Another amazing year

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

It is hard to believe but in just a few short days we will be closing out yet another year for the College of Nursing. And what a year it has been! We have:

- moved to our temporary quarters in Harborview Tower,
- taken on the renovation of our beloved building,
- robustly expanded our numbers of students, faculty and staff,
- ranked 21st in NIH funding among Schools of Nursing nationally, and
- made the top 20 list for online nursing graduate programs in US News & World Report

to mention just a few of our accomplishments. This has been a year of transitions, expansions and demonstrated flexibility for which we can all stand proud!

It also is a time to remember that all of these exciting activities and initiatives are being created by each of you here in the College – faculty, staff and students alike. Each of you contribute your ideas, energy, creativity, insights and enthusiasm that allow us to stretch to new levels of achievement.

And so at this very special time of year I want to thank you, my College of Nursing family, for the many holiday presents that you bestow upon the school all twelve months of the year. And I wish for you the many blessings of the season, the loving embrace of family and friends, and the renewal of body and spirit that I trust will come with the hope of a bright new year....Gail
Johnson & Johnson Promise of Nursing Gala
On November 6, Johnson & Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future joined with local health care organizations, hospitals, and schools to host The Promise of Nursing Gala. The Promise of Nursing Gala is an evening that celebrates nursing professionals for their outstanding contributions to our communities, raises significant amounts of dollars for that region’s nursing community, and is a wonderful dinner and networking event for all that attend. These events are held across the country to celebrate the nursing profession and raise money to support nursing programs and students in communities all over the nation. [Click here to view photos from the event.]

Promise of Nursing Faculty Fellowship
Promise of Nursing Faculty Fellowships are available in select regions of the US. Baccalaureate prepared registered nurses who are seeking to pursue a career as a nurse educator at a college or university in a Promise of Nursing region (Southern California, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington) may qualify. Fellowships range from $1,000-7,500. Awards are made based on academic achievement, financial need, documented commitment to the nurse educator role, and plans to serve in this capacity upon completion of the program. The deadline is March 7, 2014. Applications are available at [www.nsna.med/fellowship-app](http://www.nsna.med/fellowship-app).

Florence Nightingale exhibit and lectures a success
The College of Nursing hosted three events in November where author Lynn McDonald discussed the accomplishments and ideas of the founder of modern nursing.

Lynn McDonald was a fascinating speaker with a great depth of knowledge on Nightingale’s career.
Kay Chitty was given special recognition for her volunteerism, leadership and commitment to the College of Nursing.

The exhibition of Nightingale’s writing was on display at the Charleston Library Society through November.
December

**Winter Convocation**
10 a.m.
Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul
(126 Coming St.)

**SGA Exam Break** | Need a study break? Grab some FREE energy boosting brain food and beverage and take a quick break from the books!
7 - 8 p.m.
Education/Library Bldg. (Lobby)

**MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting**
Thursday & Friday

**CON Holiday Party**
Noon - 2 p.m.
HOT - 10th floor

**CON will be closed for the holidays from December 23 through January 1**
State holidays include December 24, 25, 26 and January 1

January

**CON Reopens**
8:30 a.m.

**Stethoscope Ceremony**
4:30 p.m.
St. Luke’s Chapel (corner of Bee St. and Ashley Ave.)

**MUSC SGA Annual Oyster Roast**
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Visitors Center Bus Shed
TICKETS: On sale December 2 in the Student Programs Office. Students: $15 each (no more than 2 tickets can be purchased). Employees: $20 each and up to 2 can be purchased. Due to increased student participation, there will only be a limited block of employee tickets available. MUST have MUSC ID in order to purchase tickets. Cash or check ONLY. Contact Kevin at smuniewk@musc.edu for more info.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
CON closed
Winter convocation
Convocation is the pinning ceremony for the students earning a BSN and the hooding ceremony for the students earning a MSN, DNP, and PhD. It is scheduled for Saturday, December 7 at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, 126 Coming St. Graduates are asked to arrive by 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall so they can be assisted with robing and line-up for the processional. Faculty should arrive in full regalia by 9:30 a.m.

