Time for some R & R!

Whew! Here in the College of Nursing we have had a whirlwind year. Thankfully June and summer have arrived. So this month I have decided to get us in the “rest and relaxation” mood by sharing with you some of my favorite travel vacation photos from all over the world. I hope we all take some time this summer to add to our vacation memories...Gail

India

Alaska

New Zealand

Egypt
Dean’s scholarship reception well received

The Dean’s Scholarship Reception, an annual celebration of the College of Nursing’s scholarship program, held May 12 in the College of Nursing’s foyer, drawing room and archives room, was a great success. Over 100 scholarship donors and their recipients attended the reception, as well as the college’s development committee, friends of the college and various faculty from each program. Over 45 scholarships were awarded last year, with 162 scholarship recipients.

During the reception, scholarship recipients and donors had the opportunity to meet one another, many for the very first time. Dean Gail Stuart recognized each donor who was present, as well as the corresponding scholarship recipient. Three scholarship recipients spoke about what their scholarship meant to them and shared their stories. Speakers included Matthew Couture, (PhD student), Andrena Ziegler (DNP student), and Kate Phinney (ABSN student).

The College of Nursing would like to thank everyone who attended and helped to make the event such a success. Congratulations once again to our student recipients. We look forward to next year’s reception.

Another No. 1 ranking that makes us proud

The MUSC College of Nursing ranked No. 1 in online graduate nursing programs for veterans by US News & World Report. The list for Best Online Programs for Veterans was released last month. The rankings, now in their third year, identify 737 programs that provide veterans with high-quality, flexible online education options across eight categories.

To qualify for the Best Online Programs for Veterans rankings, an online degree program had to report participation in two key programs that offer educational benefits to people with military service. The rankings methodology requires programs to belong to institutions that are certified for the GI Bill; they must also belong to schools participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program or to public institutions that charge in-state tuition for all out-of-state veterans. The program also had to be ranked among the top 75 percent of schools in the overall 2015 Best Online Programs rankings, which were released earlier this year.

Unconscious Bias

Unconscious Bias. What is it? Have you been a victim of unconscious bias? Have you ever been guilty of this? Recently, several College of Nursing faculty attended an all day conference, titled “Unconscious Bias at MUSC: How It Harms, How We Can Help,” to learn how important it is to understand and recognize biases in order to overcome them.

Unconscious bias refers to the assumptions and conclusions we make about another person based on stereotype. Unconscious bias is real and occurs all around us. These buried prejudices are influential and affect our decisions based on what we think about others. Chances are you or someone you know has been affected by unconscious bias.

CON’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee would like to challenge you to recognize your own biases and be aware of how they may negatively affect others in your school or workplace. Help us make a difference.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION SPOTLIGHT

“Diversity may be the hardest thing for a society to live with, and perhaps the most dangerous thing for a society to be without.”

— William Sloane Coffin, Jr.
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### JUNE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THU-FRI 4-5</th>
<th>ELNEC Palliative Care Conference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>MON 15</td>
<td>Faculty Assembly</td>
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<td>1 - 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>WED 17</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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#### JULY

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<tr>
<th>FRI 3</th>
<th>Independence Day Holiday</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CON closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON 20</td>
<td>Faculty Assembly</td>
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<td>1 - 4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED-THU 22-23</td>
<td>MSN/DNP Orientation</td>
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<td>Various locations</td>
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<td>WED 22</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 22</td>
<td>Janelle Othersen Visiting Professorship Lecture Series</td>
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<td>Keynote speaker: Anton Gunn, MSW, MUSC chief diversity officer and executive director of community health innovation</td>
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<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON-FRI 20-24</td>
<td>PhD Residency Week</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Various locations</td>
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**15 minutes is all it takes!**

2015 CATTs training modules must be completed by June 30!

[http://www.musc.edu/catts](http://www.musc.edu/catts)

(Use MNA & password to log in)

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**SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY:**

*The Impact of the Affordable Care Act & Health Policy for Nurse Leaders*

Presented by ANTON GUNN, MSW
Aka “Mr. Healthcare”

Anton Gunn is the chief diversity officer and executive director of community health innovation for MUSC Health. Previously, Gunn served as a senior official in the Obama Administration as the director of external affairs at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, where he advised President Barack Obama and Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on public engagement strategies to introduce “main street” to the Affordable Care Act.

