Leadership in Action

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

On our web site this month we are featuring some of the amazing leaders we have here in the College of Nursing. Among these are our three Endowed Chairs. Dr. Teresa Kelechi is the newest appointment, filling the David and Margaret Clare Endowed Chair in Nursing. Joining her are Dr. Carolyn Jenkins, the Ann Darlington Edwards Endowed Chair in Nursing, and Dr. Frank Treiber, the Center of Economic Excellence Endowed Chair. We are delighted to now have three endowed chairs in our College, and hope to obtain more in the days ahead as they truly do help us build capacity in our College.

Dr. Ron Acierno also has joined us as our associate dean for research. He is adding new energy to our research agenda and is already immersed in mentoring faculty and promoting grant submissions across all domains of the College.

Another major appointment is that of Dr. Gayenell Magwood as the College of Nursing’s department chair. This represents a major leadership transition for her as she assumes responsibility for faculty contracts and evaluation and for advocating for the faculty to help us achieve our organizational goals.

You can read more about these accomplished individuals on the pages of this month’s eCONnections and on the web site. That said, I want to emphasize that we have many other leaders here in the College of many different types – formal, informal, assertive, quiet, internal and external. It is exactly that combination of attitudes and skill sets that makes us strong and able to pursue and achieve our goals.

And as a final note I’d like to share with you my latest thinking on one more version of this issue that is emerging as critical to successful organizations. It is the value and uniqueness needed for “collaborative leadership.” Leaders in this realm work to reduce silos, are inclusive of all individuals, and capitalize on diversity in solving problems. You might say that this is the leadership style of the future and with our new appointments, new hires and existing faculty and staff I think we are off to a great start in this arena as well....

Gail
**CON Appoints New Leadership Positions**

In January, after an extensive national search, the College of Nursing selected Ronald Acierno, PhD, as its new associate dean for research. In this position, 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. Acierno will remain in his position as research scientist at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center where he directs several studies. In addition, he will continue his work with Veterans on Deck, a non-profit organization he founded to facilitate veteran’s re-integration into society in a positive, team-building way by serving as a board member, and the clinical and technical advisor.

In addition to his position at the College, Acierno is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at MUSC where he holds affiliations in the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center and in the Division of Military Psychiatry. He has two diverse areas of research: epidemiological work with victims of disaster, interpersonal violence and elder abuse, and treatment outcome work with civilian and military populations suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

“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,” said Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Teresa Kelechi, PhD, RN, FAAN has been appointed as the College of Nursing’s David R. and Margaret C. Clare Endowed Chair in Nursing. With a solid record of funding by the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), Kelechi’s primary research focus is venous leg ulcer prevention. She also studies self-monitoring methods using infrared thermometry technology to detect subclinical evidence of ulcer development.

Kelechi is a professor and has been employed at MUSC since 1987. She was funded by the NINR to study the differences in skin temperature and blood flow of skin affected by chronic venous disorders and most recently was funded to study the impact of cryotherapy on the development of leg ulcers.

Endowed chairs hold tremendous prestige in the academic community. To be named to an endowed chair means that one has achieved national or international recognition for excellence in their field. “The appointment of Dr. Kelechi will allow MUSC to continue to lead the state and region as innovators, knowledge brokers and community partners,” said Dean Stuart.

Gayenell Magwood, PhD, RN, Alumnus CCRN, has been named department chair for the College of Nursing. Magwood is an associate professor and research scientist at the College, and has worked at MUSC since 1998 when she was recruited as a clinical transplant coordinator. “Although I enjoyed my clinical experiences, I felt the need to do more,” she said. That led her to enroll in the CON’s PhD program. After completing her degree in 2006, Magwood launched her career as a nurse scientist.

Currently, she is the PI on a NIH-NINR funded K01 project that builds on the novel integration of genomics to personalize a socio-culturally tailored diabetes prevention intervention for women residing in subsidized housing communities.

Magwood’s research interests include health disparities, health literacy, multiple-risk reduction, and disease prevention. Her focus is on the development and implementation of community based bio-behavioral interventions and multi-level community-based participatory research with underserved communities.

