Soo during our fabulous Spoleto Festival I saw the Dorrance Dance Company, and wow is all that I can say. For an hour and a half I was mesmerized by tap dancing that was other worldly. A troop of a dozen dancers, mostly female, tapped and bounced their way into the heart and soul of the audience. 

But I also was struck by a few notable and critical elements of their performance.

• ENERGY – the amazing energy that electrified the stage
• PRECISION – the need for exactness in each tap and each step and each body movement
• TEAMWORK – when they danced together they created a rhythm and performance that had every member of the company perfectly in sync with each other and the overall dance
• PASSION – the smiles and delight that exuded from the stage let the audience know that this was not a job for them. This was their passion and what they loved to do as often as they could.

That led me to think about our college and the performances we produce each and every day. Indeed we create our own dance built on our energy, precision, teamwork and passion, and it is as beautiful and creative as a Spoleto performance. And, like those dancers, we need to work hard each day to align our steps, execute our programs and engage our audiences in the “dance of nursing.” Maybe it’s not a booking in Spoleto but it is a booking in health care quality.

Finally, towards the end of the Dorrance program there was a long tap dance number done by one person who tap danced to jazz music but who was totally in the dark. Without visuals, the audience was compelled to listen only to the tap, tap, tap of the invisible feet and the music accompaniment. Invisible beauty and palpable energy – how like nursing was this interlude?

So my answer is yes – we, as nurses, can dance and we do so every day, without applause or accolades but with great energy, precision, teamwork, and passion – tap, tap, tap....Gail
Beyond the uniform: A brief history of nurses in the U.S. military

The history of nurses in the U.S. military truly began with the establishment of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908 and the Air Force Nurse Corps in 1949. However, even in colonial times, nurses were acknowledged as “citizen soldiers” who met the basic health care needs of soldiers under the most primitive conditions of war. In fact, as early as the War of 1812, volunteers performed nursing duties in places that were often dangerous and required courage in the face of adversity. Since then, thousands of military nurses have served the U.S., risking their lives to care for the sick and wounded, as well as comfort those who are dying.

“Nurses have always helped the wounded, sick and injured in wars, but there wasn’t always an official place for them. It wasn’t until 1901 that military nurse corps started to emerge, and I believe they were established because people truly started to recognize the importance of nurses in the military,” said Bonnie Jennings, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, professor of nursing at Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing in Atlanta, Ga. Jennings served as a nurse in the U.S. Army for 32 years and has received numerous military awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal and the Army Nurse of the Year Award.

RN-BSN program approved

The College of Nursing has announced that it will begin to offer an online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in nursing (RN to BSN) degree program beginning this fall. Applications are being accepted through July 15, 2014.

“This is an exciting time as we embark on new endeavors to advance our nurses professionally,” says Dean Gail Stuart PhD, RN, FAAN. “With changes in health care, we need a nursing work force that is continually growing, learning and assuming new roles in patient care; we want to ensure that our nurses are in optimal positions to deliver on the new expectations and demands of our evolving health care system.”

The RN to BSN program will enable nurses to pursue the advanced training required in a growing number of hospitals, as well as assume leadership roles and increase their earning potential while balancing work and other life obligations. Health care has becoming increasingly complex, and health care organizations, as well as the federal government, are calling for baccalaureate prepared nurses who are better equipped to meet the demands of practice.

The fully online program can be completed in one academic year that consists of three full-time semesters. Students who meet the program’s admission criteria and have the prerequisites for admission will complete 10 courses over 12 months that will provide a foundation for excellence in professional nursing practice. This practice-related experience is designed to assist students to integrate new practice-related knowledge and skills that will transition them from an associate degree or diploma to the baccalaureate level of proficiency.

