With our web’s focus this month on the Hispanic Health Initiative, I thought I might share with you some interesting reading I have been doing about culture differences and biology. Although culture is usually thought of as the collection of knowledge and traditions that are transmitted outside of biology, evidence is emerging that shows how biology and culture are intertwined. This literature suggests that who we are is rooted in our biological commonality that involves both our view of ourselves and our connections with others.

It is fascinating when you think that culture is fundamental to understanding human behavior. Even more compelling is the notion that biology provides the most important evidence against the divisive categories that humans have used to evaluate others.

We now know that culture causes behavior by causing changes in our biology. Culture operates through biological mechanisms - brains and hormones - although the causal pathways by which it acts are far less than clear. We know precious little about exactly how genes, culture and the external environment play upon the brain to produce our behavior. But we do know that without a human brain, you can’t acquire human culture.

So what are the implications of this emerging science? I think that the first message is that, when all is said and done, humans, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or cultural heritage, are more alike than different - very comforting indeed. The second message is that our human responses are formed by not only by our biology, but also by our social interactions, our environmental conditions, and our self-imposed set of personal beliefs, which hopefully can be modified by new information and new experiences.

If I translate this into daily life I begin to understand that our human biology should unite us culturally rather than divide us. Even more to the point, it compels us to celebrate the nuances of behavior in the same way that we relish the gradations of color in a beautiful painting. The human pallet, blending culture and biology, can truly be a thing of beauty!...Gail
Able to Leap Tall Buildings in a Single Bound
You won’t find Superman at the top of this billboard, instead if you look closely it’s a nurse—a nurse who is taking her career and degree to a higher level. That is the message the MUSC College of Nursing is putting on a Charleston billboard. So, the next time you’re driving into town on Interstate 26, check it for yourself. The billboard will be up on Monday, June 10 and it is located near the Rutledge Ave. exit (Exit 215) on I-26 eastbound.

Office of Public Relations
MUSC has a wonderful story to tell, and the Office of Public Relations is responsible for conveying it to the university’s staff, students, faculty and the general public. One way MUSC PR is making this happen is through a newly created webpage that offers more news and videos than ever before. The new page features a news center that highlights MUSC’s latest news and featured events. In addition to a multimedia page that offers photos and videos, the site also spotlights featured experts throughout the MUSC campus. Another great feature is the “submit a story” link that lets the user suggest news stories they would like to read about. Check it out here.

Lifelines Hits the Streets
The latest edition of Lifelines has been published. This issue features articles on innovation in education and how the College of Nursing is discovering innovative ways to educate the finest professional nurses. Also, the magazine looks back at the past 10 years under Dean Stuart’s leadership. If you have not received your copy, email Beth Khan at khane@musc.edu or download a copy.

Convocation Awards
Awards for Excellence were presented at 2013 Convocation ceremony held May 16 at the Charleston Music Hall. Recognitions and awards that were presented included:

Meagan Kirkley,  
First Honor Graduate, BSN program

Mary Rinehart & Veronica Smalheiser,  
First Honor Graduates, MSN program

Katie Brown, Donna Buist, Diana Cizmadija, Sara Kramer-Wallace, Evelyn Porter, Kristen Poston, Anna Smith, Amber Walston, & Kate White,  
First Honor Graduates, DNP program

Matt Couture,  
Josephine A. Fogle Award

Carolyn Ramos,  
Ruth Jacqui Skudlarek Award

Allison Adrian,  
Outstanding BSN Student Award

Faculty also were recognized for their support of students and outstanding teaching skills:

Jane Anderson,  
Golden Lamp Award from the BSN Class of May 2013

Janice Skipper,  
Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award from the BSN Class of May 2013

Shannon Smith,  
Outstanding BSN Faculty Award

Sharon Bond,  
Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award

Lynne Nemeth,  
Outstanding PhD Faculty Award
### June

**FRI 07**  
**Mini-Orientation for Incoming BSN Students**  
1 p.m. | Basic Sciences Building (BSB 302)

**FRI 07**  
**Room-Mate Finder Party**  
5 - 6 p.m. | Harper Student Ctr. (45 Courtenay Dr.)  
This is a great opportunity to meet potential roommates and check out available Charleston rentals. Light food will be provided. RSVP by calling Student Programs at 843-792-0394 no later than June 5 if you plan to attend.

