Last month in this column I talked about the honor of being ranked number one in the country. Since then I have been losing sleep about what comes next. I mean when you’re at the top of the mountain the only place to go next is down. Hmmm…

So I decided to shift my focus from rankings to thinking about how we can have a consistently high-performing College of Nursing. I don’t want us to be content as that implies complacency. Instead I want each of us — student, staff and faculty — to thrive. Two qualities that will be essential to us now, and the days ahead, in order to thrive are a sense of vitality and a thirst for continuous learning. We need both of these because vitality without learning leads to random activity, and learning without vitality leads to burnout. We need to avoid both of these negative outcomes.

In contrast, when we have both vitality and continuous learning each of us can engage in rewarding work with a sense of purpose and an awareness of where we are going both individually and as a college. And the best part is that when people are thriving they create positive energy and this becomes contagious!

If that is our goal then I next asked myself, what can I do to help assure this is engrained in our culture? Spreitzer and Porath did research on this and identified four mechanisms that create the conditions that allow people to thrive (HBR, Jan. 2012).

1) Allow people to make decisions that affect their work. This gives them a greater sense of control and empowerment and leeway to solve problems on their own.
2) Share information about every aspect of the organization. This means total transparency as both good news and bad news is shared with all.
3) Minimize incivility. Incivility will decrease quality and prevents people from thriving. So zero tolerance for anyone who disrespects another.
4) Offer performance feedback. Feedback creates opportunities for learning and keeps us focused on our personal and organizational goals.

My final thought is that not only do we need to enact all these mechanisms together but, most importantly, each of us — student, staff and faculty alike — is responsible for making sure they are alive and well in our thriving College of Nursing...Gail
Dining with Colleagues

The Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Scholars shined at CON’s annual RWJ New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) Dining with Colleagues dinner that was held on April 3 at Brasserie Gigi. Dining with Colleagues is a mentoring event that gives scholars the opportunity to relate their experiences in the College with mentors and community nurse leaders as they network and reflect on the value of the mentoring relationship. Scholars each shared a presentation of their “journey to nursing” during the evening. Read one scholar’s journey below.

The scholarship program is a partnership between the RWJF and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) that helps alleviate the national nursing shortage, increase the diversity of nursing professionals, expand capacity in baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs, and enhance the pipeline of potential nurse faculty. Scholarships of $10,000 are awarded to students who are enrolled in accelerated BSN programs. The CON has received funding six times in seven years that has allowed the College to award 70 scholarships totaling $700,000. In addition to scholarships, scholars meet monthly to engage in mentoring and leadership activities.

Today, there are a total of eight scholars in the College (six fourth semester students and five second semester students). The second semester scholars comprise the final cohort of RWJ’s prestigious NCIN program. Since 2008, the NCIN program has distributed 3,517 scholarships to students at 130 unique schools of nursing.

JOURNEY TO NURSING

Annie Chan’s grandmother passed away from multiple strokes and renal failure due to complications from diabetes. As a result Chan began interpreting glucose results for her immigrant family at the age of 8. Her parents were from Cambodia and did not read English very well, therefore nursing was introduced to her at a very young age as she helped manage their health.

Ten years later, Chan graduated from college with a major in chemistry and a minor in Chinese. She discovered her love for traveling during her senior year when she studied abroad in China. She began to search for a career that would allow her the flexibility to work from anywhere in the world. After a two year stint as a nurse tech, Chan discovered that she could merge her travel passion while pursuing a career as a nurse.

Currently, Chan, in her second semester of the ABSN program and has worked in home care and an acute long term facility, but her favorite area has been the ER. Once she graduates Chan plans to apply for an ER position and one day become a travel nurse.

Chan is thankful for the RWJ scholarship. “The RWJ scholarship is allowing me to have the opportunity to pursue a higher education so that I will be able to become a nurse and provide better care to my future patients,” Chan said.

Convocation and Commencement exercises

College of Nursing’s Convocation, the pinning ceremony and hooding ceremony for undergraduate and graduate students respectively, will be held May 14 at 2 p.m. at the Charleston Music Hall.

Graduates should wear their gown and hood (no caps to Convocation) and plan to arrive by 1 p.m. A photographer will be at the event. Guests should dress appropriately as well.

MUSC Commencement will be May 15 at 9 a.m. in the MUSC Horseshoe. The newly-appointed US Surgeon General Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA, will be the speaker at the 186th Commencement ceremony, five months to the day he was confirmed by the US Senate.

Graduates should arrive at the Drug Discovery Building by 7:30 a.m. Please leave all personal items with a guest. Click here for graduation details, including parking and transportation.