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*“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.”*  
—Jack Welch
M A R C H

SAT
8
Spring Break
March 8 - 16

TUE
25
Research for Lunch | presented by Dr. Cristina Lopez
Noon | HOT (304P)
Bring your own lunch; RSVP to Raquel Vining at vining@musc.edu

WED
19
CON Staff Meeting
9 a.m. | HOT (910)

A P R I L

THU
10
MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday & Friday

TUE
16
Research for Lunch | presented by Dr. Gayenell Magwood
Noon | HOT (304P)
Bring your own lunch; RSVP to Raquel Vining at vining@musc.edu

WED
23
CON Staff Meeting
10 a.m. | HOT (910)

2014 Compliance Requirements

Conflicts of Interest - deadline is April 30
http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/coi/

CATTS - deadline is June 15
http://www.musc.edu/catts

(For both databases, log in with MNA & password)

LOOKING AHEAD

SPRING CONVOCATION
Thursday, May 15 @ 3 p.m.
Charleston Music Hall

MUSC GRADUATION
Friday, May 16 @ 9 a.m.
The Citadel, McAlister Fieldhouse

STETHOSCOPE CEREMONY
Thursday, August 21 @ 4 p.m.
St. Lukes Chapel

WINTER CONVOCATION
Thursday, December 11 @ 10 a.m.
Charleston Music Hall
BSN Students Travel to Uganda

In early December, a small group of MUSC nursing students traveled to the region of Masindi-Kitara in Uganda, Africa. They teamed up with the Charleston-based non-profit, Palmetto Medical Initiative (PMI) to participate in a short-term mission trip that is part of PMI’s long-term vision to provide sustainable health care to the people of Uganda.

For more than a week, 42 volunteers provided medical care to people in rural areas of Uganda, including CON BSN students Hannah Bradley, Kasey Henderson, Carrie Prescott, Daisy Smith, and Toya Williams.

When the students arrived in Masindi they toured the Family Spirit Orphanage, and were able to see first-hand how HIV/AIDS affected the children in one way or another. They also toured PMI’s Masindi-Kitara Medical Clinic that opened in 2011, and is staffed with Ugandan physicians and nurses.

The group left their hotel early each day, and traveled up to two hours on mostly dirt roads, crossing through mud and over potholes, to reach their destination. Nearby schools were used to house the medical clinics. The first day the nursing students saw nearly 250 patients. They group returned to the same village the following day to find over 600 villagers waiting in line.

They worked in triage, listening to each patient’s chief complaints and administering de-worming medications and vitamins as necessary. Williams was our triage leader. She ensured that each team member had necessary materials, a translator, followed safety protocols, and that patient flow was consistent.

Prescott, Bradley, Henderson, and Smith used their multi-tasking skills to support Williams. The group would triage families of six or more at one time. Some of the students spent time assisting a nurse practitioner. Others were able to assist physicians who called upon them to administer intramuscular medications and provide wound care, including debridement of gangrenous wounds. While the patients waited in line, locals who had been educated by the Peace Corps provided education about clean water.

In just five days, the nursing students, along with eight health care providers, saw and treated over 1,400 patients.

They ended their time in Uganda with a safari near the Nile River. The group found it difficult to leave the red clay and the genuine people of Africa. This life changing experience transformed their outlook of how health care truly impacts the people of third-world countries.

Regalia Day—Class of May ’14

Regalia Day will be held on Wednesday, March 5 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Education Library Lobby. This is an opportunity for students to pick up their regalia and tickets for Commencement. Students who are unable to pick up their regalia may come by CON’s student services office, temporarily located in the College of Health Professions, 151 Rutledge Avenue, Annex B, Suite 117.

Students will have the option to request two extra tickets (in addition to the 10 that students already receive) by placing their name on a list during Regalia Day or emailing Pat Cassano at cassanpj@musc.edu a request after Regalia Day. Tickets are for Commencement only, not Convocation.

MUSC Commencement will be held Friday, May 16 at 9 a.m. at McAlister Fieldhouse, The Citadel. The College of Nursing Convocation will be the day before, Thursday, May 15, at 3 p.m. at the Charleston Music Hall.

DNP student receives scholarship

Lisa Klasek, post-BSN/FNP student, received one of only two scholarships to attend AACN’s 2014 Student Policy Summit March 23-25, in Washington, DC. The scholarship will cover her travel, hotel, and conference registration. She also won a scholarship to attend the Nurse In Washington Internship (NIWI) session March 30-April 1.