**MON 10**  
**CON Strategic Planning Retreat for Faculty & Staff**  
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. | James Is. County Park (Edisto Hall)

### July

**THU 04**  
**Independence Day**  
CON closed

**MON 08**  
**PhD Residency Week**  
Contact Yolanda Long (morrisym@musc.edu) for details

**WED 24**  
**DNP 2 Day Orientation**  
Contact Arly Douglass (asdoug@musc.edu) for details

**WED 24**  
**Janelle Othersen Visiting Professorship Lecture Series**  
4 p.m. | Drug Discovery Auditorium (DD 110)

### August

**TUE 20**  
**Faculty Convocation**  
Keynote Address: “Ethics in the Emerging Health Care System” by Robert M. Sade, MD  
4:30 PM | Drug Discovery Auditorium (DD 110)
CON Examinations
The days of the paper and pencil test for CON students are gone as of June 28, 2013! Beginning July 1, exams will be electronic and scheduled either in the library or in hard-wired classrooms. Faculty have requested rooms that accommodate electronic testing for the summer courses. However, we anticipate that a number of exams will be offered at times outside the typical course schedule. We are exploring alternative solutions. We will inform students as soon as the room reservations have been guaranteed.

DNP Student Receives Scholarship
Cameo Green, DNP student, is the recipient of The Herman G. Green, PhD Scholarship. This $1,200 scholarship opportunity was given to select colleges and universities in South Carolina through the South Carolina Professional Association for Access and Equity (SC-PAAE). One student is selected from all participating colleges and universities. The SC-PAAE honored Cameo at a banquet on May 22 in Columbia, SC.

VALOR Selects Four CON Students
The VA Learning Opportunities Residency program (VALOR) has selected Kelley Corbett, Braiden Sightler, Morgan Williams, and Kyra Wilson to participate in a program that is designed to increase participant’s clinical skills, clinical judgment and critical thinking while caring for our nation’s Veterans. VALOR students have a unique opportunity to connect with nursing professionals to assess the feasibility of employment after graduation.

New Student Leadership Takes Reigns
The College of Nursing Student Government Association, Student Nurses Association, and Multicultural Student Nurses Association recently selected new presidents for the summer and fall semesters. Congratulations to Michael Occhipinti, SGA President; Laney Purser, SNA President; and Kyra Wilson, MSNA President.

Call for ANEE Grant Applications
The goal of the Advanced Nursing Education Expansion (ANEE) award is to increase the number of students enrolled in full-time primary care nurse practitioner programs. Six NP students will be selected to receive ANEE funding for the upcoming 2013-2014 academic year. All students who meet the following qualifications are encouraged to apply. Applicants must:

- Reside in South Carolina
- Be enrolled as a full-time MSN or DNP student
- Have two years remaining in the program as of Fall 2013 with a graduation date of Spring or Summer 2015.
- Commit to work in primary care in South Carolina following graduation.
- A CV and essay must be submitted.

Application requirements were emailed to students. If you did not received the email, contact Arly Douglass, MSN/DNP program coordinator, at asdoug@musc.edu. Applications are due June 12, 2013.

AENT Grant Seeks Applicants
The Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (AENT) award is a highly competitive award with the overall goal to produce primary care advanced practice nurses for rural and underserved areas in South Carolina and the nation. Nineteen students (10 full-time, nine part-time) will receive funding for the 2013-2014 academic year. Applicants must:

- Be enrolled as a full-time or part-time MSN or DNP student
- Have three semesters remaining as of Fall 2013 (cannot graduate prior to August 2014)
- Demonstrate a financial need
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better
- Commit to working as a primary care NP in a rural, underserved or public health setting following graduation.

