By the numbers

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

So there is a saying that, “Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.” While I agree with that notion I also understand that we live in a world that loves to count.

We count to understand data; we count to assess progress; and we count to award recognition. So this month on our website we are going to take pride in some recent “counting” related to our MUSC College of Nursing!

> Ranked 2nd by U.S. News & World Report for online graduate nursing programs

> Ranked 17th by NIH in research funding among all schools of nursing nationally

These are incredible achievements, particularly when one considers the size of our faculty and the scarce resources made available to us. And so we are understandably proud of these “numbers.”

Another number we can count is related to our profession of nursing. Here I am referring to the 2013 Gallup poll.

> Nurses were ranked as the most honest and ethical of all professions for the 11th year in a row.

Now what we really need is some great public relations and marketing that can let the public know about these achievements. With this eCONnections and our MUSC College of Nursing website we hope we are setting that in motion. Happy counting! Gail
CON ranked 17th in research funding
The College of Nursing’s continues to climb to the top of the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) research funding list by ranking 17th out of 700 U.S. nursing schools. This is the fourth year the college has achieved a national ranking. The college ranked 21st in 2012.

Rankings are established by the amount of research dollars awarded by the NIH to each school of nursing. In 2013, CON faculty members attracted nearly $2.25 million in NIH grants for research in areas such as the prevention of leg ulcers, wound care, spinal cord injuries, weight loss, enhancing kidney donation, smartphone interventions for hypertension and diabetes, and health literacy and disease management in African-Americans.

“I am incredibly proud of our faculty as they work to improve the health of our citizens and expand knowledge in new avenues of research,” says Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN. “This ranking places us in a small and very prestigious group of schools across the nation.”

With this funding, the college continues to make a difference in improving the quality of health care and in the advancement of nursing research. Congratulations to all of the CON faculty and staff for their contributions and support to CON’s research efforts.

CON building showing progress

It’s that time of year...
It’s time to start thinking about COMPLIANCE 2014. This is required training for all faculty and staff. The deadline to have compliance training completed is June 15. The training shouldn’t take more than 20 minutes to complete as the majority of employees only are required to complete five or six modules in addition to the Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosure statement. The COI must be completed no later than April 30.

Reading that clicks

The Shriver Report: A Woman’s Nation Pushes Back from the Brink
Maria Shriver | Center for American Progress

Journey to Becoming a Nurse
Johnson & Johnson Nursing Notes

Wellcome Library Releases 100,000 Images From The History Of Medicine
Brid-Aine Parnell | Forbes

Nurse Practitioners Treat Patients Well, Cheaply, So Doctors Want to Stop Them
Zach Weissmueller | reason.com

At VHA, Doctors, Nurses Clash on Oversight
Melinda Beck | The Wall Street Journal
Travel grants announcement
The MUSC Center for Global Health is offering two rounds of travel grants this winter—one to support trainees (students or residents) interested in global health projects and one to support faculty mentors who are leading groups of students abroad.

Trainee Global Health Travel Grants
The MUSC Center for Global Health (CGH) is pleased to announce opportunities for international travel grants in low and middle-income countries of up to $2,000 each to MUSC students and resident trainees for a 12-month period. Funds must be used within 12-months from the date of the award. The goal of the awards is to assist recipients in furthering global health research or training projects in low- or middle-income countries. Proposal deadline is February 12, 2014. For details, click here.

Global Health Travel Grants to Support Faculty Mentors Leading Student Groups Abroad
The MUSC Center for Global Health (CGH) is pleased to announce opportunities for international travel grants in low and middle-income countries of up to $2,000 each to MUSC faculty leading groups of MUSC students abroad for education, research or service learning programs. Funds must be used within 12-months from the date of the award. The goal of the awards is to assist recipients in providing mentorship to students in furthering global health research or training projects in low- or middle-income countries. Deadline is February 12, 2014. For details, click here.

NURSE Corps loan repayment program
The 2014 NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program application cycle is now open. The application cycle will close on February 27, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., ET.