Please limit the number of guests to three. There is some parking in the lot across the street from the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul. There are also garages on St. Phillip Street and King Street (adjacent to the Francis Marion Hotel). There is a small parking lot at Charleston Public Works on Vanderhorst St.

DNP/MSN immersion
On November 6, approximately 100 students in the MSN/DNP program arrived in Charleston for a three day practice immersion experience. Immersions are required of all MSN and DNP students and occurs in the final year of study after the completion of the Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning course, and the Advanced Care Management I, II, and III courses. During their time on campus, students experienced tailored lectures, interactive learning, and competency evaluations that provide a capstone for the semester and ensure readiness for the next semester courses. The theme of this immersion was Women’s Health. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and is used to further develop the immersion experience.

BSN student selected for Roper-St. Francis Patron Scholarship
Accelerated BSN degree student Lara Alicea has been selected by the nursing leadership at Roper-St. Francis Hospital to receive their $30,000 Patron Scholarship. Prior to her enrollment in the College of Nursing, Lara completed her Bachelor of Arts degree from Coastal Carolina University in interdisciplinary studies with a focus on Health Promotion and Business Administration.

A stellar student, Lara is self-employed as a Precision Lean Eating Coach. She consults with clients on body compositions and health goals, and designs customized nutrition and/or exercise programs to help them achieve their goals. Previously, Lara worked for Sports Doctors in Myrtle Beach, SC. Lara will graduate in December 2014.

Lara’s husband, Eli, will begin the Accelerated BSN degree program in January 2014.

Doctoral students achieve success
Congratulations to the following PhD students who successfully defended their dissertations.

Kimberly Sell
“Chronic Disease Self Management and Health Behavior Change Attitudes in Older Adults: The Feasibility of Mixed-Method Design”
Mentor: Elaine Amella, PhD, RN, FAAN

Teresa Atz
“Transition Experiences of Parents of Chronically Ill Pediatric Research Subjects at the Completion of a Clinical Trial: A Mixed Methods Study”
Chair: Lynne Nemeth, PhD, RN, FAAN

Rebecca Freeman
“Team Science and Nursing: The Complexities and Impact of Interdisciplinary Collaboration”
Mentor: Marilyn Laken, PhD, RN, FAAN

Teresa Carnevale
“Adolescent Depression Education for Middle-School Nurses: A Feasibility Study”
Mentor: Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

Congratulations to the following DNP students who successfully completed their DNP Practice Improvement Projects at the final poster presentations held November 21:

Evelyn Coe
Sonya Ehrhardt
Tishana Gary
Delwin Jacoby
Elizabeth Ann Jensen
Bonne Johnson
Denise Kilway
Kingslea Moore
Sandra Munaco
Abigail Rishovd
Angela Stanley
Susan Zayac
Funded grants

Carrie Cormack, MSN, APRN, CPNP-BC, will be the co-investigator for a project titled, “Development and preliminary reliability study of pediatric SMART.” This proposal was selected for funding through the MUSC Interprofessional Collaboration Grant Pilot Program. The SMART is an assessment tool used to assess cognitive awareness in adults with severe brain injury that will be developed for the use in pediatrics. Cindy Dodds, PT, PhD, (College of Health Professions), is the PI.

Congratulotions to CON’s Elaine J. Amella, PhD, RN, FAAN (PI), Martina Mueller, PhD, and their colleague, Kumar Sambamurti, PhD (PI), MUSC Department of Neurosciences, for the funding of their project titled, “An interprofessional study on the role nutrition on AD pathogenesis; Effects on biomarkers,” by the MUSC Interprofessional Collaboration Grant Pilot Project Program. This project will establish an interprofessional collaborative team that combines the expertise of a geriatric nurse practitioner, a nutritionist, a statistician and a basic scientist to address the potentially translational problem of the role of nutrition in AD pathogenesis. The project’s aims are to determine whether there is a postprandial increase in secreted APP in healthy volunteers, and to evaluate postprandial APP synthesis in the brain of an AD transgenic mouse model.

Publications & presentations

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:


A win for PhD student

Congratulations to PhD student Michelle Mollica who has been accepted into the National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program. This fellowship is a highly competitive program that offers outstanding opportunities for cutting-edge research in the basic, quantitative, social and behavioral sciences, and in clinical cancer prevention.