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**College of Medicine Dean’s Diversity Colloquium**

*Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*

**Keynote Address**

**Dr. Mahzarin Banaji**

Harvard University

Harvard College Professor

Author of *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*

**Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Drug Discovery Building Auditorium

70 President Street

Medical University of South Carolina

Open to All

CME credit available
Two students named MUSC Med Center scholarship recipients

ABSN students and MUSC employees, Tyler Hunter and Julia Levin-Rector have been selected for MUSC Medical Center Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students who are pursuing their initial degree in nursing and are currently employed by the MUSC Medical Center. The scholarship requires a two-year work commitment following completion of the ABSN degree and passing the NCLEX.

Hunter is a patient care technician in the surgical trauma intensive care unit. Prior to his CON enrollment, Hunter earned a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Georgia Southwestern State University. In addition, he was a master teacher and coordinator for the Piece it Together Program which works with the health and wellness of young adults with autism at the MUSC Wellness Center.

Levin-Rector is a patient care technician on 9 West, neurology/neurosurgery. She graduated from the College of Charleston with a major in psychology and minors in Jewish studies and studio art. She also studied at the American Institute for Foreign Studies at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. While in South Africa, she was a student mentor at the Kayamandi BMX Club and After-School Program. Levin-Rector was recently elected treasurer of the CON Student Nurses Association.

Rearden awarded Rotary Club scholarship

Sunshine Rearden, DNP student, has been selected by the Rotary Club of Hilton Head–Sunset for a $3,500 scholarship. Rearden has 15 years of experience as a pediatric and obstetrical nurse and is an international board certified lactation consultant and registered lactation consultant.

Rearden is a 1996 graduate of Hilton Head High School and credits her father for her success as he provided encouragement and guidance. In her application for the scholarship, she wrote that “her father raised her on Hilton Head Island and that the [island] fosters a nurturing environment and provides the building blocks necessary to reach personal, educational, and career goals.”

NURSES FAMILY FIELD DAY
The CON SNA hosted a bake sale and raffle and raised approximately $220 to go towards the new children’s hospital.

2015 convocation awards

One hundred and five nursing students received their degrees on May 15 at MUSC’s graduation. This year the ceremony was moved back to the MUSC horseshoe where 63 BSN, 34 DNP, and eight PhD degrees were handed to new College of Nursing graduates. The day before, the College recognized the nursing students at a convocation ceremony that was held at the Charleston Music Hall. This ceremony recognized students and faculty for their achievements. Congratulations to all.

FACULTY AWARDS
Golden Lamp Award
Teresa Atz, PhD, RN

Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award
Ruth Henderson, MSN, RN, CCRN

Excellence in Faculty Teaching Award
Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN

STUDENT AWARDS
Outstanding BSN Student Award
Emily A. Wallace

Josephine A. Fogle Award
Melanie Gerandts

2014-2015 FIRST HONOR GRADUATES
Marcelline Elizabeth Logan (BSN)
Carrie Larsen Cormack (DNP)
Andrena Zeigler (DNP)
Michael James Johnson (PhD)
Michelle Arda Mollica (PhD)

2014-2015 SECOND HONOR GRADUATES
Barbara Watson Reeves (BSN)
Glenna Wheless Lattimore (DNP)
Erin G. Whittington (DNP)
Lisa Ellen Rasbach (PhD)
Jennifer Joy Shiroff (PhD)
Funded grants

**INVESTIGATOR:** Kathleen B. Cartmell, PhD, MPH  
**SPONSOR:** AHRQ  
**TITLE:** Reducing Hospital Readmission Rates by Implementing an Inpatient Tobacco Cessation Service Driven by Interactive-Voice Recognition Technology  
**GOAL:** To provide 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. Findings will provide preliminary data useful for planning a large-scale randomized trial across multiple hospitals to test the benefits of an inpatient hospital cessation program modeled after the Joint Commission tobacco treatment standards.

**INVESTIGATOR:** Teresa J. Kelechi, PhD, RN, FAAN  
**SPONSOR:** NIH/NINR  
**TITLE:** FOOTFIT mHealth Physical Activity Intervention for Leg Ulcer Patients  
**GOAL:** To test feasibility of a home-based physical activity strategy using a reliable accelerometer and to develop a patient-provider communication strategy that will enhance adherence through using an innovative technology intervention. The mHealth strategy will promote adherence to physical activity in a venous leg ulcer population with severely de-conditioned legs and who are underserved without access to physical activity programs. It also involves feedback through a patient-provider communication interface and serves as a patient reminder system to engage in targeted, non-exertive exercises that, in the long-term, might also improve ulcer healing.