Tickets are not required to attend commencement, however, seating is not unlimited. Guests are invited to stand, or the ceremony can be viewed by television in the Basic Sciences Building. Click here if you need reserved seating for disabled guests.
**M A Y**

**Health Evidence Based Practice & Nursing Research Conference**
Keynote speaker: Cheryl C. Rodgers, PhD, RN, CPNP, assistant professor at Duke University’s School of Nursing
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Drug Discovery

**Scholarship Reception**
5 - 6:30 p.m. | CON (Mary Watcher Swain Foyer)

**Convocation**
2 p.m. | Charleston Music Hall

**Graduation**
9 a.m. | MUSC Horseshoe

**Faculty Assembly**
1 - 4 p.m. | CON 202

**Staff Meeting**
9 a.m. | CON 202

**Memorial Day**
CON Closed

**J U N E**

**ELNEC Palliative Care Conference**
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. | CON (2nd floor) | $35/pp

**MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting**
Colcock Hall

**Faculty Assembly**
1 - 4 p.m. | CON 202

**Staff Meeting**
9 a.m. | CON (Chitty Drawing Room)

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**- ELNEC -**
End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Adult & Pediatric Courses

**June 4-5 | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
MUSC College of Nursing | $35 per person

For more information:
http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/elnec

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**Research for Lunch**
College of Nursing (Rm. 513) | Noon – 1 p.m.
facilitated by Jane Zapka, ScD | Bring your own lunch

**MAY 6 | Dr. Elaine Amella**
“Partners at Meals: Addressing Needs of People with Dementia Across Contexts of Care”

**MAY 12 | Dr. Lynne Nemeth**
“Health Promotion Education and Self-Management Behavior Among African-American Men”

**MAY 13 | Dr. Charlene Pope**
“Mapping the Bridge to Recovery for Veterans Discharged from a Community Trauma Center: An Exploratory Study”

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**LOWCOUNTY AHEC OPEN HOUSE**
May 20 | 2 - 5:30 p.m.

Lowcountry AHEC will celebrate the official opening of their new building at 87 Academy Road in Walterboro with a ribbon cutting and open house celebration. For more information or to RSVP, contact Tracey Wilson at wilsont@lcahec.com or 843-782-5052.

Click here for directions

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**NURSE RESIDENCY PROJECT DAY**
Cohort 14 Project Presentations
May 5 from 1 - 3 p.m.
2 West Amphitheater (main hospital)

MUSC offers the UHC/AACN nurse residency program that is designed to ease the transition to practice for the new graduate nurse in their first professional role.
MUSC Presidential Scholars announced

Congratulations to Shannon Elam, Kayleigh Radel, and Joseph Stocking for being named a 2015-2016 Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholar.

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. The program explores complex social, political, and human issues of broad interest to health care professionals and biomedical researchers in a format that maximizes student participation and interaction. A theme is chosen for each term or year of the program, focusing on health care system issues and social determinants of health.

Monthly evening sessions are held for students to learn about issues related to the program theme and to engage in interprofessional project work. Students work in interprofessional teams on a student selected and designed project. These projects relate to the year’s program theme and engage the community to improve community health and well-being. Students’ projects are showcased during Scholars Day in April. Additional scholar activities include a daylong retreat at the beginning of the year, a visit to the state legislature, and meetings with MUSC President David Cole.

Two VA nurses honored with Palmetto Gold Awards

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center congratulates, John Goldizen, MSN, RN, deputy associate director of nursing and patient care services, and Janice Skipper, MSN, RN, nurse manager for professional nursing development and CON clinical faculty, as recipients of the 2015 Palmetto Gold Award for excellence in the field of nursing.

“Janice and John truly exemplify the essence of the Palmetto Gold Award: ‘Excellence in patient care and commitment to the profession,’” said Mary Fraggos, MS, RN, NEA-BC, associate director of nursing and patient care services.

“John leads Nursing Service by example and encourages us all to keep the Veteran at the center of all of the care we provide,” Fraggos said. “Janice, as a faculty member, and now nurse manager of our VA Nursing Academic Partnership, nurtures and provides opportunities for MUSC student nurses to experience the gratification of caring for our nation’s heroes.”

Updated BLS certification requirements

A newly revised version of the College of Nursing Student Handbook has been uploaded to the student Intranet. Please take a moment to review as Basic Life Support (BLS) certification requirements have recently changed.

**BLS CERTIFICATION**

All students must have a current BLS certification while enrolled at the College of Nursing. To ensure appropriate level of safe care and professional responsibility to clinical sites, all College of Nursing students must be BLS certified as a Health Care Provider through the American Heart Association (AHA). Courses can be scheduled through the students’ local AHA organization.

The AHA does provide an alternate method to classroom BLS. Students must register for BLS Part 1 at www.onlineaha.org. Once this course is completed, the participant must schedule a skills check-off with an authorized AHA BLS instructor. The only AHA equivalent organization accepted is through the Military Training Network.

New students should provide documentation of their BLS certification prior to enrolling in courses. Continuing education students need to provide documentation at the time of recertification. Students will receive electronic notification 30 days prior to their CPR expiration date that recertification is due. Documentation should be uploaded into the online compliance management system. A student who does not upload current BLS certification will NOT be able to attend class, log in to online coursework or attend clinical.