Eligibility is open to registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses (e.g., nurse practitioners) who have qualifying educational loans, and who are dedicated to serving the Nation’s medically underserved populations in health professions shortage areas (HPSAs).

NURSE Corps Loan Repayment award recipients receive 60 percent of their unpaid nursing student loans for 2 years of full-time service, and an additional 25 percent of the original balance for an optional third year. The program is seeking applicants who are interested in serving those most in need, and remaining in a HPSA beyond their service commitment.

A funding preference will be given to applicants with the greatest financial need, defined as those qualified applicants whose debt to salary ratio (i.e., total qualifying educational loans divided by base annual salary) is 20 percent or greater. To learn more about the funding preferences, please review the FY 2014 NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program Application and Program Guidance.

For more information, visit the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program website.
RWJ New Careers in Nursing scholarships recipients named for spring 2014

The College of Nursing has selected four first semester students to receive the Robert Wood Johnson New Careers in Nursing scholarships for spring 2014: Jessica Mills, Logan Nexsen, Salome Seraphin, and Gabriella Petrozzi. Students selected for the scholarship must have an earned bachelor’s degree in another area and be a member of an underrepresented population in nursing.

Nursing is attracting an increasing number of highly skilled individuals from other disciplines who are seeking new careers in nursing. In addition to preparing more qualified nurses, the need exists to develop a nursing workforce that reflects the nation’s population. Nurse leaders recognize a strong connection between having a diverse nursing workforce and the ability to provide culturally-competent patient care.

MUSC Presidential Scholars seeks applications

The MUSC Presidential Scholars Program is now seeking applications for the 2014-2015 program. This is the University’s premiere interprofessional program. The Scholars Program is a two-semester experience for approximately 36 students, joined by selected faculty scholars from each college. This non-graded, extracurricular program allows students to bring an interprofessional perspective to the study of complex social, political, and human issues of broad interest to health care professionals and biomedical researchers. Involvement in the scholars program will allow students to:

- Engage in an intellectually challenging and provocative dialogue on issues of interest to health professionals and biomedical researchers;
- Develop appreciation for other professions and understand interprofessional collaboration;
- Appreciate the complexities of difficult social issues and how these complexities are interwoven in health and health care delivery;
- Heighten awareness of their own values in the context of their professional responsibilities; and
- Engage in community based work to improve the health of local communities.

Scholars meet bi-monthly for dinner meetings and presentations; additional meetings to complete group community project work may occur. Previous Scholars have found participation in the program has greatly benefited their professional development.

Information sessions about the Scholars Program will be held on:

- Wednesday, February 5 from 4-5 p.m. in EL 118
- Thursday, February 6 from noon-1 p.m. in EL 118
- Wednesday, February 12 from noon-1 p.m. in EL 118

Deadline for applications is February 28. Click here to complete an application for the program. Contact Hazel Breland at brelandh@musc.edu for additional information.

Recent grad selected as employee of the month

Alex Herlocker, ABSN Class of May 2013, was recently selected as the MUSC Medical Center “Employee of the Month.” Leah Ramos nominated Alex for the recognition and wrote, “Alex has only been a nurse for a few months but he has already exhibited compassion way beyond his tenure as a nurse.” Alex’s wife, Mary, is currently enrolled in the DNP program also works at the MUSC Medical Center. Click here to read the full story about Alex.

DNP student places 2nd in essay contest

Congratulations to Cameo Green, DNP student, who received second place in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest sponsored by the MUSC Office of Diversity. Cameo was recognized at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Commemorative program held in January. Click here to read her essay.

Student Handbook update

Updates have been made in the CON Student Handbook in regards to the Academic/Professionalism Warning Process (p. 45) and Professionalism Policy (p. 26). “If a student receives a second Professional Warning during the plan of study, the student will be referred to the Program Director to develop a performance improvement plan with expectations of what needs to be accomplished to be successful in the course.” Click here to read the statement found on page 45.

“America’s nurses are the beating heart of our medical system.”

