The grand news is that after 57 years, the College of Nursing is going to be renovated! Actually it will be more than just renovated; it will be transformed into a state-of-the-art nursing school. We will be gutting the hallways and literally rebuilding each floor from the inside out – new walls, flooring, windows, plumbing, heat and air conditioning, roof, and elevators.

For those of you who have walked these halls, you may know that the College of Nursing was originally built in 1955 for a cost of $1 million. This five-story structure combined education, recreation, and dormitory areas all under one roof. The ground floor had classrooms, offices, and a dining room. The second floor was essentially for recreation and administration. This floor was also planned for conversion to classrooms and offices as expansion continued. The second floor was essentially for recreation and administration. This floor was also planned for conversion to classrooms and offices as expansion continued. The second floor was essentially for recreation and administration. This floor was also planned for conversion to classrooms and offices as expansion continued. The second floor was essentially for recreation and administration. This floor was also planned for conversion to classrooms and offices as expansion continued.

So our fine building has a rich history and one that we want to preserve as we launch our renovation. To that end, we have met with University archivists, Susan Hoffius and Brooke Fox, to discuss how we will be preserving our historical artifacts in the College. They will be conducting a thorough inventory of the contents of our building, guiding us with critical decisions about what is of significant historical value, what the state requires that we preserve, and what items can be either stored or discarded. We will also have an appraiser come to inform us about some of our treasured possessions.

Like any “home” we have acquired a great deal of papers and items over the years. And like any “home” that is moving, this is an ideal time to do a house cleaning as we make way for the days ahead. As one of the oldest Colleges of Nursing in the country we are truly proud of our rich heritage and we promise to move through the renovation process carefully and thoughtfully as we preserve our celebrated past to inform our glorious future.....Gail
College of Nursing jumps in NIH ranking

RESEARCH FUNDING BREAKS THE TOP 30; FEDERAL SUPPORT INCREASES 38 PERCENT

The MUSC College of Nursing is now ranked 30th among all colleges of nursing in the National Institute of Health’s (NIH) annual ranking of research funding. This is the College’s highest NIH ranking to date, and reflects both the increase in the number and scope of research funding from the NIH. The latest ranking represents a 38 percent jump from a ranking of 48 in 2010 to breaking the top 30 in 2011. The MUSC College of Nursing is working toward achieving a top 25 ranking over the next two years.

According to the NIH’s annual data and analysis on funded projects, the MUSC College of Nursing continues to surpass all nursing schools in South Carolina and is now ranked 4th in the southeast. In academic circles, grants and contracts from federal sources, including NIH, are considered among the most competitive and coveted funding sources.

The reason for this significant jump in ranking is the MUSC College of Nursing’s two centers, SCTr Center for Community Health Partnerships and the Technology Applications Center for Healthful Lifestyles. Both centers are leading faculty developed research initiatives and submitting interprofessional grant proposals that strongly appeal to the NIH. The majority of the funded research focuses on community based behavioral interventions and technology based innovations (i.e., mobile phone applications) to improve health outcomes. Despite the challenging economic times and flattening of NIH funding, the College’s faculty have enjoyed a 50 percent success rate in NIH funding over the past four years.

“Our two Centers that advance translational research in both community practices and community settings have played a pivotal role in making the MUSC College of Nursing a national leader in improving health care of disparate communities,” says Jeannette Andrews PhD, RN, associate dean for research and the director of SCTr Center for Community Health Partnerships. “The type of research we are conducting at MUSC is on the cutting edge of health care transformation with the implementation of innovative interventions for transitional care, primary care, and community adoption of healthy behaviors.”

“This achievement is a team effort that requires not only the expertise of our faculty, but also the specialized skills of the staff in our Office of Research and two Centers,” says Andrews.

The College will continue to work with colleagues from MUSC and other institutions across the country in order to make a positive impact on the communities they serve. “The impressive growth in our NIH research funding further reflects the transformation of our MUSC College of Nursing over the past decade as we have become one of the leading nursing schools in the country,” says Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, dean of the MUSC College of Nursing. “Boosting our funded research is essential to the quality of our doctoral programs and our ability to recruit and retain exceptional students and faculty. Our future is bright.”

