The generous month of May
By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

May is one of my favorite months. It has spring flowers, balmy breezes, Nurse’s Week, Mother’s Day, and graduation! What could be finer? May is also Mental Health Month. That reminds me of my yearly good intentions that bloom in my mind this month like the flowers in my garden. These include such things as:

- Connecting with others
- Staying positive
- Getting physically active
- Helping others
- Getting enough sleep
- Creating joy and satisfaction
- Eating healthy
- Reducing stress

These are all great reminders of things that somehow seem to fall out of my daily planner as my individual days get more and more hectic.

That said, the past few weeks I have been thinking a lot about one particular quality that I think is also critically important to our collective mental health. It is the gift of generosity - generosity in spirit, intentions, knowledge and action. Generosity means giving freely without expecting anything in return.

I am reminded that the pin of the College of Nursing that we give to our graduates at graduation has the inscription “Auget Largiendo” meaning “She, the College, gives generously.” This is a wonderful reflection of how we all should live our lives. Giving generously to others is really a two way street because what we give to others comes back to enrich our lives in new and meaningful ways.

So this month, in addition to enjoying the beauty of spring, take some time to consider how you might share what you have with those around you and say “yes” to those whom you can help in the true spirit of generosity….Gail
CON joins forces with First Lady and Dr. Biden

As part of the White House’s Joining Forces campaign, First Lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, Ph.D. announced a commitment from nurses across the country eager to serve our veterans and military families as well as they have served us. In a broad, coordinated effort, more than 150 state and national nursing organizations and over 500 nursing schools including the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Nursing committed to further educate our nation’s three million nurses so they are prepared to meet the unique health needs of service members, veterans, and their families. Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean, was one of only 20 nursing deans nationwide invited to attend the April 11 campaign event in Philadelphia, PA with the First Lady and Dr. Biden.

“It was a true honor to meet with Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden and join them in the launch of this important initiative. It is clear that they regard nurses with the highest respect and look to them for leadership in improving the health care of our veterans,” said Dr. Stuart.

Nursing organizations and schools around the country have committed to educating current and future nurses on how to recognize and care for veterans impacted by post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, and other combat-related issues, in ways appropriate to each nurse’s practice setting.

“Whether we’re in a hospital, a doctor’s office or a community health center, nurses are often the first people we see when we walk through the door. Because of their expertise, they are trusted to be the frontline of America’s health care system,” said First Lady Michelle Obama.

The invisible wounds of war, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), have impacted approximately one in six of our troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq – more than 300,000 veterans. And since 2000, more than 44,000 of those troops have suffered at least a moderate-grade traumatic brain injury.

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

CON’s Staff of the Year selected

Congratulations to Yolanda Long for receiving the 2012 CON Staff of the Year Award. Yolanda came to work in the College of Nursing in 2008. She began employment at MUSC in the SC Geriatric Education Center in 2003 and later worked in the Pediatrics/Children’s Research Institute before joining the College. Many of those who nominated her speak of her exceptional customer service skills as well as her sense of humor, graciousness, and generosity. She is a true professional, even when balancing the competing demands of her job in the Office of Academics. Her compassion, unwavering assistance and support of the PhD students and faculty make her the epitome of MUSC Excellence.

The College is fortunate to have many outstanding support staff. This is evident once again in the comments received as part of the Staff of the Year award process. Below are just a few quotes….

> Arly Douglass is the anchor of the MSN/DNP program. She is enthusiastic about her role and willing to learn whatever is needed. She is professional, accountable and helpful to both students and faculty.

> Sabrina Green goes above and beyond her own job duties. She is truly an example of a great co-worker and CON team player! Sabrina seems to truly enjoy the challenges of her work and views them as rewarding.

> Beth Khan over achieves and over delivers in every aspect of her job. She is willing to help, regardless of the request.

> Joanne Langdale lives and breathes good attitude and cooperation. I appreciate the standards she upholds; in the end it makes my job easier. I believe she is a stellar example of the CON values.

> Maria Toler is a real jewel in the CON. She has considerable talents and has used them to build the image of the CON. Maria exemplifies everything that makes me look forward to coming to work!

> Raquel Vining consistently exudes humble, precise, and dedicated contributions to the College of Nursing. She ensures others are left with that warm sense of comfort knowing she’s on the job.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### MAY

**10** THURSDAY  
Confederate Memorial Day  
State holiday - CON open

**16** WEDNESDAY  
CON Convocation REHEARSAL  
The Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul  
126 Coming St.  
3 p.m.

**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

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### Attention Graduates

**MAY 17 • CONVOCATION**  
All graduates should arrive at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul (126 Coming St.) by 2 p.m. to dress in their regalia and line-up for the processional.