- President Barack Obama
Submitted grants
Deborah C. Williamson, DHA, MSN, CNM, RN, submitted a proposal to the Children’s Trust of SC, in partnership with the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy titled “Move up: A network for young parents that promotes educational attainment, parenting skills, and reduction of unplanned pregnancies,” for the Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Program. The CON, in collaboration with a core group of partners in Charleston County, plans to build a model network of support services for young parents living in an urban community (N. Charleston) and in a rural community (Sea Islands and adjacent mainland). The focus will be on increasing educational attainment, improving parenting skills, and reducing unplanned pregnancies.

Ronald Acierno, PhD, submitted an application to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for the Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options Program titled “Behavioral activation and therapeutic exposure for bereavement after motor vehicle fatalities.” The goals are to a) host community partner and patient focus groups to modify behavioral activation and therapeutic exposure for grief (BATE-G) and for complicated grief (CG) following motor vehicle crashes; and b) conduct a randomized controlled trial of this intervention’s ability to reduce CG symptoms compared to supportive grief counseling.

Tiffany H. Williams, DNP, APRN, CPNP, submitted a competing continuation application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation titled “CONnecting to nursing.” The RWJF’s New Careers in Nursing is a scholarship program to help alleviate the nursing shortage and increase the diversity of nursing professionals and will provide scholarships to college graduates without nursing degrees who are enrolled in an accelerated BSN program.

Robin L. Bissinger, PhD, APRN, NNP-BC, FAAN, submitted a competing continuation application to the Health Resources and Services Administration for the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program. The project’s aim is to increase the supply of primary care NPs and to increase employment of funded graduates in rural, underserved or public health practice settings. The project will provide stipends to 35 diversity and/or disadvantage 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.

Ida Johnson-Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN, submitted an application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the Executive Nurse Fellows (ENF) program. This is a three-year advanced leadership program for nurses who aspire to lead and shape health care locally and nationally. Leadership competencies focused on leading self, leading others, leading the organization and leading in health care. A key curriculum goal is to help fellows apply the knowledge and skills they obtain to the leadership challenges and opportunities they face in their work.

Reminder - NIH public access policy
In July 2013, the NIH initiated more rigorous enforcement of their public access policy. The NIH has been delaying non-competing continuation grants when publications arising from the award have not been in full compliance with the policy. In some cases, the NIH has issued awards, but restricted ALL spending until all the relevant publications become compliant with the public access policy.

In order to avoid any award processing delays or spending restrictions, make sure to update all citations to include the PubMed Central reference number (PMCID) when preparing NIH grant applications and/or progress reports. The ORSP has posted additional guidance to assist the MUSC research community with the processes and procedures involved and how to remain compliant.

Publications & presentations
PUBLICATIONS:


MLK Business & Professional Breakfast
On January 21, several College of Nursing faculty and staff joined together for the 14th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Business and Professional Breakfast held at the Charleston Marriott Hotel. The event, co-sponsored by the YWCA of Greater Charleston and the city of Charleston, brought business and professional leaders together to generate renewed dedication to our respective missions while honoring Dr. King’s legacy of ‘freedom and justice for all.’ CON’s Idra Spruill and YMCA President Paul Stoney welcomed attendees prior to Mayor Joe Riley delivering the opening welcome. Michael B. Moore, Chair of Glory Foods, Inc. and a descendant of one of our civil war heroes, Robert Smalls, born in Beaufort, SC, delivered the keynote address. Afterward, College of Charleston student, Arvaughnna Postema, energized the audience with her remarks that focused on student attendees. Additional contributions were made by faculty members Kahlil Demonbreun, Ruth Conner and Sharon Bond.

New staff joining CON
Catherine Geddings will be joining the College of Nursing’s Dean’s Office on Monday, February 3rd. A long time MUSC employee, many of you may remember her from the Clinical Effectiveness and Patient Safety Center where she supported John Schaefler, MD, from 2006-2011. Most recently she has worked in Child Abuse Pediatrics at MUSC.