The program will work to assist the student in gaining higher-level skills than those already accomplished in their RN program. The college’s highly qualified, committed and accessible faculty will teach the online courses. The RN to BSN program has been approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

Burwell confirmed as secretary of HHS

On June 9, Sylvia Mathews Burwell assumed office as the 22nd Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Burwell replaces former HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Burwell has held prior leadership roles in the economic and policy arenas, including past presidencies at the Walmart Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Global Development Program. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing supports Burwell’s appointment and hopes to continue to collaborate with HHS to improve the health of patients across the country.
**J U L Y**

**FRI 04**
**Independence Day**
State holiday (CON closed)

**MON 07**
**PhD Residency Week (July 7 - 11)**
Contact Yolanda Long (morrisym@musc.edu) for details

**WED 23**
**DNP Two Day Orientation**
Contact Libby Cole (coleel@musc.edu) for details

**WED 23**
**Janelle Othersen Visiting Professorship Lecture Series**
**featuring Virginia Trotter Betts MSN, JD, RN, FAAN, former commissioner of the TN Dept. of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities**
4 p.m. | Drug Discovery Bldg. (Room 110)

---

**A U G U S T**

**FRI 06**
**Mini-Orientation for Incoming BSN Students accepted for August**
1 p.m. | Basic Sciences Building (Room 302)

**TUE 19**
**MUSC Faculty Convocation**
4:30 p.m. | Drug Discovery Bldg. (Room 110)
Reception to follow. Newly appointed MUSC President David Cole will give the keynote address.

**THU 21**
**Stethoscope Ceremony**
4 p.m. | St. Luke’s Chapel (corner of Bee St. & Ashley Ave.)

---

**JANELLE OTHERSEN VISITING PROFESSORSHIP LECTURE SERIES**

**July 23 @ 4 p.m.**
**MUSC Drug Discovery Building (Rm. 110)**

**Virginia Trotter Betts, MSN, JD, RN, FAAN**, a nationally recognized health policy leader, presents “Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies for the Advanced Practice Nurse: The ACA and Beyond.”

Betts is the former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. She was president of the American Nurses Association from 1992-1996 and led the ANA and the nursing profession during the national debate on health care reform from 1991-1994. She commissioned the development of professional nursing’s “White Papers” on health reform and the role of nurses in a reformed system including “Health Care Reform: Essential Mental Health Services.”
AACN invited to White House to address student loan debt

On June 9, AACN President Eileen T. Breslin was invited to the White House to attend a special briefing with President Barack Obama, who announced enhancements to federal programs aimed to help alleviate student loan debt. The administration announced that it will take action to lift the burden of debilitating student loans to ensure equality in education for all.

During the proceedings, President Obama signed a memorandum directing the Secretary of Education to propose regulations that would expand the Pay As You Earn plan. The memorandum would allow nearly five million additional federal direct student loan borrowers the opportunity to cap their student loan payments at 10 percent of their income. This expansion would include borrowers who took out loans prior to October 2007 or have not taken out loans since October 2011.

The Presidential Memorandum also outlines a series of new executive actions aimed to support federal student loan borrowers, especially for vulnerable borrowers who may be at greater risk of defaulting on their loans. Additionally, the President named six areas in which the Department of Education will focus efforts to help decrease debt burden for students:

- Strengthen incentives for loan contractors to serve students well
- Ensure active-duty military get the relief they are entitled to
- Work with the private sector to promote awareness of repayment options
- Explore alternate ways to communicate with federal loan borrowers
- Use innovative communication strategies to help vulnerable borrowers
- Promote stronger collaboration to improve information for students and families

Representatives from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the American Nurses Association also attended to lend their support of the Administration’s initiative. AACN will continue to update the membership as our association continues to advocate for students through higher education policy. For more information regarding the proposed steps to alleviate student debt, read the White House’s fact sheet.
Submitted grants

Kathleen Cartmell, PhD, MPH, submitted a proposal to AHRQ’s Exploratory and Developmental Grant to Improve Health Care Quality through the Health Information Technology titled, “Reducing hospital readmission rates by implementing an inpatient tobacco cessation service driven by interactive-voice recognition technology.” This R21 study provides an efficient way to examine whether investing in tobacco cessation services can help hospitals to avoid readmission penalties and reduce health care costs via secondary data analyses. Additionally, the findings from this study will provide preliminary data useful for planning a large-scale randomized trial across multiple hospitals to test the benefits of inpatient hospital cessation program modelled after the Joint Commission tobacco treatment standards.