**MAY 18 • GRADUATION**  
All BSN, MSN, and DNP graduates should report to the IOP Auditorium Lobby by 7:30 a.m.  
All PhD graduates should report to the Basic Sciences Bldg. (room 204) by 7:30 a.m.

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**Why is this woman so happy?**

Because she is going on a new adventure.  
Come say goodbye to Sally Stroud.  
May 21 at 3 p.m.  
Historical Library

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**WOWZER!**  
829 LIKES!  
CAN WE MAKE IT 1,000?  
Support of the MUSC College of Nursing.  
Click on the link below and “Like” us!  
www.facebook.com/MUSC.College.of.Nursing
Convocation and graduation details

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 hooding.

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 two to three persons.

Graduation is Friday, May 18, 9 a.m. at the MUSC Horsehoe. For more details visit 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.

VA selected for residency program

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center has been approved by the Veterans Health Administration as a site for the post-baccalaureate nurse residency program. The VA Medical Center was one of 12 proposals reviewed by an expert panel.

The post-baccalaureate nurse residency is a year long program that pairs new Bachelor of Science in nursing degree graduates with preceptors and mentors. They experience extensive orientation and training throughout the year. The goal is to provide a structured transition experience from new graduate to professional nurse. A nurturing environment also is provided by experienced nurse preceptors and VANA faculty working on the units.

Hip, hip hooray!

We had a busy month in April for some our stellar PhD students. Congratulations to the following PhD students who passed their comps or dissertation defenses:

SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED FINAL DISSERTATION

Katherine A. Atassi (advisor: Dr. Lynne Nemeth)
“Adapting the PPRNet TRIP QI Model to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening in Primary Care: A Feasibility Study”

Genevieve M. Thul (advisor: Dr. Gail Gilden)
“Reliability of Vital Sign Evaluation Methods in Nursing Education”

SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED DISSERTATION PROPOSAL

Teresa Carnevale (advisor: Dr. Gail Stuart)

Lynette Smith (advisor: Dr. Gail Stuart)

PASSED COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Judy Mikhail (advisor: Dr. Charlene Pope)

Kimberly A. Sell (advisor: Dr. Elaine Amella)

Blythe H. Winburn (advisor: Dr. Charlene Pope)

“You never know what is around the corner unless you peek... Take your risks now.”

— Amy Poehler
Funded grants

Congratulations to Pamela Holtzclaw Williams, JD, PhD, RN. She has been selected as one of the first to be funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for her application titled, “A Community Partnership Approach For Advancing Burden Measurement in Rare Genetic Conditions”. This pilot study proposes the beginning of a long-range process of burden measurement development with goals for developing domains generalizable for measurement across a multitude of rare diseases. The strategy is to begin a measurement tool’s conceptualization, field-testing, and validation in a narrow population for future dissemination to other populations with rare disease. Individuals living with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD, Alpha-1) are the proposed starting “narrow population.”

Charlene Pope and her team at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center (Neal Axon, MD, Karen Lukacs, MSN, Gregory Gilbert, EdD, MSPH, Bertha North-Lee, AA) were awarded a VA CHF QUERI Pilot grant titled, “Veteran-centric care for complicated heart failure: Stepped-up services (SUS-CHF).” This grant will be conduct a series of interviews with Veterans who have Class III and Class IV heart failure to develop an intervention that will improve services.

Grants submitted

Sally D. Stroud, EdD, APRN, BC submitted a competing continuation application to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) funding opportunity announcement. This application is a request for financial loan support for students enrolled in a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program (both programs have post-BSN and post-MSN options) and students enrolled in a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program at the College of Nursing.

Sally also submitted another competing continuation application to the National REACH Coalition – Community Transformation Grant titled, “REACH U.S. SEA-CEED CTG (Community Transformation Grant).” The objective of this grant is to improve and increase high blood pressure control by five percent in African Americans who visit their primary care provider more than two times per year between May 1, 2012 and March 30, 2013.

Gail W. Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN and Robin L. Bissinger, PhD, APRN, NNP-BC submitted an application to the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation titled, “Expanding the pipeline of primary care nurse practitioners in SC.” The purpose of this application is seeking funds to sustain and grow the DNP program, which educates primary care nurse practitioners critically needed in South Carolina.

Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN-BC-ADM, RD, FAAN submitted an application to the National REACH Coalition – Community Transformation Grant titled, “REACH U.S. SEA-CEED CTG (Community Transformation Grant).” The objective of this grant is to improve and increase high blood pressure control by five percent in African Americans who visit their primary care provider more than two times per year between May 1, 2012 and March 30, 2013.

