So many of you know by now that I have recently had shoulder surgery for a torn rotator cuff. I am recovering nicely, thank you, but wanted to share with you some of my observations about this experience. First, I think all clinicians should have an opportunity to experience things from the patient’s side of the street. It is an enlightening experience in many ways.

Let’s start out with the most important part—the outcome of care. I am delighted to report that I received excellent clinical care. All of the health care providers who helped me were outstanding and the course of treatment was very successful.

But now let’s talk about the process of care. That, unfortunately, was less successful from my point of view as a patient. It started with my pre-surgery wait times at the surgeon’s office of one to two hours per visit. The message this sends is that my time was not as valuable as theirs, and/or that their scheduling system was seriously flawed. There are those of us who take off from work or who have to arrange child care or transportation for such visits and I cannot fathom how such a system can foster patient satisfaction.

Then there were issues around the surgical process itself. Being a good planner I emailed the office asking if I could have the prescriptions for my pain and other medications ready for me a day or two ahead of time so that I could pick them up and get them filled, and if I could be notified of anything else I needed post-surgery. I wanted to have everything ready and on hand when I arrived home. Good patient-centered idea? Yes. System-centered answer? No response. Incredible to think, that patients are given discharge information and prescriptions on their way out the door in a post-surgical state. Yes, you are supposed to have someone with you and yes, they are supposed to go to the pharmacy and run your errands rather than allowing you to be prepared ahead of time.

Finally, there is the follow-up. I did have an appointment with my surgeon scheduled for two weeks post-surgery but the only person who called me the day after surgery to see how I was doing was the truly fantastic anesthesiologist. But how wonderful it would have been if the pre-or post-surgical nurses could have called me on day three and five to see if I had questions or concerns, no matter how minor.

So the impression I came away with is that we deliver very good technical care but it is definitely system-centered and not patient-centered. The sad part is that I believe that this is definitely fixable if someone, anyone, looks at health care with the right lens. Could that be a nursing lens? I’d like to think so, but for this to change nurses must be more active, vocal and assertive in advocating for patients over systems...Gail
Recently, the College of Nursing welcomed its largest class of bright students into the advanced practice graduate program. One hundred and six MSN/DNP students came to campus for new student orientation held July 23-24. They were introduced to their classmates, faculty, programs, and the various resources they can utilize on and off campus. The newest cohort consists of 90 registered nurses who have chosen to pursue a terminal nursing practice degree and 16 registered nurses who are working toward their MSN.

The College of Nursing is one of only 14 schools of nursing nationwide to be among the first to receive a grant from a new Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) program to increase the number of nurses holding a PhD degree. As an inaugural grantee of the Future of Nursing Scholars program, the CON will select one student to receive financial support, mentoring, and leadership development over the three years of his/her PhD program.

The Future of Nursing Scholars (FNS) program is a multi-funder initiative. In addition to RWJF, United Health Foundation, Independence Blue Cross Foundation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and the Rhode Island Foundation are supporting the FNS grants to schools of nursing this year.

“We are thrilled to receive this funding. This support for our PhD students clearly reflects on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s commitment to a well educated nursing workforce,” said Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the MUSC College of Nursing.

Desiree R. Bertrand, MSN, RN, has been selected to receive this grant. Bertrand, a resident of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, will begin her PhD studies online this fall. She is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served as a commissioned officer and a registered nurse for four years. After completing her military commitment, Bertrand worked as a travel nurse for several years. In 2003, she joined the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) as an assistant professor of nursing. Today, she is a research coordinator and the community engagement/outreach core director at the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center housed in the UVI School of Nursing.

The Institute of Medicine recommends that the U.S. double the number of nurses with doctorates; doing so will support more nurse leaders, promote nurse-led science, and put more educators in place to prepare the next generation of nurses.

Fewer than 30,000 of the nation’s more than 3 million nurses have doctoral degrees in nursing or a related field. While enrollment in DNP programs has risen dramatically over the past few years, enrollment in PhD programs has been flat. This program will provide an incentive for nurses to start PhD programs earlier, so that they can have long leadership careers after earning their PhDs.

“"If you don’t like something, change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude.”