Catherine will be located on the 10th floor of HOT in the reception area as you enter 1002. Please stop by and introduce yourself and welcome her to the College of Nursing.

More bundles of joy
Romnia McCandless, PASOs program coordinator, welcomed a son into her fold on January 3. Ethan Alexander McCandless was born weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20.75 inches long.

Yolando Long is the proud grandmother to Carson Denise Simmons who arrived on February 3, weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces. Carson was born to Yolanda’s son and daughter-in-law in Florence, SC. This is Yolanda’s fifth grandchild and second granddaughter.

Wins
Terri Fowler successfully completed her white and yellow belt for Six Sigma.

Kahlil Demonbreun was featured in the cover story, “Kahlil Demonbreun, the first male NP in women’s health,” in Nurses FYI.

Save the Date and Join us in Columbia!

SCOPE of Pain Half-Day Meeting
Saturday, February 22, 2014
8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Yates Conference Center, Columbia, SC

The Registration fee is $25.00
Boston University CME will award nursing credits

For more information and to register visit www.scopeofpain.com

Suggestion Boxes
Suggestion boxes are located on the 10th floor (near water cooler) and in the 3rd floor copy room. Dean Stuart will review all suggestions that are received so that they can be discussed at future staff meetings.
The Action Council for Cross Cultural Mental Health and Human Services

36th Annual Cross Cultural Conference

Approaches for Reducing Poverty and Enhancing Family Well-Being

*Featured Presenters*

The Honorable Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D  
Chair, SC Mental Health Commission

Rev. Dr. Sam Davis, Pastor  
Beulah Grove Baptist Church

Joyce James, MSW, Director  
Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Anne Marie Ugarte, J.D.  
University of South Carolina School of Law

Gina Newsome Duncan, MD  
Georgia Regents University

Brian T. Conner, PhD, RN, CNE  
Assistant Professor, Medical University of  
South Carolina College of Nursing

Contact Hours and Continuing Education

The Action Council for Cross-Cultural Mental Health and Human Services is approved by the South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners as a continuing education provider. Approval has also been granted by the South Carolina Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists. The conference will provide 22 contact hours for both licensing boards.

The conference has been granted 22 continuing Law Enforcement Credits (CLEE) by the SC Criminal Justice Academy Standards Unit, and 19 continuing Legal Education Credits (CLE) by the South Carolina Supreme Court Commission on CLE and Specialization. *Nursing:* Mid-Carolina AHEC is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by The South Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission of Accreditation. This nursing continuing education activity has been approved for 16.75 hours. Participants must attend 90% of the program in order to receive a certificate of attendance. *No partial credit will be given.*

The SC Center for Nursing Leadership in Partnership with Alpha Xi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Presents

The Mary Ann Parsons Lectureship

“The Affordable Care Act - What Do Nurses Need To Know”

Keynote Speaker:  Diana J. Mason, RN, PhD, FAAN
President of the American Academy of Nursing
Rudin Professor of Nursing and Co-Founder/Co-Director of the Center for Health, Media, and Policy at Hunter College, City University of New York

Schedule of Events

8:30 am
Registration

9:00 am
Welcome
Dr. Jeannette Andrews,
Dean USC College of Nursing
Eileene Leapheart,
President of the Alpha Xi Chapter of STT

9:15 am
Keynote Address
Dr. Diana Mason

10:45
Dr. Lynn Bailey
Lynn Bailey Associates, Health Care Economist

12:00 pm
Buffet Luncheon

1:45 pm
Panel Discussion

2:15 pm
Afternoon Presentation
Speaker TBA

3:15 pm
Summary of Day and Challenge of Where to go from Here
Dr. Diana Mason

3:45 pm
Evaluations & Closing Remarks
Dean Andrews

FRIDAY February 21st
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Seawell’s
Columbia, SC

Cost:  $75; students $25
REGISTER HERE by February 7, 2014

For more information contact
The Center for Nursing Leadership
at 803-777-3039

The Center for Nursing Leadership is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the South Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.