African American women (AAW), and 2) Create a new workforce pool of underrepresented researchers to examine HTN in AAW. The long-term goal of this project is knowledge that informs health policy and subsequently decreases the incidence of HTN among all groups of AAW as well as a prepared workforce to better address this health issue.

Congratulations

Jill Marie Monfre successfully defended her final dissertation titled “Symptom intrusiveness, chronic conditions and health related quality of life: Development of conceptual and measurement models” on March 21. Her dissertation advisor is Teresa Kelechi, PhD, GCNS-BC, CWCN, FAAN.
Publications & presentations

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:

> Nemeth, L. “Use of information technology to systematically integrate preventive services into practice.” Preventive Medicine Conference, Orlando, FL, February 2012.


Spruill to receive ethics award

Ida J. Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Rutland Institute for Ethics Bringing Ethics Into Focus award. The award will be presented at the institute’s Tenth Anniversary Gala to be held on April 10 at Clemson University. Dr. Spruill was nominated by MUSC President Raymond Greenberg, MD, PhD.

The award recognizes significant efforts to bring about a more ethical environment within South Carolina. It distinguishes actions that bring about improvements to micro- and macro-environments ranging from small (classroom, work-team) to very large (region, school district, or state.)

The award committee was extremely impressed by the dramatic successes in engaging various African American communities in the Community-Based Participatory Research that Dr. Spruill conducts. The committee appreciates the deep and admirable ethical commitment to treating people with respect and to making access to health care more equitable for the underserved populations of her study.

As Dr. Greenberg noted, “The principles underlying [Dr. Spruill’s] efforts to report to the communities and share the outcomes of the research demonstrates a quality of respect and understanding rarely found in the most sophisticated methodologies. Her approach leads to much more effective research by making the subjects effective partners in the projects.”

“The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible.”
- Arthur Charles Clarke
Office of Practice shines on UMD students

On March 20, 13 University of Maryland (UMD) students spent the morning at the College as a part of UMD’s Alternative Spring Break program. The students spent the morning learning about the impact of the social determinants of health and their impact on population health. Romina McCandless, MPH and Deborah Williamson, DHA, RN, MSN lead an excellent discussion on examples of social determinants such as income level, education, and access to community resources. The group also participated in an interactive exercise that highlighted the difficulties experienced by some in securing needed resources.

The UMD students are public health or science majors interested in careers in health care. Afterwards, the students visited the Charleston Therapeutic Riding Center and PASOs, an outreach education and advocacy program for the Spanish speaking population in South Carolina.

PASOs’ very busy month

March was a very busy month for Charleston’s PASOs program thanks to the new PASOs radio show on local Spanish station 980 AM. The show, which airs on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m., is an outlet for PASOs to share important health and community information with the Tri-county community. The station has experienced an increase in call volume as a result of PASOs’ Romina McCandless and Judith Rundbaken’s regular participation. During the show, health information and resources are provided and listeners are encouraged to call in with questions. On average, the pair receive five phone calls per show.

Also keeping PASOs busy was community health lessons, a cultural competency class for Charleston County EMS, and a lecture on social determinants of health for 16 University of Maryland students visiting Charleston (see UMD story above). PASOs hopes by educating the community and health care

providers that it can help bridge the gaps that currently exist within the Hispanic community when it comes to accessing health care.

CON co-sponsors a community walking audit training

Together with the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and Eat Smart Move More, the College of Nursing co-sponsored an all day training on March 2, that taught participants how to conduct a community walkability audit. A community audit is an unbiased examination/evaluation of the environment. The general purpose of an audit is to identify concerns for users related to safety, access, comfort, and convenience of the environment for biking, walking, transit, and access to healthy foods for all users. In addition to identifying problem areas, an audit can be used to identify potential alternatives or solutions (such as engineering treatments, policy changes, or education and enforcement measures).

In the past, the College has used this type of audit with third semester BSN students as part of their Population Focused Nursing course. DHEC has lead such audits when possible. Several faculty and staff have completed this training, and it will now be a type of evaluation that can be offered for any CON group at any time throughout the year.

Abrazos teaches useful skill

For two days in mid-March, women enrolled in the Abrazos program filled the morning hours with lots of laughter. They were learning how to needlepoint. What initially appeared to be simple and easy turned into a challenging test of patience. Participants learned the basics of needlepoint and practiced different types of stitches. CON’s Maria Toler, an expert in sewing, embroidery and needlepoint, shared some of her skills with the women. At the completion of the program, the Abrazos participants were able to mend or decorate clothing.
Currently, the Federal Supreme Court is arguing the constitutionality of the mandate for health care insurance coverage from the federal government. Is the proposed Affordable Care Act constitutional? Can the federal government force individuals to purchase health insurance? The federal government points out that each and every American will use health care at some point in one’s life and that the need for expensive health care services can be unpredictable. People who do not purchase health insurance typically do not pay the full cost of the health care services that they end up consuming; therefore these costs are shifted to people who have insurance in the form of higher premiums and to the health care organization that must provide the care. The end result is overall higher healthcare costs, which as we know are skyrocketing out of control. There appears to be few other solutions to get the rapidly rising costs under control.

While they argue the constitutionality of the Act, we South Carolinians are asking ourselves, “Whatever the Supreme Court decides about the cost and reimbursement, who is going to provide the care?” The Association of American Medical Colleges has estimated that by 2020 the U.S. will face a shortage of 91,000 physicians, which is over 1,800 per state. South Carolina is a prime state that will suffer from these shortages.