Charlene Pope, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, also submitted an application for ARHQ’s R21 exploratory study titled, “Intervention development for racial and gender disparities in diabetes control.” This R21 will explore the perspectives of black and white female Veterans with poorly controlled diabetes. Current providers lack systematic information on the perceptions of health services black women Veterans report, the cultural, attitudinal or communication differences they may have experienced with providers or that act as facilitators or barriers in their care, or perceived instances of bias or discrimination they may have discerned.

Shannon M. Hudson, PhD, RN, submitted an application titled “School-based partnerships for adolescents with prehypertension and hypertension.” This application proposes partnering with high school nurses to improve access to primary health care for adolescents with prehypertension and hypertension. The intervention uses telehealth to overcome barriers to access to care by linking adolescents in the schools with local primary care providers. The overall aim of this study is to apply community-engaged methods to determine the acceptability, demand, implementation, practicality, and integration of this school-based telehealth protocol.

Deborah C. Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, submitted an application titled, “Partners in health care” to the Duke Endowment. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate a model of interprofessional practice that integrates health coaching, care coordination, and technology applications to improve the medical management of uninsured, hard to reach patients diagnosed with chronic disease or associated conditions of hyperlipidemia, obesity and tobacco usage and we anticipate these strategies will improve health outcomes, and reduce emergency department visits by uninsured patients for problems related to a diagnosis of hypertension or diabetes mellitus.

Teresa J. Kelechi, PhD, RN, FAAN, along with Robin Muise-Helmericks, PhD (MUSC Department of Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology), submitted an R01 application titled, “Genomics of biofilms, inflammatory regulators and leg symptoms in venous ulcers.” This application represents a translational discovery proposal aimed to enhance our understanding of uncomfortable leg symptoms, pain, and quality of life in individuals suffering with chronic venous ulcers (CVLUs) infected with biofilms. The long-term objective is to create a clinical/molecular profile to be used as markers in the clinical setting for the identification of biofilm-infected CVLUs.

Publications & presentations

PUBLICATIONS


POSTER PRESENTATION


PhD student kudos

Michelle Nichols has received the New Investigator Award from Sigma Theta Tau International’s Gamma Omicron at-Large Chapter. This award is in support of her research study, “Empowering African-American youth through Photovoice to change the shape of their community,” and provides grant funding for her dissertation.

The Coastal Community Foundation has notified Crystal Graham that she will receive the Faith Jefferson Hohloch Scholarship Endowment in the amount of $8,000.
New venture connects direct primary care access and health education

On June 6, the College of Nursing, in collaboration with East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO), opened Partners in HealthCare, a nurse practitioner practice that focuses on the management of uninsured patients with diabetes, hypertension, and associated conditions of hyperlipidemia, obesity, and tobacco usage. ECCO, a non-profit, community service organization, serves more than 4,500 Berkeley and Charleston county families who are living in poverty. This new initiative is a collaboration between MUSC’s College of Nursing and Department of Family Medicine, as well as Roper St. Francis Healthcare.

Last year ECCO asked the CON to develop a program to address the health concerns of their uninsured clients. ECCO staff had identified that their uninsured clients had no source of primary health care. Not only were clients not receiving basic preventive services, but for those clients with chronic disease, there was a lack of access to a health system that provided a continuity of care which is critical to improve health outcomes in this hard to reach population.