Klasek was awarded these two scholarships because of her work and advocacy for cervical cancer prevention legislation in SC. Sharon Bond, PhD, CNM, FACNM, associate professor, states, “These accomplishments indicate that our DNP students’ policy related projects are potential sources of funding, give national recognition for our students and are valued by our nursing organizations. From reviewing the AACN and the NIWI programs, Lisa will have a phenomenal experience in DC.”
Submitted grants

Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, CNM, RN, submitted a proposal to the Health Resources and Services Administration for the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Program—Interprofessional Collaborative Practice titled “EQUIP: Excellence and Quality Using Interprofessional Practice.” The goal of this proposal is to create an innovative and sustainable interprofessional collaborative practice model to improve patient and population health outcomes within a network of federally qualified health centers in SC.

Ronald Acierno, PhD, submitted an R01 application to the National Institute of Health. The National Elder Mistreatment Study (Acierno, et al., 2010) represented the largest prevalence assessment of physical, sexual, emotional, financial and neglectful abuse of community residing older adults ever conducted. The present proposal, titled “The National Elder Mistreatment Study: 4 Year Followup & Mental Health Correlates,” is to recontact the original participants to determine prevalence of new abuse events, risk factors for these events, and mental health correlates of abuse in the form of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and substance abuse.

Robin Bissinger, PhD, APRN, NNP-BC, FAAN, submitted a competing continuation application to the Health Resources and Services Administration for the “Nurse Faculty Loan Program.” This application is a request for financial loan support for students enrolled in a PhD in nursing degree program and the post-master’s/DNP program at the College of Nursing.

Mathew Gregoski, PhD, MS, submitted an application to the National Institutes of Health/National Heart Lung and Blood Institute titled “GxE Machine Learning (ML) with Jackson Heart Study Data Examining BP, and CVD Outcomes.” This project will use machine-learning approaches to examine gene X environment risk factors for essential hypertension and cardio-vascular disease (EH/CVD) with Jackson Heart Study data. We predict that ML analyses will identify environmental risk factors with which to intervene. In addition, the results will help to validate and expand our biobehavioral theoretical framework for EH/CVD etiology.

Gigi Smith, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC, submitted an application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the Nurse Faculty Scholars program. The three year program goal is to develop the next generation of national leaders in academic nursing through career development awards for outstanding junior nursing faculty. The goal of the study, titled “Caregiving in Pediatric Epilepsy,” is to refine and pilot an intervention for caregivers at distinct time periods post diagnosis; less than one year, one to five years, or greater than five years to improve outcomes of their health status and quality of life.

Publications & presentations

PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:
> Cason, Melanie; Anderson, Jane; Gilbert, Gregory; Henderson, Ruth; Nickles, Barbara; Pufpaff, Laurie. “Pair up! Dyadic skills training in ADN and BSN nursing programs.” 14th International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare, San Francisco, CA., January 2014.
> Williams, Tiffany. “Improving the Social Determinants for the Next Generation: A Challenge for Teen Mothers.” The Action Council for Cross Cultural Mental Health and Human Services 36th Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC, February 2014. (Dr. Williams was unable to attend, Dr. Ida Spruill gave the presentation in her stead.)

PhD Student Wins Two Scholarships

Michelle Nichols, PhD student, has been selected to receive a 2014 Dr. Sandra Wise Founder’s Scholarship awarded by the Omicron Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. The Founder’s Scholarship recognizes researchers for their dedication to academic excellence, professional development, leadership potential for promoting healthier communities, and efforts demonstrating evidence-based research and practice.
Reinventing Long-Term Care

by Amy Williams, MSN, APRN, CPNP

The implementation of The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has furthered the discussion about long-term care for patients affected by chronic illness and our aging population. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has further outlined this in a policy brief. In 2011, long-term care accounted for 1.4 percent of our gross domestic product (Freundlich, 2014). As nurses, an aging population that needs long-term care will influence our work. Here is some information to consider when advocating for provision of long-term care.

We understand that the need for long-term care will continue to increase; we are expected to have 88 million Americans over the age of 65 by 2050. It is projected that the majority of these citizens will receive long-term care in the form of being in a nursing home, assisted care facility, adult day-care, cared for by a family member or a paid caregiver. The question that remains is who will pay for these services and how will they be administered?

Currently, the US government through Medicaid pays for the majority of long-term care cost, however, patients and families share some of the cost of care. Average nursing home costs are $84,000 per year, assisted living costs about $42,000 annually, and in home caregiving averages about $20 per hour. This cost easily represents the vast majority of household income by older adults.