- Maya Angelou
**August**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 07-08</td>
<td>Board of Trustees Meeting</td>
<td>Colcock Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 18-22</td>
<td>New Student Orientation for BSN Students</td>
<td>Various times and locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 19</td>
<td>MUSC Faculty Convocation</td>
<td>4:30 p.m., Drug Discovery Bldg. (Room 110)</td>
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<td>Reception to follow</td>
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<td>Keynote Speaker: MUSC President David Cole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 20</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9 a.m., HOT (910)</td>
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**September**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 21</td>
<td>Stethoscope &amp; White Coat Ceremony</td>
<td>4 p.m., St. Luke’s Chapel (Bee St. &amp; Ashley Ave.)</td>
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<td>Reception to follow at Colcock Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 01</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Federal holiday (CON closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 17</td>
<td>CON Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9 a.m., HOT (910)</td>
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**Important**

College of Nursing’s CCNE accreditation will take place September 28-30, 2015. All faculty and staff are required to be in attendance. No annual or professional leave will be granted to anyone during these dates. Please mark your calendars now.

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.

**Save the Dates**

- **Winter Convocation**
  - Thursday, December 11 @ 10 a.m.

- **Move Back into 99 Jonathan Lucas**
  - Monday, December 15

- **Open House**
  - Saturday, January 24, 2015
Stethoscope & white coat ceremony
The Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class of December 2015 will experience a ‘new’ Stethoscope Ceremony on Thursday, August 21. The College of Nursing received a grant for the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to support this activity. This Foundation has been supporting “White Coat” ceremonies for colleges of medicine across the country for years, but this year decided to include colleges of nursing as well.

The ‘new’ will be the Stethoscope and White Coat Ceremony. In addition to receiving their stethoscope, students will wear their white jacket and be presented with a Humanism in Medicine Lapel Pin. The gift of the pin symbolizes behaviors between nurses and their patients that is respectful and compassionate. It signifies attitudes that are sensitive to the values, autonomy, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds of others. The mission of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation is “putting the care back into health care.” Students and faculty will also recite a nurses oath that will be provided in the program.

Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholars selected
Congratulations to the following students who will represent the College of Nursing as 2014-2015 Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholars: Marie Beck, Cameo Green (Fellow), John Hughes, Jessica Mills, Samantha Radkin, and Paul Tripp. Their selection was based on the experience and perspective they will bring to the university’s distinguished interprofessional program.

Students honored with Faith J. Hohloch Scholarship
PhD student, Crystal Graham, and three DNP students, Simone Chinnis, Wesley Jacobs, and Kimberly Mouzon, were selected by the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina to receive the Faith Jefferson Hohloch Scholarship. The scholarship was created by Dr. Faith Hohloch, who was a pioneer of excellence and teaching in nursing. She served as both associate and interim dean at the MUSC College of Nursing from 1979-1986 and was passionate about the education of nurses and international travel.

Women’s Club Scholarship application
The Medical University Women’s Club is beginning the process of identifying MUSC’s most deserving students for their annual scholarships. The Medical University’s Women’s Club will award $15,000 in scholarships this year! All full-time students in their second or subsequent years from any of the six MUSC colleges are eligible and encouraged to apply for these annual scholarships. Previous applicants may reapply. Click here for more information and to download an application.

Volunteer opportunity
The Fetter Health Network is seeking assistance with health screenings that include calculating blood pressure, blood sugar, and BMIs on Saturday, August 23 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Second Annual Back To School Bash at Fetter’s main site (51 Nassau St.). If interested, contact Heather Greene at greeneh@musc.edu.
Funded grants

Congratulations to Robin L. Bissinger, PhD, APRN, NNP-BC, FAAN for receiving funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Nurse Faculty Loan Program. These funds will support students enrolled in the MSN, PhD or DNP programs at the college. Bissinger also has received funds from HRSA under the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship funding opportunity. This funding will support primary care nurse practitioner students enrolled in the MSN or DNP primary care nurse practitioner degree program. The specialty focus areas for the post-baccalaureate DNP and MSN are adult-gerontology, family, and pediatric primary care. The aim is to increase the supply of primary care nurse practitioners and to increase the employment of graduates in rural, underserved or public health practice settings. The funding will provide stipends to 35 diverse and/or disadvantaged students with a commitment to work in primary care in a health professional shortage area, rural area or medically underserved area for at least two years after graduation.

Congratulations to Gail A. Gilden, ScD, RN for receiving funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the Future of Nursing Scholars 2014. The program’s goal is to develop the next generation of PhD prepared nurse leaders who are committed to long-term leadership careers that advance science and discovery, strengthen nursing education, and bring transformational change to nursing and health care. This program is streamlined to focus on the essential competencies to the developing nurse scientist yet include diverse opportunities for mentored and elective work in policy, teaching, research, and leadership. See page two for more details.