Partners in HealthCare is staffed by three CON faculty nurse practitioners, Cathy Durham, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Terri Fowler, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, and Whitney Smith, MSN, APRN, ANP-C. Not only do they provide patient care but they also precept DNP students. Additionally, the practice site retains two CON faculty members who provide needed administrative support. Shannon Smith, DNP, RN, ACNS-BC, CGRN, provides care coordination and Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, provides support for clinic management and integration of accelerated BSN students.

The enthusiasm expressed by BSN students for the opportunity to work with nurse practitioners is captured in the words of Lauren Walden, third semester BSN student. “Last night I had an amazing clinical experience at ECCO. It was the first time I have ever had an NP preceptor and it was AMAZING,” Walden said. “I followed two patients with Dr. Durham, who is a rock star. Not only was I lucky to have an amazing educational experience, I loved the whole environment. This experience reassured me that I am on the right path...I want to be a DNP.”

Other key players that have assisted and facilitated the start-up clinic include the MUSC Department of Family Medicine and the CARES Clinic that provided facility and systems support.

Partners in HealthCare will be adding new members of the interprofessional team in August. Physical therapy, pharmacy, dietetic, and medical students will work with the NPs, as well as the nursing students to provide care to this underserved population.

Partners in HealthCare is off to a good start and running smoothly thanks to the organizational talents of Maria Toler, CON’s compliance manager. Many thanks to three energetic MUSC volunteers, Dianne Schul-er, RN, Tess Lawhon, and Margaret Shull (Shull is the daughter of Lynn Shull, CON’s assistant dean for finance and administration), who keep the office orderly and welcome patients. If you are interested in volunteering at PHC, contact Maria Toler at tolerm@musc.edu.

Partners in HealthCare is open Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., by appointment only. To schedule a visit, contact Yolanda Tolton at 843-416-7145 or ytolton@ECCOcharleston.org.

Services include: evaluation, treatment, laboratory services, prescriptions (non-narcotic) and health education.
HHI Scholars participate in migrant outreach

The Charleston area is home to various farms that supply much of the produce that is seen in local markets and grocery stores. However, before the food can make it to the store’s shelves, it must be harvested.

Typically, immigrant labor does this work. Springtime marks the beginning of the harvest season in the Charleston area. An influx of migrant workers arrive in the area only to stay for a few weeks, perhaps a month, before migrating to harvest crops in other states.

The precarious conditions under which many migrant workers live has been well documented. Charleston is no different. Men and women may come alone or with their children. They typically have no form of transportation, low health literacy and little access to medical services. They are mostly uninsured and do not speak English.

Over the past five years, CON’s Hispanic Health Initiatives (HHI) has collaborated with local organizations to provide free medical screenings and health information to migrant workers in Hollywood, Edisto Island, Johns Island, and Wadmalaw Island.

The clinical group of the HHI Scholars participate in various medical screenings all over the Lowcountry. Recently, scholars Rena Hasegawa, Alicia Pirrallo, Dannen O’Keefe, Anh Lee, and Evelyn Treiber conducted glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, and calculated body mass index and obesity risks at area clinics. The migrant outreach participation provides CON students with the opportunity to interact with a unique population that is often marginalized by society.

This cultural immersion program is unique to the college and helps prepare students to enter the workforce with a deeper understanding of how to work with diverse populations.

The harvest season will last until late fall and students will continue to participate as long as the opportunity arises.

PASOs

The PASOs program continues to conduct outreach events within the community and at migrant camps. Romina McCandless, PASOs coordinator, and Citlaly Hernandez, PASOs promotora (community health worker), recently worked with the MUSC Alliance for Hispanic Health and Our Lady of Mercy to provide women at Johns Island and Hollywood migrant camps with folic acid and contraceptive information. In addition, migrant workers participated in STI counseling and were provided condoms and STI testing information.

In addition to conducting outreach activities, PASOs has been working on expanding the services it provides to the Latino community and is recruiting a second cohort of promotores. Promotores support their peers by helping reduce barriers to care and by advocating for the Latino community by participating on panels and advising providers how to increase access for health services. PASOs plans to have promotores complete training by August.