Application materials be will emailed to students on June 14. The deadline to submit the application will be June 28, 2013. Questions? Contact Arly Douglass, MSN/DNP program coordinator, at asdoug@musc.edu.

Hats off to BSN student, Toya Williams, who has accomplished an amazing feat. She just earned a Master of Science in Health, Exercise and Sports Science from the Citadel Graduate College in May while simultaneously pursuing her undergraduate degree in nursing and being selected to participate in the MUSC Presidential Scholars program. If all that studying wasn’t enough, Toya also finds time to work as a patient care technician at the MUSC Heart and Vascular Center and is a master instructor at the MUSC Wellness Center. Kudos to this intrinsically motivated student!
Funded Grants

Congratulations to Nancy D. Duffy, DNP, RN, CEN, CNE, for receiving another year of funds ($100,000) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Careers in Nursing. This grant supports one of 52 nursing schools selected for funding through a competitive application process. The College will allocate funds for 10 BSN scholarships to enrolled students accepted into an accelerated baccalaureate nursing program. This program is expected to increase student enrollment in the accelerated BSN program, as well as increase the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds that enroll and graduate from the program.

Submitted Grants

Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, CNM, submitted an application to the Henry and Sylvia Yaschik Foundation titled “Building Capacity in the Hispanic Community: A Health Promotion Program With A Focus on Health Literacy and Community Navigation.” This application requests funding to complete a thorough evaluation, manualization, and dissemination of a health promotion program that is an integral part of Abrazos, a family literacy program that targets young Hispanic families. Requests for program materials from across the state has prompted the need to complete an evaluation in order to be able to disseminate the program as a “Promising Best Practice.”

Doctoral students, Joshua W. Kennedy, MSN, MPH, PHCNS-BC; Felicia Morell Jenkins, MSN, RN; and Valerie Clary-Muronda, MSN, submitted applications to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) for the Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars Program. AACN, with support from Johnson & Johnson’s “Campaign for Nursing’s Future,” offers scholarship funding to underrepresented minority nursing students enrolled full-time in a doctoral nursing program or a clinically-focused master’s degree program who plan to work as nursing faculty after graduation.

Doctoral student Michael J. Johnson, MSN, RN, submitted an application to the Lesbian Health Fund titled “Characterizing Quality Healthcare Services of Lesbian and Bisexual College Students.” The aims of this project are to explore the experiences and perceptions of college age lesbian and bisexual women regarding the quality of their health care encounters with student health services. The findings may provide models for other universities. Other developments may include models for creating welcoming health care environments for lesbian and bisexual students, as well as developing cultural competence education for health providers and support staff.

Presentations


> Matutina, R. E., Kelechi, T., Mueller, M., Jenkins, C., Johnson, J. “Educational Interventions for Middle School Students to Improve the Perception of Nursing as a Future Career Choice,” 11th Annual South Carolina Nursing Excellence Conference, Columbia, SC, April 2013. This poster was awarded third place in the research division.

Research Expo Deemed a Success

On May 7, several of CON’s researchers and staff participated in the 3rd Annual SCResearch Expo in order to raise awareness of research opportunities and resources at MUSC. Booths were set-up on the MUSC Horseshoe to offer attendees information on study enrollment, and research resources. Many thanks to Sharon Bond, PhD, CNM; Teresa Kelechi, PhD, CWCN, FAAN; Meredith Kerr, Anna Patton, and Ida Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN; as well as members from Teresa’s study teams who manned the SCTR Center for Community Health Partnerships booth. They recruited subjects and raised public awareness of the magnificent research the College of Nursing is doing for the community.

Additionally, WCBD-TV Channel 2’s Carolyn Murray interviewed both Mat Gregoski, PhD, MS and Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN, BC-ADM, FAAN about ongoing CON research projects, community engagement efforts and the importance of clinical trials.
Teens Spread Autism Awareness

In April, nine high school students from the Teen Health Leadership Program (THLP) traveled to Washington, DC to give a presentation on autism at the National Library of Medicine. Their presentation received high accolades from the panel. Janice Kelly, outreach and special populations branch chief at the National Library of Medicine complimented the students’ performance. “The students did a great job and were very engaging. They handled themselves well with questions from the audience and they asked very interesting questions of the audience. Their presentation was just the right amount of time and showed their technical and creative skills.” Additionally, the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s deputy director, Betsy L. Humphreys, also offered praise of THLP by saying, “The money spent on this program is well worth it.” The students were accompanied to Washington by Candace Moorer and Monique Hill, from the MUSC Library; and Derek Toth from Communities in Schools.