Research for Lunch

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
Noon - 1 p.m.
Harborview Office Tower (304P)

PRESENTERS: Elliot Jesch, PhD (Clemson University) & Elaine Amella, PhD

Presentation: Pilot study of a nutrition intervention in congregate meal sites in rural South Carolina (NIA R21)

Facilitated by Jane Zapka, ScD

Please bring your own lunch.

Research for Lunch is a monthly constructive peer review of scholarly work. Research can include a concept paper, Section A proposal feedback, a mock proposal review, a review of manuscript draft, quality improvement project or program evaluation.

To attend, RSVP to Raquel Vining at vining@musc.edu.
CON names Acierno ADR

After an extensive search, Ron Acierno, PhD, has accepted the position of associate dean for research in the College of Nursing effective January 2. In this position, Dr. Acierno will provide mentorship and leadership in managing all aspects of research grants, from helping to refine ideas during formulation phases, through peer review, submission and post-award activities. Dr. Acierno also will continue in his position as research scientist at the Ralph Johnson VA Medical Center where he directs several studies.

He is a board member and clinical and technical director of Veterans on Deck, a non-profit organization he founded to facilitate veteran’s re-integration into society in a positive, team-building way.

Dean Gail Stuart is delighted that Dr. Acierno will be joining the College of Nursing. “Dr. Acierno will bring significant expertise, collaborative ideas and focused energy to our college in his new role. We are excited about taking our research trajectory to new levels under his leadership,” she says.

Kudos

Mat Gregoski, PhD has been selected as a chair for the Society of Behavioral Medicine’s (SBM) rapid communications committee. SBM is a multidisciplinary organization of clinicians, educators, and scientists dedicated to promoting the study of the interactions of behavior with biology and the environment, and the application of that knowledge to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities and populations. Rapid communication posters offer the opportunity for presentation of late-breaking findings in the field of behavioral medicine.

New IT staff joining CON

Andrew Matthews comes to College of Nursing after recently graduating from Charleston Southern with a degree in computer science. He brings experience in programming and database development. As the information technology consultant he will be handling first level technical support and working on many projects essential to the College now and into the future. He is scheduled to start December 2.

REMINDER

When in need of technology assistance, please open a HELP DESK TICKET and someone will assist to resolve the issue in a timely manner. It is extremely important not to disturb the technology staff while they are working so as they can assist faculty, staff and students quickly and not waste valuable time. To be helpful...

>> PLEASE DO NOT loiter around their desks unless you have an appointment
>> PLEASE DO NOT call office or personal cell phones (this includes sending texts) if a Help Desk ticket has been submitted. They have your request...you don’t need to call too...this wastes time.
>> IF YOU CAN NOT turn on or access your office computer call their office phone only (not their personal cell phone) and someone will return your call as quickly as possible.

THANK YOU!

Please consider giving to the CON RECOGNITION FUND ($50 for faculty, $25 for staff)

Money is used for flowers, cards, parties, well wishes and condolences.

Please make a check payable to CON Recognition Fund and give to Ruthie Conner or Joanne Langdale.

Questions? Email Ruthie at stockder@musc.edu.

“Cutting off fundamental, curiosity-driven science is like eating the seed corn. We may have a little more to eat next winter but what will we plant so we and our children will have enough to get through the winters to come?”

- Carl Sagan,
The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark
Inaugural Summit of
Cervical Cancer-Free
South Carolina

January 9-10, 2014
DoubleTree Historic District • Charleston, South Carolina

Register online at:
http://hcc.musc.edu/research/conferences/CervicalCancerFreeSC.htm

Cervical Cancer-Free South Carolina is a member state of the Cervical Cancer-Free Coalition focused on eliminating cervical cancer through screening, follow-up care, vaccination, and education. Cervical Cancer-Free South Carolina consists of individual and organizational partners committed to increasing participation in cervical cancer screening; increasing adherence to follow-up care of abnormal screening results; increasing rates of HPV vaccination; and seeking additional funding to support cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination in South Carolina.

Join us for our inaugural summit and be a part of our efforts to eliminate cervical cancer!

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http://www.cervicalcancerfreeamerica.org/partners/partner-states/south-carolina-3/