ABRAZOS

For the past eight years MUSC has been collaborating with the Charleston County School District to facilitate a family literacy program for Latina women and their young children. This program, Abrazos, prepares Latino children with school readiness skills while their mothers learn English. The school district facilitates the school readiness and ESOL curriculum, however, the college leads health lessons with the mothers once a week. During the past year, Romina McCandless, PASOs program coordinator, facilitated 24 lessons for 55 women to educate mothers on particular health topics. Currently PASOs is analyzing pre- and post-test results and conducting focus groups with program participants to determine the impact of the lessons. Results will be available in July.
New faculty & staff join CON

Stephanie Armstrong, MSN, RN, joins CON as an instructor in the undergraduate program. Armstrong previously worked for South Carolina State University where she was an assistant professor in the nursing program teaching OB and pediatric nursing. Armstrong received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from George Mason University.

Jim Condren joins CON as a senior applications analyst with the TACHL team. Originally from the Buffalo, NY area, he has been a SC resident since 2006 and is in the process of moving from Camden to Charleston. Before coming to MUSC, he was a lead programmer working in software architecture and performance for a group of property and casualty claims administration products for CSC. Condren graduated from University at Buffalo, SUNY in 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in science, majoring in computer science and minoring in math.

Mary Dooley is the new research associate working as a biostatistician. Before joining CON full-time, Dooley was a graduate student who also worked as an adjunct mathematics instructor at Trident Technical College. She also worked for Dr. Martina Mueller on a part-time basis. Dooley has bachelor’s in mathematics from Charleston Southern University, and graduated in May with a master’s in biostatistics from MUSC (Department of Public Health).

Beth Jensen, DNP, APRN-BC, joins the faculty as an instructor in the graduate program. Before joining CON, Jensen was a nurse practitioner for the Town of Mt. Pleasant’s Employee Wellness Clinic. Jensen earned a BSN from George Mason University, a MSN in community health from San Diego State University, and a DNP from MUSC.

Patricia Miller, MSN, RN, has been hired as the director for the new RN-BSN program. She will also be an instructor in the undergraduate program. Previously, Miller was a clinical instructor at the University of South Carolina - Bluffton. She has experience in women’s health, adult health, and community health nursing. She earned her BSN from Penn State University and a MSN from Drexel University.

In May, Wendy Muzzy joined CON as a research instructor and will be working closely with Dr. Ron Acierno on his funded projects. Previously, Muzzy was a research associate at the MUSC’s Institute of Psychiatry in the Military Sciences Division. She earned a bachelor’s from College of Charleston and holds a master’s in research administration from MUSC and a master’s in library and information science from the University of South Carolina.

Joy Vess, DNP, ACNP-BC, will be joining the college in August as an instructor the DNP program. Previously, Vess was a part-time clinical instructor for CON and taught courses online. She earned a BSN from Clemson University and received both her DNP and MSN degrees from the University of South Carolina.

Libby Cole joined the college in May as the MSN/DNP program coordinator. Before joining the CON, she was an associate director at the College of Charleston providing student leadership programming. Cole earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in rhetoric from George College. She also received an MEd in counselor education with a concentration in college counseling and student affairs from The Citadel Graduate College. Her office is located in 151-B Rutledge Ave. along with the student services team.

Briana Davis joined CON in May as a project coordinator for Project Diabetes, a research study by Dr. Ida Spruill that aims to measure health literacy and diabetes management among African-Americans. Prior to joining CON, Davis worked for DHEC’s Office of Minority Health and University of South Carolina as program coordinator developing a healthy lifestyle intervention for African-American churches. Davis earned a master’s degree in public health from USC. In May, Davis received a health communication certificate from USC.

Elizabeth Sanders has joined the College of Nursing as a fiscal technician II. She will be working along side Sabrina Green processing all procurement transactions for the CON. Prior to joining the CON, Sanders worked as a senior buyer at Roper Hospital – covering the main OR, the CVOR, as well as the ambulatory area by processing orders, managing inventory and working closely with the value analysis team analyzing new products and services for the OR’s. Sanders earned a bachelor’s degree in business from the College of Charleston.