This year 18 juniors and seniors were selected from St. John’s High School to participate in the THLP. Students were recommended by the school’s faculty and staff based on academic performance, interest in health, and a desire to give back to their communities.

The THLP is a collaboration between the Communities In Schools program at St. John’s High School on Johns Island, and the College of Nursing and Medical Library at MUSC. The THLP seeks to increase health literacy through access to quality health information, develop young leaders, and promote active engagement of students in community activities addressing local health issues. The THLP has been funded for the past six years by a grant that was awarded to the College of Nursing by the National Library of Medicine.

>> HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE PUBLIC SERVICE VIDEO

One aim of the THLP is to increase health literacy among students and community residents. “Understanding how to access credible health information online provides a lifelong source of health information that can be used in making health decisions,” says Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, CNM, associate dean for practice and THLP program director.

Each year, students from the THLP project are asked to pick a topic of study. This year they chose autism. Their topic choice was personal to many in the group because some students had family members or knew friends with relatives who have been diagnosed with autism.

Motivated by a visit from M. Frampton Gwynette, MD, MUSC General Psychiatry Clinic director and co-chair for the MUSC Autism Center Strategic Planning Committee, the teens created a public service announcement (PSA) video for their outreach project. The video was written and directed by the students. Dr. Gwynette was very pleased with the outcome and thought the students did a fantastic job. “What a wonderful PSA these students have made,” he said. He even took the time to post their video on Twitter and Facebook.

Click here to view the PSA.

Reading That Clicks

Seasoned Nurses Help Mentor New Nurses, Promote Growth for Industry
Johnson & Johnson Nursing Notes

From a Young Doctor: A Tribute to Nurses
By Leana Wen, MD | Huffington Post

Nurse Practitioners Playing Doctor More Often
By Daniela Drake | The Daily Beast

Educators Address Nursing Shortage
Chicago Tribune
Faces, Places & Accolades
Nancy D. Duffy, DNP, RN, CEN, CNE was approved by the SC Board of Nursing as the BSN Representative to the Advisory Council on Nursing Committee. Congratulations, Nancy!

Nancy D. Duffy, DNP, RN, CEN, CNE and Teresa Atz, MSN, RN have completed Competency Based Nursing Simulations for COPD, pulmonary emboli, pneumonia, tuberculosis and asthma. These modules are available in the Healthcare Simulation of South Carolina SimStore for purchase.

Parking Rate Increase for Faculty, Staff
Over the past several years, the cost for providing parking on our campus has continued to increase. MUSC senior leadership deferred parking fee increases, so as not to place a greater financial burden on our employees. In fact, it has been eight years since MUSC increased employee parking fees.

Unfortunately, with decreases in State appropriations, the University cannot continue to fully subsidize the cost of employee parking and must increase parking fees effective July 1. In the past, parking fee increases were administered across the board to all MUSC parkers. In order to minimize the impact on hourly paid employees, the increases will be administered on a sliding scale, rising with income. This is a collective decision by the senior leadership of MUSC, including the Board of Trustees. Click here for more details.

Food for Thought...
A new report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce finds that people who recently graduated from college with degrees in fields such as education and health faced much lower unemployment rates than those who recently graduated with degrees in fields including architecture and the arts.

http://cew.georgetown.edu/unemployment2013/

Reminder! Reminder! Reminder! Reminder! Reminder! Reminder!

FACULTY AND STAFF:
All compliance training and discloser statements must be completed by Saturday, June 15, 2013.

If you haven’t already completed your annual training for 2013, please begin working on it now.

LINKS:
Conflict of interest disclosure
CATTS modules