Here in the College of Nursing we are preparing nurse practitioners to lead in the improvement of health care in our state. But we are frequently asked:

- Are nurse practitioners safe?
- Can they be trusted with the health care of the people of our state?
- Are nurse practitioners one of the keys to improving access to healthcare in SC?
- What about high consumers of health care with chronic diseases who live in SC?
- Can primary care nurse practitioners provide care to these consumers and reduce costs?
- What quality of care is provided by nurse practitioners?

These are very important questions that must be explored.

Regarding the issues of quality and safety, research shows that nurse practitioner care is equal to physician care in the primary care setting. The Mundinger group (2000) did a randomized controlled trial designed to compare the effectiveness of nurse practitioners to physicians where both were serving as primary care providers in the same type of environment with the same type of authority. The results showed that there were no differences in health status, physiologic measure, or patient satisfaction between the nurse practitioner care group and the physician care group at six months and one year.

Newhouse and colleagues (2011) provided a rigorous systematic review of research on care provided by advanced practice nurses. They concluded that adding an APRN to the healthcare team improved outcomes and quality of patient care. They demonstrated that APRNs are taking on an increasing role as providers in the healthcare system. In addition, they found that the use of the clinical nurse specialist in the acute care setting reduced the length of stay and the cost of care in the hospital setting. Study after study has similarly verified the quality and safety of care provided by nurse practitioners.

Furthermore, in states where APRNs have been granted full scope of practice, access has improved and consumers have more options. Currently Medicare and many private insurers reimburse NPs directly at a rate that is 85 percent of what physicians are paid. NPs have also demonstrated cost savings by ordering fewer diagnostic tests and changing medications less frequently. The Federal Trade Commission is encouraging state legislatures to eliminate legislated barriers to full scope of advanced nursing practice because they believe that nurse practitioners have demonstrated safe, quality care at a cost savings, allowing consumers to choose their provider.

We all need to closely monitor this discussion, as it will surely impact health care in our state. Nursing, which is focused on prevention, early diagnosis and care management, must play a greater role in designing and implementing healthcare strategies and solutions in SC. Here in the College of Nursing, we are proud to share with others that we are preparing primary care nurse practitioners who are ready and able to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Augustine recognized with Palmetto Gold Scholarship

Molly Augustine, a fourth semester student enrolled in the accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program, will receive a Palmetto Gold Scholarship at the Annual Gala scheduled for April 21 in Columbia, SC.

Molly is a wonderful representative of the College of Nursing. Last fall, she participated in a site visit from one of the Foundations which provide scholarship money for our students. She is a most articulate and confident student, speaking from the heart about her passion for the profession and how she has learned so much from our faculty about nursing. Selected to participate in our Hispanic Health Initiative Scholars Program, Molly was also a nominee for the Ruth Jaqui Skudlarek Scholarship and Award. She recently participated in a campus-wide panel presentation for Black History Month. She volunteers with the MUSC Alliance for Hispanic Health, is a member of the newly organized Multicultural Student Nurses Association, and a class representative on the College of Nursing Student Government Association.

Prior to her enrollment at MUSC, Molly was also a role model and leader at Furman University, where she earned her first bachelor’s degree. There, she participated in community outreach activities and was president of the women’s handball sports club. She has competed at the national and international level as a handball player, and had been coached by players from Romania, Croatia, Israel, Egypt, and Poland. She was selected to represent the United States in PanAm Games.

The Palmetto Gold Scholarship Program is the single largest scholarship program for undergraduate nursing students in SC.

CON student scholars present as part of MUSC Black History month

Three fourth semester students enrolled in the accelerated BSN degree program presented on February 22 as part of MUSC’s Black History month activities. Bedey Allshouse, Molly Augustine, and Kris Elmore were part of the “Dialogue on Diversity and Health Care Disparities” at the MUSC Student Commitment to Diverse Health Care - One Story Many Voices series. The topic of their presentation was “Transportation barriers limit access to health care and community resources among Hispanics.” Congratulations to these student scholars!

Convocation and graduation news

Convocation is the pinning ceremony for BSN students, and the hooding ceremony for MSN, DNP and PhD students. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 3 p.m. A rehearsal will be held Wednesday, May 16 at 3 p.m. The rehearsal is optional, however students have shared that it is most helpful to see where you will be sitting and receive instruction for pinning and hooing.

Graduates will wear their gown and hood, no caps to Convocation. You may wear any appropriate attire under your gown. A photographer will be at the event. Guests should dress appropriately and respectfully for a church setting.

Convocation and rehearsal will take place at The Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, 126 Coming Street. This is a beautiful facility in downtown Charleston. Graduates should plan to arrive by 2 p.m. for assistance with regalia and lining up for the processional. Limited parking is available across the street from the church and at garages at the Francis Marion Hotel on King Street, and the St. Phillip Street Parking Garage. The Visitors Center Garage off of Ann Street is also a close option. Carpooling is advised. Please limit your guests to 2 to 3 persons.

Graduation is Friday, May 18, 9 a.m. at the MUSC Horseshoe. Details for this event are at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/em/grad/grad_info.html.

There is no limit to the number of guests who may attend this special occasion. There will be additional seating in various auditoriums with a television broadcast of graduation.

Graduates are asked to arrive at their designated robing areas by 7:30 a.m. BSN, MSN, and DNP graduates will robe in the Institute of Psychiatry lobby. PhD graduates will robe in the Basic Sciences Building, room 204.

CONGRATULATIONS COLLEGE OF NURSING CLASS OF MAY 2012!