Jorge Villamizar-Escobar joins CON as a part-time project assistant for TACHL. He will work with the Hispanic population for Frank Trieber’s project. Villamizar-Escobar is a recently graduate from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor’s in international business/finance.

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 block your calendars now. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.
Thank you!
Thank you to everyone who supported this year’s MUSC YES campaign. As of June 24, the campaign has surpassed its goal of $300,000. To date, 624 employees have donated, including nearly 100 new donors.

This year, overall participation from CON’s faculty and staff jumped 32 percent over last year. As of June 24, both faculty and staff had a 53 percent campaign participation rate.

Many thanks to the following faculty and staff for their generous contribution.

Anonymous
Elaine Amella
Teresa Atz
Robin Bissing
Joan Bonaparte
Sharon Bond
Lauren Brown
Brenda Brunner-Jackson
Brian Conner
Carrie Cormack
Annemarie Donato
Bonnie Dumas
Terri Fowler
Elizabeth Harmon
Shannon Hudson
Carolyn Jenkins
Teresa Kelechi
Sally Kennedy
Beth Khan
Jessica Krasny
Marilyn Laken
Joanne Langdale
Mardi Long
Yolanda Long
Carlos Lopez
Gayenell Magwood
Lynne Nemeth
Susan Newman
Carolyn Page
Kenneth Ruggiero
Gena Ryan
Laurie Scott
Jennifer Shearer
Georgette Smith
Jo Smith
Shannon Smith
Ida Spruill
Gail Stuart
Maria Toler
Frank Treiber
Raquel Vining
Kathy Williams
Tiffany Williams
Deborah Williamson

And the winner of the ice cream competition is the...

Congratulations to the CON faculty for the highest percentage of participation (not dollar amount) with 57 percent of faculty giving to the YES Campaign. Close on their heels were the staff with a 48.5 percent participation rate. The winning team will receive an ice cream social later in the summer.

Wins
The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has highlighted Susan Newman’s K23 research project on their Spinal Cord Injury research page titled “Training a Key Researcher to Study the SCI Population in High-Risk Communities.”

Mat Gregoski, PhD was recently featured in The Catalyst about a pilot study that he and David Turner, PhD (Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in Hollings Cancer Center) conducted in connection with the Healthy Charleston Challenge (HCC) and 20 of its participants. The goal of the study was to determine if regular exercise and changes in eating habits would, over the course of the challenge, help to decrease in participants certain disease biomarkers such as advanced glycemic end-products, better known as AGEs. AGEs are a complex group of compounds that form when sugar reacts with amino acids. This is a process that occurs in the body in addition to the fact that AGEs exist in everyday foods like meat, butter and vegetables. Click here to read the article and to find out the results. CON’s Sheila Smith assisted in completing the study.

Kahlil Demonbreun, DNP, RNC-OB, WHNP-BC, ANP-BC, was recently recognized at the annual convention for the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWOHN) held in Orlando, FL, June 14 - 18. With more than 3,000 people in attendance, he was acknowledged for taking a career risk as a male nurse in the area of women’s health. In 1995, he wrote a position statement that was adopted by the AWOHN in relation to gender and employment as a nurse in the specialty areas of women’s health, obstetric and neonatal nursing. Nineteen years later, the position statement is still endorsed today. In addition, Demonbreun was recognized for his various leadership roles throughout his career. In 2012, Demonbreun became first male women’s health nurse practitioner in the U.S. to earn a DNP degree.

Assistant Professor Teresa Atz, PhD, RN, received the 2014-2015 John R. Raymond Mentoring Fellowship award on June 24 at a reception in Colcock Hall. The Fellowship provides financial support for selected full-time female faculty members to initiate a relationship with a mentor who is an expert in their chosen field.