Submitted grant applications

**INVESTIGATOR:** Brian T. Conner, PhD, RN, CNE  
**SPONSOR:** South Carolina Hospital Association  
**TITLE:** The Promise of Nursing for SC Nursing School Program  
**GOAL:** To enhance curriculum to improve NCLEX-first-time pass rates of ABSN graduates, increase number of ABSN registered nurses, and increase student enrollment by 15 percent for fall 2016.

**INVESTIGATOR:** Ron Acierno, PhD  
**SPONSOR:** South Carolina Department of Public Safety  
**TITLE:** Innovative Treatment for Female Victims of Military Sexual Trauma  
**GOAL:** To provide evidence-based counseling services tailored to female victims of military sexual trauma in an innovative context. Female veterans report experiencing sexual assault while in the military at rates of four times (400%) that of their civilian counterparts, however, over 95 percent choose not to obtain services from the VA hospitals for emotional problems resulting from these sexual assaults.

Project Diabetes receives James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Award

Project Diabetes received a James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Leadership Award at the 8th Annual James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture held on April 27 in Columbia. The project’s principal investigator, Ida J. Spruill, PhD, RN, FAAN, accepted the award. The awards are hosted by USC’s Arnold School of Public Health and the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities.

Five community organizations, including Project Diabetes, received an award that recognized organizations and projects that have demonstrated a commitment to improving and protecting the health of communities and individuals and achieving health equity in SC. Priority was given to organizations with “statewide reach” that are engaged in health disparities research, education and training, community outreach and engagement, developing health and community leaders, providing direct patient care, and health promotion and disease prevention.

Project Diabetes, an NIH funded study, is currently in its final data collection phase and is recruiting participants from eight counties in SC. Findings from the project will be used to create more effective educational materials for those who are managing diabetes and those who are at risk for developing diabetes due to a family history of the disease.

Presentations


Williams takes a LEAD

MUSC’s LEAD: Leadership in Academic Medicine, a program that is run by the MUSC Department of Internal Medicine has selected Tiffany Williams, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, assistant professor, for a seat in its 2015–2016 LEAD class. LEAD seeks to build a culture of leadership within the MUSC through the development of established and future leaders of high potential by enhancing individual skills associated with leadership self-discovery, working within teams and driving change. Williams was selected for her current leadership roles and high potential for future leadership positions.

The program will bring nationally recognized experts in the field to campus to conduct a series of one to two day classroom sessions and to oversee practical group-project work between sessions. Selected participants will expand their knowledge of leadership principles, improve their abilities to apply proven leadership behaviors, and advance their capacity to drive results by working collaboratively in interdisciplinary teams. Cohorts of participants continue to be highly engaged after session work concludes, and we rely heavily on their evaluations and career outcomes to direct program development. Eligible participants will include faculty and staff from the Department of Internal Medicine, and individuals from other departments and colleges.

New staff

CON welcomes Virginia Vedilago, MA as the new PASOs coordinator. In this role, Vedilago will provide coordinated leadership for the advancement of the PASOs Hispanic health outreach program in the Charleston area.

In addition to beginning a new job, Vedilago recently received an award from the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) for her work as a family court advocate and lead case manager for My Sister’s House by helping empower domestic violence victims and their children to live free from abuse.

Tommy Hogan is no stranger to the CON. For the past year, Hogan has been working in the college as a TACHL student worker. In May, he officially joined CON as a research programmer.

Faculty wins

Daniel Gracie, DNP, RN-BC, clinical instructor, was recently elected president-elect of the American Nursing Informatics Association.

Clinical instructor, Ruth Henderson, MSN, RN, CCRN, conducted her first basic life support recertification for the College of Nursing with faculty members (pictured below, left to right) Barbara Edlund, PhD, APRN, Joy Vess, DNP, APRN and Ruth Conner, PhD, RN on May 4.

It’s not too late to give to the YES Campaign

Over the past 30 years of the YES Campaign, MUSC employees have generously given more than $7 million since its beginning in 1985. You can strengthen MUSC and support what matters most to you by investing in any of the 1,300 funds within the MUSC Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

The campaign drive ends June 30. This year every CON employee who donated to the 2015 YES Campaign will have their name entered into a drawing for a giclee of the painting “Compassion” so please consider donating today by visiting https://giving.musc.edu/yes.

This year’s total campaign goal is $400,000. Gifts may be made via payroll deduction, PTO donation, or as a one-time gift or pledge by credit card, check, or stock transfer. All gifts made to the Employee Giving Campaign are tax-deductible and no goods or services are received in return for your donation.

If you have any questions contact Yolanda Long at morrisym@musc.edu or Whitney McLuen, YES Campaign Manager, at mcluen@musc.edu or 843-792-4974.