CON investigators

Four faculty members currently have five NIH/R01 awards, and there are several additional proposals currently being reviewed at NIH. Over the next two to three years, we expect to have at least 10 NIH/R01 awards from at least seven to eight faculty researchers.

“A Social Ecological Based Smoking Cessation Intervention for Women in Public Housing Neighborhoods.”

“Preventing Venous Leg Ulcers with Cryotherapy: A Randomized Clinical Trial.”

“Ethno-Cultural Barriers to Health Literacy/ Disease Management in African Americans.”

“Sociodemographic Regulation of CV Function and Structure.” and “Stress Reduction: Impact on BP in African American Youth.”
Access to care: Just what does that mean for SC?

By Carole Bennett, PhD, APRN, BC, PMH, CNS

As the discussion about access to health care wages on across the country, the argument largely focuses on health care reimbursement coverage as the somewhat politically precarious solution. The health reform law’s coverage expansion will vary by state, but each region of the country is expected to reduce its uninsured population by roughly half. About 30 million people are expected to obtain health coverage through private health plans or Medicaid by the end of the decade, leaving about 20 million without coverage. It is estimated that approximately 60 to 70 percent of South Carolina’s uninsured will become covered by the implementation of the Affordable Care Act; therefore, between 600,000 and 700,000 South Carolinians will be newly added to the health care rolls.

In urban areas of the state. In addition, American Community Survey data from 2010 reports that 21.4 percent of the rural population has not completed high school, compared to 15.6 percent of urban populations.

While poverty, unemployment, and education are a few of the disparities that play an important role in health, geography of healthcare providers is also very relevant to rural SC residents. The palmetto state covers 30,109 square miles, with a 2010 estimated population of 4.6 million people. Of this population, a little over 1 million SC residents live in the rural areas. Rural residents are older, poorer, and have fewer physicians to care for them.

Recently, the AARP (American Association of Retired People) has begun to advocate for the rural elderly. They report that, based on 40 years of research, advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) provide high quality, safe care, and the AARP feels nurse practitioners are urgently needed to expand primary care services especially in rural communities like those that are found across the landscape of SC.

However, as providers, including primary care physicians and nurse practitioners, are clustered in urban areas like Charleston, Greenville, and Florence, very few practice in the counties of Union, McCormick, and Marlboro. AARP’s publication Access to Care and Advanced Practice Nurses: A Review of Southern Practice Laws encourages governors and state legislatures to re-evaluate regulatory practices that prevent broader utilization of nurse practitioners which the AARP feels are a valuable resource. Many states have already eliminated the supervision of APRNs by physicians, which the AARP sees the regulation as a legislated barrier. In addition, South Carolina has a unique rule, known as the “45 mile rule,” that states that in order to practice in the extended role such as diagnosing and/or prescribing, an APRN must be within 45 miles of her physician supervisor.

This rule, as well as others, has prevented APRNs from practicing both in urban and rural settings, but especially in rural areas of SC. This rule binds nurse practitioners by the geography of their physician supervisor.

“There are 62 million rural Americans, and only about 10 percent of physicians today practice in rural areas,” said Alan Morgan, CEO of the National Rural Health Association. “Throw on top of that the Affordable Care Act – the numbers are going in the wrong direction.” To add to the problem, about 27 percent of rural primary care physicians are older than 55 and will be looking to retire if possible. Another hurdle that nurse practitioners in SC have to face is that the number of nurse practitioners that a physician can supervise is limited. Therefore as the number of medical doctors practicing family medicine in rural areas dwindles, SC faces an uphill battle on the future of providing adequate health care to its citizens.

All this begs these questions to be answered...How will we provide quality care to rural SC residents? Where will these 600,000 newly covered people get health-care? What can we do to better utilize the APRN workforce in our state? What do you think? Have an opinion? Contact Carole Bennett at bennettc@musc.edu.

