Our grand return

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

This issue of eCONnections sees us back in our gloriously renovated College of Nursing. So in this month’s column I would like to share with you some of the remarks of MUSC President David Cole as he presided over the ribbon cutting.

We are here today to celebrate the long awaited re-opening of this beautiful building, after a much anticipated two-year renovation. But it’s actually more than a renovation; it is really a transformation. And that is befitting what the faculty here at the College of Nursing, under the leadership of Dean Stuart, have accomplished in the past decade. They have taken a school of nursing that was comfortable, quiet, and demure, and transformed it into a true nursing powerhouse.

Under Dean Stuart’s leadership, comfortable has become innovative; quiet has become nationally recognized for high quality teaching and cutting edge research; and demure has become daring, dynamic and really a crown jewel for MUSC. So it is fitting that this building now truly reflects both the accomplishments of the College of Nursing and its vision for the future.

This vision embraces and treasures the past, as you will see recounted on the walls and displayed in the cabinets on this floor, and then jetties us into the future with state-of-the-art technology, and learning rooms and creative spaces that stimulate ideas and reflect on important outcomes.

This may soon be one of the oldest buildings on campus, but inside it is infused with and fully embraces our future as health care educators, researchers and providers.

It is a building not limited by geography - as seen in the College of Nursing’s ranking as #2 nationally in graduate online programs. It is a building not limited by head count – as seen in the College of Nursing’s ranking as 14th in the country in NIH funding. It is a building not limited by “this is how we always have done it” – as seen by their pushing the envelope by preparing nurses who provide more effective, more efficient and higher quality patient care.

Perhaps most importantly, it is not a building at all, but really a true incubator for Changing What’s Possible here at MUSC. Because, at the end of the day, I think we all know that nurses are the lifelines of patients and their families. They are both the hub of the wheel of health care and the safety net for those who are entrusted to our care.

The faculty and staff here at the College of Nursing understand this deeply and their dedication, drive and devotion echo in these old, but now new, hallways. So this is not just a ribbon cutting ceremony. It is, rather, a celebration of our MUSC College of Nursing for its past, present and future. It is a celebration of bricks and mortar, people and potential, inspirations and aspirations, and most of all – the committed individuals here today who give testimony to this work.
CON’s two-year renovation unveiled

Diversity and Inclusion Spotlight: Ida Spruill

The College of Nursing’s Diversity Committee would like to acknowledge Ida Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN for her exceptional service to the College as well as the Charleston community. She has dedicated her nursing and research career to eliminating health disparities and improving health care for African-Americans at the local, state and national levels.

Spruill shows commitment to the CON’s diversity mission of promoting an inclusive environment for all faculty, staff, and students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, age, ability or socio-economic status. She led the College’s Multicultural Task Force in 2011 that later became CON’s Diversity Committee, and served as diversity officer from 2012-2014.

Spruill is a founding member of the Tri-county Black Nurses Association, having served as president from 1992-1996. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN), and has also received many other prestigious awards in her career. Most notably, Spruill is a 2013 recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers presented by President Obama earlier this year.

Thank you Dr. Spruill for being a champion for diversity and inclusion!
CELEBRATE
NEW YEAR | NEW BUILDING | OLD FRIENDS

Preserving the Past by Building for the Future
We have safeguarded the college’s memories while meeting today’s student needs and building toward the future. We invite you to come celebrate and take a look.

Grand Open House
Saturday, January 24 | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

- FOUR FLOORS OF RECONFIGURED SPACE
- BUILDING TOURS AT 10:00 & 11:00
- LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
- RAFFLE

Free parking has been reserved at MUSC’s President Street Garage (91 President St.) located between Bee and Cannon Streets. Please park on the second level or higher.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS - 2015 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
A call for nominations is underway to all MUSC faculty and students.
The purpose of the Teaching Excellence awards is to recognize members of the MUSC faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the university through teaching.

The four award categories are:
Clinical/Professional (Educator-Mentor); Educator-Lecturer; Scholarship/Academic (Educator-Mentor); and Developing Teacher

Any regular, full-time faculty member who holds an academic rank of instructor or higher in a college or department of MUSC, who has not been the recipient of this award within the previous three years is eligible for nomination. http://www.carc.musc.edu/nomination/

The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 23. Nominees will be invited to submit supporting materials, and a committee of faculty and students will select the recipients for this year’s awards.
Winter Convocation
The College of Nursing congratulates its winter graduates for a job well done. On December 11, degrees were conferred upon 98 nursing students during CON’s Winter Convocation ceremony that was held at Charleston Music Hall.

Scholarship opportunity
The March of Dimes is pleased to offer several $5,000 scholarships to recognize and promote excellence in nursing care of mothers and babies. The scholarship application is available online at marchofdimes.org/scholarship or by request via email to scholarship@marchofdimes.org.

Qualified scholarship applicants must be registered nurses currently enrolled in graduate education with a focus in maternal-child nursing with at least one academic term to complete after the summer of 2015. Scholarship applications must be received via email no later than January 30, 2015. For additional information, please contact Mary Lavan at mlavan@marchofdimes.com.