Publications & presentations

PUBLICATIONS:

POSTER PRESENTATION:
March for Babies

On April 25, the MUSC College of Nursing was applauded by the executive director of the March of Dimes Foundation, Meredith Repik, for its contribution to the March for Babies Campaign.

Although other MUSC Departments were significantly larger in numbers of employees, the College of Nursing showed its true team spirit with donations coming from a variety of sources including emeritus faculty, the MUSC Women’s Club, former students, current students, faculty, staff, staff’s family members, and Roper nurses. All donations totaled $1,140. A huge thank you goes to Maria Toler for her tenacious fund raising abilities, and Maria’s two team walkers, Kathy Williams and her daughter, Tiffanie.

Simulated Interprofessional Rounding Experiences (SIRE Project)

MUSC students from medicine, pharmacy, health professions and nursing received Team STEPPS training, which is an evidence-based teamwork system aimed at optimizing patient outcomes by improving communication and teamwork skills among health care professionals. It includes a comprehensive set of ready-to-use materials and a training curriculum to successfully integrate teamwork principles into any health care system. The students then participated in two days of simulated interprofessional (IP) rounding experiences in teams utilizing complex patient scenarios in the MUSC Simulation Center. Focus was on IP communication and producing higher quality, safer patient care by:

• Producing highly effective health care teams that optimize the use of information, people, and resources to achieve the best clinical outcomes for patients.
• Increasing team awareness and clarifying team roles and responsibilities.
• Resolving conflicts and improving information sharing.
• Eliminating barriers to quality and safety.

Students participating in the SIRE Project included second and fourth semester students from Adult Health II and Synthesis Practicum. They are Becky Allshouse, Dawn Alston, Sarah Badley, Kelly Brothers, Lisa Carracher, Heather Criddle, Chris Daneault, Sarah Didow, Elina DiMeglio, Allynson Dodson, Kris Elmore, Katrina Evans, Aminah Fraser, Lindsey Feldt, Imani Fickling, Amanda Green, McRae Hamer, Kristen Hindman, Aaron Huber, Lauren Johnson, Ashley Kelly, Jennifer Koon, Brooke Kotcella, Dale Lullo, Brett Mills, Jill Norris, Lindsay Odell, Anne Powell, Joey Powell, Veronica Ramos, Erica Rutledge, Megan Squires, Brianna Smith, Eric Szeczydki, Edwin Triplett, Caroline Wallinger

CON’s newest family member

On March 8, Ruthie Conner, assistant professor, and her husband, Greg, welcomed a baby girl into the world. Baby Olivia Rose Conner weighed in at 7.3 pounds and measured 20 inches. Congratulations to the Conner family.

“ You can’t live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.”
— John Wooden
Moving toward consensus  
By Carole Bennett, PhD, APRN, BC, PMH, CNS

With over 267,000 APRNs in the U.S., advanced practice nurses represent an important and rapidly growing workforce in the health care delivery system. However, with each state having widely varying definitions and regulations, the ability to fully harness this workforce is hampered. Therefore, the National Council for State Boards of Nursing has been developing a consensus model for APRN regulation. Forty eight national nursing organizations for advanced practice have “signed on” to the consensus model and many states are moving toward its adoption.

APRN regulation includes the essential elements: licensure, accreditation, certification and education (LACE).

- **Licensure** is the granting of authority to practice.
- **Accreditation** is the formal review and approval by a recognized agency of educational degree or certification programs in nursing or nursing-related programs.
- **Certification** is the formal recognition of the knowledge, skills, and experience demonstrated by the achievement of standards identified by the profession.
- **Education** is the formal preparation of APRNs in graduate degree-granting or post-graduate certificate programs.

**Foundational requirements for licensure**

Boards of nursing will be solely responsible for licensing APRNs in the categories of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Clinical Nurse Specialist or Certified Nurse Practitioner within a specific population focus, who will be graduates of accredited graduate programs. Certification is required by national certifying examination that is congruent with the person’s education. The APRN is licensed as an independent practitioner with no regulatory requirements for collaboration, supervision, or direction. It is further recommended that the board have one representative on the board and an advisory committee that includes all four representative roles. Practicing APRNs will be grandfathered into these requirements.

**Foundational requirements for accreditation**

Accreditors will be responsible for evaluating APRN educational programs to include advanced practice nursing core competencies, role competencies, and population core competencies. Programs will be reviewed as they are developing (before students are admitted) and continuously monitored throughout the accreditation period.

**Foundational Requirements for certification**

The national certifying body shall be the testing body and provide a psychometrically sound, legally defensible examination for competency across at least one population foci as described above (see competencies of educational programs). These examinations will assess specialty competencies. The organizations will provide a mechanism to ensure ongoing competence and maintenance of certifications and will communicate results with boards and schools of nursing.