According to the USDA Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS), the average per-capita income for SC residents in 2009 was $32,505, although rural per-capita income lagged at $29,848. The USDA-ERS also states the unemployment rate in rural SC is 13.8 percent, while in urban areas it is 10.4 percent. Estimates from 2010 indicate a poverty rate of 21.7 percent exists in rural SC, compared to 17 percent
Introducing MOX...MUSC’s new mobile app

Enrollment Management has rolled out a new mobile application called MOX. MOX is a free app for your iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, or Android mobile device that will allow you to have instant access to courses, Moodle class assignments, important numbers, campus maps, and broadcast messages. Students can download this free app and access their Moodle courses on their phone. This app is great for quick access to check for information, messages, etc...without going to a computer. To download, visit http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/studentservices/mox_access.htm

PASOs news

Last month, PASOs joined the Alliance for Hispanic Health along with several CON students and various volunteers to participate in a health fair held in North Charleston. During the event, volunteers assisted with HIV, glucose, and BMI screenings, as well as blood pressure readings. Free flu shots were also provided as were folic acid vitamins for women of reproductive age. Health fair attendees who were noted to need additional medical assistance will be followed by PASOs to ensure they are able to access the services they need. Overall, the event was a success and many attendees were appreciative of the care that was received.

MUSC becomes smoke-free

An important new policy will be implemented soon on the MUSC campus. Acting upon the recommendations of the Student Government Association and the faculty senate, the MUSC Board of Trustees recently determined that MUSC will become a totally tobacco-free campus. The new policy will become effective March 1.

As South Carolina’s academic health center and home to the only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer institute in the state, it is a part of MUSC’s mission to prevent cancer and to lead by example in providing the healthiest environment possible for everyone on our campus.

MUSC will be offering smoking cessation classes and other available support and resources for employees and students to encourage a healthier lifestyle. To view the tobacco free campus policy, go to http://www.musc.edu/hrm2/policies/policy49.pdf.

Clearing the air

Tobacco & Smoke Free Campus

> 03.01.12

New MUSC license plates

Be the first to ride in style with the new MUSC license plate. For the first 100 plates, the cost is $70 per plate; $40 of the money will go to the Office of Alumni Affairs and will be used exclusively for MUSC scholarships. After 100 inaugural plates have been issued the cost will rise to $100 per plate. An application must be completed for each plate (i.e. if you desire plates for two cars, you must complete two applications and submit two checks). Applications can be found the SC DMV link: http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/forms.aspx under “Vehicle License Plates Forms” (Form MV-95).

Complete required information, insurance information and certification in boxes on page 1 of the application. Make a check payable to SC DMV for $70 (inaugural plates will be at reduced rate; you will be notified by SC DMV if you are required to pay the additional $30). Return application form and check to: Jeannie Grooms; MUSC Office of Alumni Affairs; 261 Calhoun Street, Ste 306; MSC 182; Charleston, SC 29425.

If you have any questions, contact Jeannie Grooms at Office of Alumni Affairs (843) 792-3433 or groomsj@musc.edu.
MARCH
8 THURSDAY
Robert Wood Johnson Scholars Dinner
Rue de Jean (39 Rue de Jean)
6:30 p.m.

12-16 MONDAY - FRIDAY
Spring Break

31 SATURDAY
Cooper River Bridge Run

APRIL
12-14 MONDAY - FRIDAY
MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting

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

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

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 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.
Grant submissions

Pamela Holtzclaw Williams, JD, PhD, RN submitted an application to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) for the Nurse Faculty Scholars Program titled “Rare Disease Community/Academic Partnerships: Model Cases.” The study objectives are to frame and empower virtual communities with rare disease to use community based participatory research partnership approaches and information technology, to prepare for future intervention development and influencing policy that addresses their healthcare delivery needs and disparities.

Pam also submitted an application to the Alpha-1 Foundation titled “Measuring and Comparing Social Impact of AATD.” The long range objective is to establish an academic-community based participatory research partnership to serve as a platform for sustaining a future program of intervention focused research addressing social implications of living with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD), using instrumentation adapted in this study to measure and show that the genetic and/or low prevalence components of AATD are independent, quantifiable variables that influence measureable levels of illness impact.

Teresa J. Kelechi, PhD, RN, FAAN submitted an R21 application titled “Bluetooth™ Enabled Accelerometer Tracking (BEAT) Technology for Leg Ulcer Patients” to the National Institutes of Health. This application represents an innovative, technology intervention in which a wireless accelerometer and a smartphone will enable data on physical activity to be captured, transmitted, and interpreted for clinical application. The mobile health strategy will promote a self-management prevention approach in a leg ulcer population with severely de-conditioned legs and who are underserved without access to physical activity programs. It will also involve clinical feedback and serve as a reminder system to engage in targeted, small steps exercises that, in the long-term, might also improve ulcer healing. The overall aim is to test a home-based small steps physical activity strategy using reliable and valid accelerometer and cell phone technologies.