Stethoscope & White Coat Ceremony
> Jan. 8 @ 4:30 p.m.
> St. Luke’s Chapel
> reception to follow in the CON building

Congratulations to Lisa Rasbach for successfully defending her dissertation on December 5. The title of her dissertation is “Exploring Self-Efficacy in the Current Era of Type 1 Diabetes Management in Youth.” She was mentored by Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN, BC-ADM, RD, LD, FAAN.
Submitted grant applications

Brian E. Bunnell, MS, a predoctoral intern under Ken Ruggiero, PhD, submitted an individual fellowship application in response to the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship titled, “Technology-Based Solutions to Improve Quality of Care in Child Mental Health Treatment.” This project will provide training needed to position the candidate to develop scalable, technology-based, patient-centered solutions. The research goals of this F32 application are to identify technology-based strategies to address barriers to homework use and adherence. Qualitative methodology will be used to guide development of a mobile/web-based application that the candidate intends to develop and test in a subsequent pilot grant (NIH R21/R34).

Publications & presentations

PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


NIH news

MODIFICATION TO GUIDANCE ON MAKING CHANGES IN RESUBMISSION APPLICATIONS (NIH Notice NOT-OD-15-030)

The NIH has removed the requirement to identify ‘substantial scientific changes’ in the text of a resubmission application by bracketing, indenting, or change of typography. Effective immediately, it is sufficient to outline the changes made to the resubmission application in the introduction attachment. The introduction must include a summary of substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application. It must also include a response to weaknesses raised in the summary statement.

NEW BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH FORMAT REQUIRED FOR NIH AND AHRQ GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR DUE DATES ON OR AFTER MAY 25, 2015 (NIH Notice NOT-OD-15-032)

The NIH has announced an update about a new biosketch format that will be required for grant applications submitted for due dates on or after May 25, 2015. The new format extends the page limit for the biosketch from four to five pages, and allows researchers to describe up to five of their most significant contributions to science, along with the historical background that framed their research. Investigators can outline the central findings of prior work and the influence of those findings on the investigator’s field.

Investigators involved in team science are provided the opportunity to describe their specific role(s) in the work. Each description can be accompanied by a listing of up to four relevant peer-reviewed publications or other non-publication research products, including audio or video products; patents; data and research materials; databases; educational aids or curricula; instruments or equipment; models; protocols; and software or netware that are relevant to the described contribution. In addition to the descriptions of specific contributions and documentation, researchers will be allowed to include a link to a full list of their published work as found in a publicly available digital database such as MyBibliography or SciENcv.
Faculty continue to raise the bar

Shannon B. Smith DNP, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNE, CGRN has been accepted into the 2015 class of the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (SGNA) Scholars Program. The purpose of this two year term is to educate appropriately prepared GI/endoscopy nurses in order to build a repository of evidence applicable to the GI/endoscopy setting. Scholars will receive in-person systematic review training utilizing the Texas Christian University’s Center for Evidence-based Practice and Research. A Collaborating Center of the Joanna Briggs Institute in Ft. Worth, TX.

The SGNA is a professional organization of nurses and associates dedicated to the safe and effective practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing. SGNA carries out its mission by advancing the science and practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing through education, research, advocacy, and collaboration, and by promoting the professional development of its members in an atmosphere of mutual support.

Congratulations to Tiffany Williams, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC for being selected into the 2015 AcademyHealth/Aetna Foundation Scholars in Residence Fellowship Program.

Williams is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and serves as an advisor to the College’s Multicultural Student Nurses Association and the Robert Wood Johnson MUSC Scholars. Her academic interests include health disparities and cultural competency in nursing education. In addition to her teaching duties, Williams actively mentors diverse and underrepresented high school and nursing students.

The new AcademyHealth/Aetna Foundation Scholars in Residence Fellowship Program runs from Jan. 1–July 31, 2015, and is designed to retain underrepresented racial/ethnic minorities in health services research by providing professional training and networking activities for junior and mid-career level academics and clinical practitioners conducting disparities research with a focus on population health. The Aetna Foundation will host five fellows in Hartford, CT for up to one week and provide a $15,000 stipend to support a disparities research project.

At the 35th annual meeting of the South Carolina Primary Care Association in December, Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, was awarded the Margaret J. Weston Award. This award is in recognition of someone who has exhibited persistence in overcoming barriers and obstacles to ensure quality health care services are provided to those in most need.

The award was established in memory of Margaret J. Weston, a nurse, who was responsible for establishing a community health center in an underserved area of Aiken County. This outstanding nurse was the director of nursing in a St Louis Hospital, and faculty at the Tuskegee School of Nursing. She moved to South Carolina and between 1968 and 1970 ran state family planning programs in Aiken and Edgefield counties. In 1970 she opened and operated a Planned Parenthood Clinic until 1978. In 1978 the name was changed to Rural Health Services and the scope changed to provide primary health care and dental services. Later the name was changed to the Margaret J. Weston Community Health Center. She received numerous local and state awards for her community service. She died of breast cancer in November 1991.
We look forward to seeing you!

MUSC College of Nursing’s

HOMECOMING

2015

You are a key to our continued success.

All MUSC College of Nursing alumni are invited to return to Charleston for a weekend of reconnecting and remembering.

- Catch up with former classmates
- Hear the latest college news from Dean Stuart
- Take a tour of the newly renovated home of the College of Nursing
- Enjoy a Lowcountry oyster roast

Click Here to Register Online Today!

For more information visit www.musc.edu/alumni
Email: alumni@musc.edu | Phone: 888-202-9306 or 843-792-7979