Congratulations to all faculty, staff, students and alumni for helping the MUSC College of Nursing achieve the number one ranking in online graduate nursing in the country.

We could not have done it with you.
A warm welcome at CON’s Grand Open House

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION SPOTLIGHT

New year brings a new name

The College of Nursing’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee (formerly the Diversity Committee) continues to promote an environment of respect, teamwork and mutual understanding among students, faculty and staff. The working committee is dedicated to equity, access, and inclusion and includes Tiffany Williams, diversity officer; Carolyn Page, director of student services and alumni affairs; Ruthie Connor, Carrie Cormack, Tina Lopez (faculty); Sabrina Green, Libby Cole (staff); Liz Kreuze, graduate student; and Tiffani Smalls, undergraduate student.

The committee’s goal is to attract, recruit, admit, retain and educate a diverse student body and faculty, while being understanding and accepting of all people regardless of social, cultural and economic background. These differences may be reflected in a number of ways including ethnicity, sex/gender identity and orientation, socio-economic status, language, age, physical characteristics, disability, pregnancy, veteran status, country of origin, citizenship, religious or political beliefs, military status, and others. You can support the committee by valuing diversity and being inclusive of all.

For additional information about CON’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee or diversity at MUSC, visit http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/about/diversity/
Presidential Scholars Program Call for Applications

The Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholars is now seeking applications for the university’s interprofessional program for 2015-16. The Scholars Program is a two-semester experience for approximately 50 students, joined by selected faculty scholars from each college, as well as the Charleston School of Law. This 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.

Scholars meet bi-monthly for dinner meetings and presentations; additional meetings to complete a group community project may occur. Other events include a trip to the SC State Legislature and dinner with MUSC President Cole. Previous Scholars have found participation in the program has greatly benefited their professional development.

Deadline for applications is February 27, 2015. Click here to complete an application.

The Office of Student Diversity and the Multicultural Student Advisory Board (MSAB) presents BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2015

“A Century of Black Life, Culture, History, and Health”

BASIC SCIENCE BUILDING (BSB) ROOM 302 • NOON - 1 P.M.
(Lunch will be provided for the first 50 guests)

02.04.15 Willette S. Burnham, PhD., Assistant Professor, Executive Director, Offices of Student Program and Diversity. Co-Chairperson for the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Committee for the MUSC Enterprise

02.11.15 Campus and Community Diversity Panel

02.18.15 David Cole, M.D., FAcS, President of the Medical University of South Carolina

02.25.15 Vivian Bea, M.D., Resident, Department of Surgery
Ebony J. Hilton, M.D., Assistant Professor, Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Division of Critical Care Medicine
New DNP track: Executive Leadership and Innovation

Recently the College of Nursing announced a new track for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program that will open August 2015 pending approval from the Commission on Higher Education. The proposed Nurse Executive Leadership and Innovation program meets current national recommendations to prepare executive nurse leaders to transform health care. The DNP nurse executive is the bridge between the patient/family, community, interdisciplinary team, and administration. As nurses with advanced education, the nurse executive will be visionary and innovative. The proposed asynchronous online program will be completed in two years (seven semesters) and the flexibility of online education allows students to continue working while obtaining graduate education.

The program will focus on providing nurses the knowledge and skills to be executive leaders who are competent, entrepreneurial and can transform health care and outcomes in an ever-changing healthcare system.

The core competencies for the nurse executive include: knowledge of the health care delivery system and organizational environment; health care finance, policy, and management; communication and relationship management; and diversity and professionalism.

Applicants must hold a BSN degree, but a masters degree may be an MSN, MHA, or MBA, as these degrees address the administrative role graduates of the program will be prepared to assume.

Coggins receives scholarship

Christin Coggins, accelerated BSN student has received the Elizabeth Ann Jones Alumni Scholarship. Coggins transferred to MUSC from the College of Charleston (CofC) where she was a member of the nursing club. While a CofC student, she completed the CoFC Emergency Medical Technician course, as well as served as a volunteer for both the Roper Hospital SCRUBS program and MUSC HealthLinks. In 2014, she participated in the Palmetto Medical Initiative and traveled to Uganda, Africa with a team of physicians and nurses to provide care to rural villagers. Coggins shared this was a significant event, and that it has become her goal to become a medical missionary and providing quality care. One of Coggin’s references wrote, “she is well motivated, bright, cheerful, and enthusiastic. I believe she will be an outstanding nurse. Please educate her, and send her back to Spartanburg so she can make a difference in our community.”

Students give back

CON’s undergraduate nursing students contributed to an outstanding flu vaccination season at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. As part of their clinical rotation, students, along with their instructors, staffed several immunization stations in the main lobby of the hospital. Veterans arriving for their primary care clinic appointments had the opportunity to get their flu injections with minimal time lost from their routine activities. The students administered shots, answered questions regarding the flu strains and allergy information, as well as provided assurances that the vaccine really did not cause flu. Several Veterans even agreed to be vaccinated for the first time, due to the “expert salesmanship” of the student nurses.

In addition, the students utilized an appropriately designed mobile cart, and traveled to offices and nursing units to make the flu vaccine available to all staff members. Many of the VA nursing staff had been bedside educators to these students just a few months prior and felt confident in their students’ abilities.