Berry S. Anderson, PhD, RN submitted an application to the American Psychiatric Nurses Foundation titled “Technology Enhanced Behavioral Activation Counseling (eBAC) by Nurses: Feasibility Study for Depressed Cancer Patient.” The aims are 1) to evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of technology enhanced behavioral activation counseling treatment for depression to include treatment fidelity, attrition, recruitment efforts, and to refine intervention protocols if warranted, and 2) to estimate variability of outcome measurements and effect sizes needed to inform a larger, adequately powered, randomized clinical trial of the eBAC.

Deborah Williamson, DHA, CNM, submitted an application to the Trident United Way titled “Charleston PASOs – Improving Access to Health Services for the Tricounty Hispanic Community.” Charleston PASOs plan to implement strategies to increase access to health care through collaboration with local health, social, and academic professionals, as well as Hispanic community members and leaders. Charleston PASOs will provide a coordinated support service that improves health care access by diminishing or removing multiple barriers that prevent Hispanic families from being able to contact necessary health and social services in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties. Barriers addressed by PASOs 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 healthcare practices and systems navigation.

Martina Mueller, PhD resubmitted a subcontract to the University of Florida. The title of the study is “Adequate Breast Milk for Improved Health of Very Low Birth Weight Preterm Infants.” The overall objective of this 3-year study is to identify a means wherein mothers of very low birth weight (VLBW) infants can provide a more adequate breast milk supply and in doing so foster their sense of self-efficacy, and improve health outcomes in their VLBW infants.

“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.” – Albert Szent-Gyorgyi
SNRS presentations

All presentations listed below were presented at the Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Conference held in New Orleans, LA, in February 2012.

> Elaine Amella, Angela Fraser, Martina Mueller. “Cooking Healthy-Eating Smart (CHES): Formative Steps to Develop a Community-Based Nutrition Program for Rural Older Adults.”


> Melissa Aselegue (PhD graduate), Elaine Amella, Martina Mueller, Jane Zapka, Cornelia Beck. “Feasibility of a Web-based Dementia Feeding Skills Training Module for Nursing Home Staff.”

> Carolyn Jenkins, Marilyn Laken. “A Statewide Community Participatory SWOT Analysis for Improving Diabetes in South Carolina.”

> Betsy Kennedy (PhD student), Elaine Amella. “A Comparison of Disciplinary Contexts Using Evolutionary Concept Analysis.”

> Collette Loftin (PhD graduate). “Diversity in Texas Nursing Programs.”

> Robin E. Matutina, Teresa J. Kel-echi, Martina Mueller, Carolyn H. Jenkins, Jordy Johnson. “Educational Interventions For Middle School Students To Improve The Perception Of Nursing As A Future Career Choice.”


> Lilo Fink (PhD student), Kathy Van Ravenstein (PhD student), Lynne Nemeth. “Healthcare Providers’ Attitudes Towards Treating a Patients with Fibromyalgia”

> Tara O’Brien (student, Lynne Nemeth, Laura Talbot. “Social Stress, Family Influences, and Folk Health Behaviors Among Older Obese Appalachian Women.”

> Judy Mikhail (PhD student), Lynne Nemeth, Martina Mueller. “Insurance and Trauma Patient Outcomes in a Level I Trauma Center.”

> Leslie Parker (PhD graduate). “Effect of Early Versus Late Breast Milk Expression in Mothers of Very Low Birth Weight Infants on Milk Volume and Lactogenesis Stage II.”


> Suzanne Sutton (PhD student). “Clinical Reasoning in Graduate Prelicensure Students.”

> Pamela Williams. “Community Seeking Behaviors in Persons with Alpha One: A Formative Capacity Assessment for CBPR Approaches.”

> Gia Mudd, Pamela Williams, Lorraine Frazier. “Stewardship Methods for Genetic Biobanking Samples in Community Based Research.”

Kudos

Brian Conner, PhD, RN has been granted appointment as an associate member of the graduate faculty through the College of Graduate Studies. He will remain as assistant professor at the College of Nursing.