Medicaid paid $131.4 billion dollars in long term care in 2011. To counter this cost Medicaid is attempting to relocate care to community or home based services. Community and home care has proven to cost about half of what residence in a nursing home costs annually. In fact, in 2013 Congress appointed a 15-person committee to examine this cost and conceptualize better ways to provide care. Additionally, the ACA calls for an additional $4.3 billion for long-term care programs that can demonstrate cost savings by moving nursing home residents back into their homes and communities for care. While it is unknown how these programs will change the landscape of long-term care, there is potential for these strategies to be a positive change in the way care is delivered.

As nurses, we stand on the front-line of this transition in care as we care for patients in their communities, residential facilities and in their homes. We can inform legislators and our community about possible solutions to long-term care for our aging and chronically ill patients. Furthermore, we can use our advocacy skills to ensure patients and family members are getting the necessary level of care in the most efficient and compassionate way possible.

REFERENCE:
Due to the ice storm that hit the area Feb. 12-13, airline flights out of Charleston were cancelled. This proved problematic at first for the faculty who had planned on attending the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX. However, using their ingenuity and perseverance faculty members, Lynne Nemeth, Bonnie Dumas, Martina Mueller, Ida Spruill, Gail Gilden, along with Bernie Jansen, CON’s IT guru, were able to give their presentation using GoTo Meeting, making this SNRS’s first live online presentation.

**New staff joining CON**

Ashley Anderson has joined the College as a project coordinator for TACHL. She will be working on several of TACHL’s mobile health projects, including tertiary prevention with chronic disease patients who have little to no access to regular routine health care. She recently graduated from the College of Charleston with a bachelor’s in psychology. Her goal is to pursue a career as a public health professional, working on community based health initiatives that focus on eliminating health disparities and inequities. Anderson began working at CON in 2011 as an undergraduate student research assistant.

Lauren Brown joined the College of Nursing as development associate in February. Originally from Maryland, Lauren moved to Charleston about two years ago to begin working on her master’s in public administration and non-profit management at the College of Charleston. Previously, Brown worked in the College of Health Professions as assistant director of development and alumni affairs for four months, covering for an employee on FMLA.

**Faculty Wins**

Gayenell Magwood, PhD, RN, Alumnus CCRN, has been appointed to a five year term on the NHLBI Jackson Heart Study Observational Study Monitoring Board. She also successfully applied for and received designation as an Alumnus CCRN via AACN Certification Corporation.

Joy Lauerer, DNP, RN, was nominated (by a student) for the MUSC Foundation Teaching Excellence Award in the Developing Teacher category, however she had to graciously decline because of the eligibility criteria.

Claire DeCristofaro, MD, developed a two hour online CE course for AHEC-U (Upstate AHEC) titled, “Hypertension Update.” This covers the new hypertension guidelines for 2014.

Kahlil Demonbreun, DNP, RNC-OB, WHNP-BC, has secured Palmetto Primary Care Physicians as his clinical practice site. In this role he will also serve as consultant for the development of Women’s Services within this organization. He was also reappointed to the National Certification Corporations Women’s Health Content Team. Demonbreun will serve as one of seven writers from across the country who contribute to the national board certification exam - an entrance exam for candidates seeking to practice as women’s health nurse practitioners.

Mat Gregoski, PhD, has been invited to chair a symposium at the annual meeting of The Obesity Society at Obesity Week in November in Boston.

Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, and Catherine Durham, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, were interviewed for an article in the April issue of ProgressNotes that will focus on Williamson’s domestic violence work and on Durham’s work with domestic violence in the military.

Debbie C. Bryant, DNP, RN, has been named director of partnerships for healthcare quality research at MUSC. Reporting to Stephen Lanier, PhD, MUSC’s associate provost for research, and she will be working directly with Reuben Pettiford, MPA, executive director of Fetter Health Care Network. Bryant will be responsible for leading efforts to establish strategic priorities, oversee implementation, and evaluate outcomes in a research partnership between MUSC and Fetter Health Care Network, a federally qualified community health center with eight sites. The goal of this partnership is to formalized a process of conducting translational research. Additionally, she will assist in establishing policies and procedures within this infrastructure to ensure sustainability and increase capacity for quality improvement initiatives.

--- NOW AVAILABLE ---

The 2013 MUSC Nursing Excellence Annual Report for the MUSC Hospital.