With the collaboration of the College and VANAP faculty over 5,000 injections were administered from September through December. Both the Veterans and CON nursing students benefited.
Submitted grant applications

Mathew J. Gregoski, PhD resubmitted an application to the American Heart Association for the NCRP Winter 2015 Scientist Development Grant titled, “Personalized Prevention of CVD: Role of Genetics, Stress, and Behavioral Factors.” The first aim of this study will use a machine learning multivariate adaptive regression splines approach with Jackson Heart Study archival data (with subsample cross validation) to expand an endothelial system/autonomic nervous system pathway within a biobehavioral model to include additional sympathetic nervous system, endothelial system genes and environmental stressors, and hypertension/CVD outcomes. The second goal will be to systematically examine additional hypertension pathways using multivariate adaptive regression splines to detect genes by environment interactions and psychosocial characteristics related to hypertension/CVD 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 with over 25 years of experience in hypertension studies to ensure appropriate inclusion of variable selection. The results will be used to determine effect-size for potential environmental exposure/pharmacogenetic intervention strategies for future trials.

Cathy Durham, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, has been awarded a grant opportunity as co-PI with James Sterrett, PharmD (College of Pharmacy) through the MUSC Interprofessional Collaboration Grant Pilot Project Program. Their grant is titled, “Interprofessional Partners in Healthcare: Integrating Telepharmacy Precepting and Consulting Optimizing Collaborative Care and Education in a Nurse Practitioner Clinic targeting the Medically Underserved.” The project started in January and will go for one year.

NIH’s new biosketch format

Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENcv) is a new electronic system that helps researchers assemble the professional information needed for participation in federally funded research. SciENcv gathers and compiles information on expertise, employment, education and professional accomplishments. Researchers can use SciENcv to create and maintain biosketches that are submitted with grant applications and annual reports. SciENcv allows researchers to describe and highlight their scientific contributions in their own words.


Publications & presentations


When the 121st session of the South Carolina General Assembly convened in January, Representative Jenny Horne’s APRN Reform Bill, H.3078 was introduced. The bill has eight sponsors and was referred to the committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs (3M Committee) on January 13.

The proposed bill will remove ratios of APRNs working with physicians (currently it is one physician to three APRNs), remove the 45-mile physician supervision law, and give APRNs schedule II prescriptive privileges. South Carolina is one of 31 remaining states that have limits on APRN scope of practice that do not allow the advanced graduate-level nurse to practice to the fullest extent of her/his education and training, which includes diagnosing, prescribing medications, treating and referring patients.

When introduced in early December, the bill had letters of support from physicians, agencies and patients across the state in both rural and suburban areas. These letters asked the General Assembly to remove barriers to the APRN profession, allowing them to practice to their fullest extent and give more South Carolinians access to care throughout the state.

This comes at a time when more than 800,000 new patients will enter the health care marketplace because of the implementation of The Affordable Care Act. South Carolina struggles with caring for many of its citizens, ranks 45th on the national health care report card, ranks 33rd for the lowest number of primary care physicians, and falls in the bottom five for unhealthiest states.

Part or all of the state’s 46 counties receive a medically underserved designation by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Furthermore, the American Association of Medical Colleges Center for Workforce predicts that there will be a shortage of 63,000 physicians by 2015, and 130,600 by 2025. This is occurring while the number of nurse practitioners in the US will increase by 94 percent by 2015. States with full scope of practice have better health outcomes than South Carolina. Despite these staggering statistics, the bill is expected to meet opposition.

What needs to be done?

All nurses and APRNs working in South Carolina need to contact their state representatives and senators (visit www.SC-Statehouse.gov to locate your representatives) and ask them to support the APRN reform bill, H.3078. APRNs can send a letter (not an email) that describes how the current laws restricts practice. Using pen and paper may be the most effective way to communicate with your representative. We have learned that many representatives and/or their aides are more likely to read letters, but only count emails. Additionally, phone calls are useful. Call members of the 3M committee to request that Chairman Howard hear the bill as soon as possible and “Vote Yes” when the bill is debated on the floor.
**Wins**

Suparna Qanungo, PhD, research assistant professor, was recently highlighted by the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs about her philanthropic work in the children’s welfare home in rural India. Read about her story, “College of Nursing researcher helps to provide better future for girls in India” [here](#).

In addition, Qanungo completed advanced training in data management for clinical trials from Vanderbilt University in December. Being the stellar student, she completed the course with distinction by scoring 97.5 percent.

Kahlil Demonbreun, DNP, RNC-OB, WHNP-BC, ANP-BC, instructor, has received the 2015 AANP Nurse Practitioner State Award for Excellence from South Carolina. A reception will be held for recipients from each state in New Orleans, LA in June.

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**WELCOME TO THE WORLD**

Terri Fowler and her husband, Matt welcomed a baby boy on January 9 at 11:55 p.m. Jake Lucas Fowler weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 oz. Congratulations!

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

The CCNE accreditation evaluation 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 during these dates.

NO exceptions will be allowed.

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Look who Professor Elaine Amella ran into at the AACN Doctoral Education Conference in San Diego, CA… recent PhD graduate, Dru Riddle. Riddle successfully defended his final dissertation on January 9. Congratulations!

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**CON Newsfeed**

- U.S. News’ best health care jobs: Nurse practitioners topped physicians
  - The Advisory Board Company
- An interview with President David Cole: 2015 - A strategic approach to a new year
  - Mikie Hayes | The Catalyst
- What I learned about love as a pediatric nurse
  - Kateri Allard, RN | The Huffington Post
- Some colleges say more men are entering nursing programs
  - Marisa Torrieri | Healthcare DIVE

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**Showcase your creativity**

Each year, a new edition of MUSC’s Humanitas affords MUSC members the unique opportunity to celebrate the humanities via publication of original short stories, poetry, music, photography, paintings, etc. Submissions will be accepted through February 14 for the following categories: written word, photography, visual art, and music. Visit the [Humanitas website](#) for more information and to view previous editions.

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“One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation.”

— Arthur Ashe