Professor Elaine Amella, PhD, RN, FAAN will be a guest faculty member this summer at the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing Research Scholars Program. This is an opportunity for researchers in academia or hospitals to participate in a week-long, intensive, summer seminar at NYU College of Nursing for an in-depth mentoring experience with nationally recognized gerontologic nursing researchers.

PhD student Rebecca Freeman PhD(c), RN, CEN, PMP is MUSC’s first Chief Nursing Information Officer (CNIO). As CNIO, Rebecca will partner in design and oversight of health IT facets of the enterprise-wide MUSC Health Strategic Plan. In addition, she will provide strategic and operational nursing leadership in the development, deployment, re-engineering and integration of clinical information systems to support clinicians and patient service. She will lead the MUHA Nursing Informatics team.

Congratulations

Shannon Hudson successfully defended her dissertation proposal on February 2. Her dissertation advisor is Marilyn Laken, PhD, RN, FAAN.
Student feedback counts

In response to student and faculty input, a revised accelerated BSN plan of study will be implemented for students beginning in fall 2012. There will be no changes to program length, clinical or credit hours; however there will be a modification in the delivery of content.

Currently, Pathophysiology (3SH) is offered during the first semester and Pharmacology (3SH) during second semester. Beginning in fall 2012, we will combine the two courses into one, but will deliver the full content throughout the first AND second semesters. Another significant change will be to remove the Pediatric course from the third semester curriculum and place it into the fourth semester. This will evenly distribute all the clinical courses across the plan of study. There will be an alternative plan of study for any current students who are unsuccessful in the current curriculum.

Benedict tapped for MUSC Medical Center Scholarship

First semester accelerated BSN student, Laurie Benedict, a graduate of the College of Charleston, has been selected to receive the MUSC Medical Center Scholarship. This $30,000 scholarship distributed evenly over four semesters is awarded to a student entering the program each fall and spring semester. Students have a two-year work commitment to the Medical Center following graduation.

MSNA elects new officers

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and appointed leaders of the Multicultural Student Nurses Association!

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION

President | Erica Rutledge • President-elect | April Dove
Recording Secretary | Michelle Wilkins • Corresponding Secretary | Lauren Bridgers
Treasurer | Jeanette Figueroa • Corresponding Treasurer | Pam Dean

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fundraising | Jill Norris • PR | Caroline Wallinger
Social & Cultural | Shaquinta Wright • Volunteer | Aminah Fraser-Khan
Historian | Nicole Stasko • Campus Liaison | Sylvia Panos

Welcome HHI Scholars Cohort 12

The Hispanic Health Initiative (HHI) is becoming a popular program among CON students. Nearly 50 percent of second semester students applied to be part of this effort to decrease health disparities in the Latino population. The HHI program is designed to give selected students specific opportunities to work with the Hispanic community during their third semester, as well as improve their knowledge about health disparities. Many of the students will continue to work on projects related to this population during their fourth semester. We are pleased to welcome the following students into the HHI Scholar program: Ashley Brown, Janette Figueroa, Aminah Fraser-Khan, Lillian Jandacek, Cameron Matthews, Lauren Nassr, Lindsay Odell, Joseph Powell, Emily Rodriguez, and Megan Squires.

Opportunity to make significant impact on the health outcomes through new MUSC program

Anna Tecklenburg, CON program coordinator, is helping to coordinate a new program at MUSC called HealthLinks. HealthLinks will mobilize student volunteers to connect patients with non-medical resources. This program was initiated at the request of MUSC President Raymond Greenberg and is modeled after Health Leads, a national program. Health Leads is a straightforward, preventative referrals program that links patients to government and community resources that will enable families to avert crises and access education opportunities, which can result in a better long-term health outcome.

The MUSC program will begin operating on June 4 in the pediatric clinic at MUSC with College of Medicine and College of Nursing students behind the desk. This first group of students will be essential in shaping and designing the new program.

The plan is to expand the program in the fall to another clinic at MUSC and open up the opportunity to the College of Charleston and the Charleston School of Law students to volunteer. If you would like more information about HealthLinks or how you can be involved, contact Anna at tecklenb@musc.edu.

“The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.”

– Michelangelo