Submitted grants

Teresa J. Kelechi, PhD, RN, FAAN resubmitted an R21 application titled “FOOTFIT mHealth physical activity intervention for leg ulcer patients.” This proposal represents an innovative intervention in which a wireless accelerometer and tablet computer will enable data on physical activity to be captured, transmitted, and interpreted for clinical application. The mHealth strategy will promote adherence to physical activity in a venous leg ulcer population with severely de-conditioned legs and who are underserved without access to physical activity programs. It also will involve clinical feedback through a patient-provider communication interface and serve as a patient reminder system to engage in targeted, non-exertive exercises that, in the long-term, might also improve ulcer healing.

Kelechi also submitted an R01 application titled “Monitoring and managing newly healed chronic leg and foot ulcer skin temperature: a cooling intervention (MUSTCOOL) to prevent ulcer recurrence.” This application represents an innovative self-monitoring and self-management intervention aimed to prevent chronic leg and foot ulcer recurrence. Using infrared thermography to identify leg and foot ulcer skin “hot spots” at risk for ulcer recurrence, participants will monitor this identified at-risk skin over newly healed chronic venous leg and diabetic foot ulcers. They will manage the “hot spots” using a sequenced cooling regimen for prophylaxis and a bolus dosage for elevated skin temperature above baseline. A “pack” will be applied to at-risk skin to reduce inflammation during the 6-month study.

Mathew J. Gregoski, PhD submitted a proposal to the American Heart Association for the NCRP Summer 2014 Scientist Development Grant titled “Personalized prevention of CVD: Role of genetics, stress, and behavioral factors.” One aim of this study will use a machine-learning multivariate adaptive regression (MAR) splines approach with the Jackson Heart Study archival data to expand an external signaling/autonomic nervous system pathway within a biobehavioral model. Another goal is to examine additional environmental health exposures using MAR splines to detect interactions between genes and the environment, as well as psychosocial characteristics related to environmental health and cardiovascular disease among the Jackson Heart Study population. Generalized estimating equations based on the machine-learning results will be calculated with results reviewed by an epidemiological expert that has over 25 years of experience in hypertension studies. The results will be used to determine effect-size for potential environmental exposure/pharmacogenetic intervention strategies for future trials.

SNRS seeking nominations

The Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) is seeking nominations for officers and board members. Applicants must be SNRS members for at least two years and have passion, energetic enthusiasm and commitment to contribute to the vitality and growth of SNRS. Nominations are due Aug. 31. Click here for more information and to begin the nominations process.

Perry V. Halushka
MUSC Research Day
NOVEMBER 13-14, 2014
The abstract deadline is September 19 at 11:59 p.m. Information coming soon on the Research Day 2014 home page.
Saying goodbye to a mentor

On July 7, PhD students gathered in Charleston for CON’s PhD Residency Week. Residency is helpful for new students to become oriented to the program, faculty, peers, campus resources, and the MUSC online learning environment. Students are encouraged to establish relationships between faculty, staff, and peers that will grow over the next several years, and hopefully a lifetime.

During this time, PhD students said goodbye to PhD Director Gail Gilden, ScD, RN, who will is stepping down from this position. As a thank you for her leadership to the PhD program, students and alumni (see list of donors below) purchased a reproduction of the painting “Compassion” by local artist John Doyle. In addition, because of the outpouring of support a contribution in the amount of $2,500 was made to the PhD Scholarship Fund.

Professor Elaine Amella, PhD, RN, FAAN, will be taking over as the director of the PhD program in August.

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[{$1 - $50}]
Angela Bentley
Donna Carrillo
Jo Anna Cartwright
Valerie Clary-Muronda
Patricia Conley
Camillus Ezeike
Melissa Ferdinandi
Lilo Fink
Susan Flavin
Jama Goers
Deanna Hiott
Candace Jaruzel
Felicia Jenkins
Michael Johnson
Julius Kehinde*
Toshua Kennedy
Collette Loftin*
Solange Marcel
Melinda McCusker
Marvesh Mendhi
Michelle Mollica
Allison Munn
Michelle Nichols
Michelle Orr
John Paguntalan
Kim Pickett
Novelette Prosper
Lisa Rasbach
Phyllis Raynor

[{$51 - $99}]
Monica Rose
Jennifer Shiroff
Gigi Smith*
Lenora Smith
Amy Szajna

[{$100-$199}]
Melissa Aselage*
Sharon Bond*
Phyllis Borham*
Hollie Caldwell
Brian Conner*
Ruth Conner*
Teresa Kelechi*
Gayenell Magwood*
Julie McCulloch Nair
Susan Newman*
Lynne Nemeth*
Leslie Parker*
Jennifer Shearer*
Valeria Smith*

[{$200 +}]
Jonathan Dru Riddle
Lori Vick
Robin Matutina*

* denotes alumni

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Publications


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PhD student kudos

Michelle Mollica successfully defended her dissertation titled “Breast cancer survivorship in African-American women.” She was mentored by Lynne Nemeth, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Lenora Smith successfully defended her dissertation in June titled “Home health nurses’ knowledge and beliefs of suffering, artificial nutrition and hydration in people with late stage dementia.” Her mentored was Elaine Amella, PhD, RN, FAAN.