**Foundational Requirements for education**

Educational programs will be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The accreditation process will be completed prior to admitting students. The educational program will ensure that students are eligible for national certification and state licensure and that official transcripts specify the role and population focus.

(Continued on page 8)
Research has shown that states which have more favorable regulation are better able to retain APRNs. In fact the five states with the greatest reported percentage of nurse practitioners in rural areas are Vermont (56 percent), South Dakota (50 percent), Wyoming (43 percent), and Maine (39 percent).

Their scores, in regards to moving toward consensus are as follows:

- Vermont (28) - consensus achieved
- South Dakota (14) - no independent practice
- Wyoming (24) - with full independent practice and prescribing
- Maine (25) - including independent practice and prescribing

Like these states South Carolina is rural and underserved. In order to achieve full access to health care in rural areas for South Carolinians full scope of practice for APRNs is needed. This would mean a score of 28, including independent practice and independent licensing, moving toward consensus.
**McCall inducted into MUSC Leadership Society**

Ashleigh McCall, fourth semester accelerated BSN student has been selected for membership in the MUSC Student Leadership Society. The induction took place on April 11 at the Marriott Hotel on Lockwood Blvd.

Eight MUSC students were selected for this prestigious group. Each student was presented with a plaque and $1,500 scholarship. Students selected for this award have made MUSC a better place though their service and contributions by the example they set for others through their character, integrity, and spirit of giving. A selection committee of faculty, staff, and university administrators reviewed the nominations and made the final selection. Fourth semester accelerated BSN student, Kristen Elmore was also nominated for the Society.

In addition to Ashleigh’s recognition, fourth semester student Lindsey Palmer was presented with the Most Outstanding Volunteer Award and the newly formed Multicultural Student Nursing Organization was named Most Outstanding Group by the MUSC Gives Back Office.

**2012-2013 Presidential Scholars Announced**

Congratulations to College of Nursing students selected for the 2012-2013 Presidential Scholars: Lindsey Felkl, Zora Johnson, Ashley Kelly, Erica Rutledge, and Marie Thomas. These students were selected from a competitive applicant pool from each of the six colleges at MUSC. The mission of the Presidential Scholars is to explore the complex social, political, and human issues that shape the delivery of health care services in South Carolina.

**CON Students Recognized at Earl B. Higgins Achievement in Diversity Award Ceremony**

Fourth semester accelerated BSN student Ashleigh McCall and second semester accelerated BSN student Aminah Fraser-Khan were recognized at the Earl B. Higgins Achievement in Diversity Award Ceremony on April 4.

Ashleigh was one of four MUSC students nominated for the Earl B. Higgins Achievement in Diversity Award. This award is presented to one employee and one student annually in recognition of their extraordinary strides and contributions in promoting diversity. Community outreach is Ashleigh’s calling. While her list of activities is long, she was a leader in the Student Health Professionals United in Recognizing Diversity organization, participated in the Tri-County Black Nurses Association Annual Community Health Day Conference and Health Expo, and the Community Health Fair – Central Mosque of Charleston. She clearly enjoys all interactions with people and is a natural advocate. She has an open mind and an open heart. She is part of the Robert Wood Johnson New Careers in Nursing Scholars Program.

Ashleigh served as the first president of the newly formed on-campus student nursing organization known as the Multicultural Student Nurses Association. The organization was created when she, along with her fellow classmates, identified a need for students to have a forum to share their learning experiences, mentor each other, and support each other rather than “succeeding through trial and error.” The purpose of the organization is to “serve as a platform for cultural exchange inclusive of all students.” The mission is to “aid in the professional development and success of all students in the College of Nursing promoting mentorship and encouraging study groups, increasing student awareness of issues related to health disparities, and enhancing basic nursing skills through community outreach through health fairs and professional networking.”

Aminah was selected to receive a $500 Earl B. Higgins Scholarship for her commitment to community service and contributions in promoting diversity. Prior to her decision to enroll in our nursing program, Aminah served as the Executive Director in Atlanta, GA and the District Executive in Mecklenburg County (Charlotte, NC) for the Boy Scouts of America. She has extensive experience in public relations, fundraising campaign management, and project management. She is community-minded and has been active in the College of Nursing outreach activities. She was recently selected for the prestigious Hispanic Health Initiative Scholars Program. She is also part of the Robert Wood Johnson New Careers in Nursing Scholars program designed to support under-represented students with a previous degree to transition into the nursing profession. Earlier this spring, Aminah spoke to prospective students participating in the Ernest Just Symposium about her journey in the nursing program. She shared thoughtful comments about her nursing experiences.