John Paguntalan was awarded $5,000 from Self Regional Hospital for his dissertation research.

Incoming PhD student Karenmarie Davis was awarded the Ruth Chamberlin Alumni Scholarship during Residency Week. She graduated with honors from both CON’s undergraduate and graduate programs and looks forward to advancing the field of nursing through research.
Smith named associate dean for academics

Gigi Smith, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC, associate professor, has been named associate dean for academics for the College of Nursing. Smith joined the college faculty in 2004 as the track coordinator of the pediatric nurse practitioner program and assisted in co-creating the MSN/DNP asynchronous online curriculum. In 2013, she was named director of MSN/DNP program.

A certified pediatric nurse practitioner, Smith has 30 years of pediatric nursing experience specializing in the care of children with epilepsy. During that time, she gained extensive knowledge of the psychosocial impact of chronic illness, specifically epilepsy, on youth and their families. For the past 10 years, Smith has served as a co-investigator or co-principal investigator in five funded research projects studying youth with epilepsy and their families. Additionally, she has co-directed numerous professional educational offerings regarding pediatric neurology issues including epilepsy.

Two faculty join 2014 RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows cohort

Debbie Chatman Bryant, DNP, RN, and Rebecca Freeman, PhD, RN, PMP, both clinical instructors for the college, have been selected to the 2014 cohort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows (ENF) program, a three-year advanced leadership program for nurses who aspire to lead and shape health care locally and nationally. Fellows strengthen and improve their leadership abilities related to improving health and health care.

Freeman and Bryant join a select group of nurse leaders from across the country chosen to participate in this world-class, three-year leadership development program designed to enhance nurse leaders’ effectiveness in improving the U.S. health care system. Approximately 100 applicants from around the world vied for spots as a Nurse Fellow this year.

Bryant is the director of partnerships for health care quality research at MUSC where she provides oversight for translational research efforts between the academic medical center and a federally qualified health center for clinical quality improvement and delivery. Additionally, she is the director of outreach and community relations at MUSC’s Hollings Cancer Center, as well as an adjunct clinical assistant professor in the College of Nursing.

Freeman is the chief nursing information officer and manager of nursing informatics at MUSC. She worked exclusively in the field of information technology for 15 years, before attending nursing school and earning both her BSN and PhD degrees from the College of Nursing. In 2010, she left full-time bedside nursing and moved into an informatics role, holding a variety of positions in enterprise implementations.

Fellows hold senior leadership positions in health services, scientific and academic organizations, public health and community-based organizations or systems, and national professional, governmental and policy organizations. They continue in their current positions during their fellowships, and each develops, plans and implements a new initiative to improve health care delivery in her or his community.

Wins

Jane Zapka, ScD, will be awarded the Peggy Schachte Research Mentor Award at MUSC’s Faculty Convocation ceremony to be held Aug. 19. This award is aimed at a faculty mentor or other colleague who is widely recognized as an outstanding research mentor who encourages and supports the advancement of others as successful, extramurally funded investigators.

Kahlil Demonbreun, DNP, RNC-OB, WHNP-BC, ANP-BC, has been named a Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Faculty Scholar. The Scholars Program is a two semester experience for approximately 40 students, joined by selected faculty scholars from each college. The program explores complex social, political, and human issues of broad interest to health care professionals and biomedical researchers in a format that maximizes student participation and interaction.

Debbie Bryant, DNP, was a featured speaker at a congressional briefing on rising mortality rates in women in the U.S., July 15 in Washington, DC. At the event sponsored by Women’s Policy Inc., Bryant shared the experiences she had faced in her outreach efforts and addressed the disparities she witnesses every day in health care in South Carolina.

Terri Fowler, DNP, APRN, was selected for the Maralynne D. Mitcham Interprofessional Scholars Program is a two semester experience for 40 students, joined by selected faculty scholars from each college. The program explores complex social, political, and human issues of broad interest to health care professionals and biomedical researchers in a format that maximizes student participation and interaction.

Partners in Health/ECCO, the new nurse practitioner health care program that helps low-income and uninsured living east of the Cooper River was featured on WCBD-TV Channel 2 last month. In case you missed it, click here. You may recognize some faces.