At the time of recertification, please make sure to take the correct course as stated above. The BLS webpage has been updated with the recent change.
Submitted grant applications

INVESTIGATOR: Gigi Smith, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC
FUNDING SOURCE: BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation
APP TITLE: Addressing Mental Health Needs in SC by Primary Care Nurse Practitioners
GOAL: To enable the development and implementation of an innovative program that will educate critically needed primary care NPs in psychiatric-mental health care to meet the complex health care needs of SC.

INVESTIGATOR: Tatiana M. Davidson, PhD
FUNDING SOURCE: National Institute of Justice
APP TITLE: Innovative Techniques for Evaluating Adoption and Implementation of Suicide Prevention Strategies by Law Enforcement Agencies
GOAL: To identify and characterize suicide prevention and intervention strategies being used by US law enforcement agencies. Study objectives include the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods to identify current suicide prevention and intervention strategies currently used by law enforcement agencies and to assess adoption, efficacy, and implementation of suicide prevention strategies.

INVESTIGATOR: Susan D. Newman, PhD, RN, CRRN
FUNDING SOURCE: MUSC Pilot Research: SC Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund
APP TITLE: Development and Evaluation of Multimedia and Technology-enhanced Components of a Telehealth SCI Self-Management Intervention
GOAL: To improve participants’ community participation and quality of life and decrease occurrence of medically serious secondary conditions and rehospitalization after a spinal cord injury (SCI) using PHEONIX (Peer-supported Health Optimization, Education, aNd Information eXchange). The primary methods of the PHOENIX intervention are to use Web-based multimedia educational content housed in freely accessible iTunes U, and to schedule televideo interactions for knowledge, skill building, and information exchange between the participants.

INVESTIGATOR: Kenneth J. Ruggiero, PhD
APP TITLE: Web-Based Training in Behavioral Health Screening for Firefighters
GOAL: To develop and assess usability and functionality of a web-based assessment toolkit designed to educate EAP providers on how do effectively screen and assess firefighters for mental health symptoms following a potentially traumatic event.

Publications


PhD student news

Angela Bentley has received funding from the Society for Vascular Nursing. This funding will help offset some of the expenses associated with her research.

Crystal Graham has received a $1,000 research grant from FMU for her mentored research qualitative study titled, “Minority Baccalaureate Nursing Students’ Perceptions of High-fidelity Simulation.”

Dissertation successes

The following students have successfully defended their dissertations. Congratulations!

> Nicole Auxier
  “Job Satisfaction and Intent to Leave Among Clinical Teachers”
  Mentor: Marilyn Laken, PhD, RN, FAAN

> Heather L. Craven
  “Is Bedside Shift Report Associated with Improved Nursing Sensitive Patient Outcomes?”
  Mentor: Elaine Amella, PhD, RN, FAAN

> Toshua W. Kennedy
  “Picturing Life: Using Photo Journals to Explore Challenges and Supports for Women Living with HIV”
  Mentor: Ida Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN

> Michael Johnson
  “Using Mixed Methods to Identify Factors that Affect Cervical Cancer Screening among Lesbian and Bisexual Women”
  Mentor: Lynne Nemeth, PhD, RN, FAAN

> Judith N. Mikhail
  “The Association of Race, Insurance, and SES on Trauma Patient Outcomes”
  Mentor: Lynne Nemeth, PhD, RN, FAAN

> Michelle G. Nichols
  “Perspectives of Underserved Youth and their Parents on Factors Affecting Obesity in their Community”
  Mentor: Susan Newman, PhD, RN, CRRN

> Jennifer Shiroff
  “Patient Perspectives of the Clinical Utility of Recessive Carrier Testing in the Preconception and Prenatal Periods”
  Mentor: Mat Gregoski, PhD, MS
Recruitment of minorities into health careers: The Teen Health Leadership Program

Four students from St. John’s High School traveled to Washington, DC to present the work of the Teen Health Leadership Program (THLP) for the 2014-2015 academic year at the National Library of Medicine. The seniors made a presentation about environmental health and its implications for the community of Johns Island on April 6 to the senior staff of the National Library of Medicine, a division of the National Institutes of Health. In addition, the students created a graphic novel for elementary school students. The comic book illustrated age appropriate environmental issues through the use of cartoon farm animals. The group will be reading the book to local students at five elementary schools during the month of May.

The THLP is funded by a grant that is awarded to the MUSC Medical Library by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in Washington. Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, is and has been the principal investigator on this grant for the past nine years.

The THLP is a collaboration between the College of Nursing, Communities In Schools program at St. John’s High School and the MUSC Medical Library. Its aim is to promote health information literacy to rural teens, develop leadership through community engagement and promote health careers in minority populations.

HHI scholar hits the airwaves
Taryn Cutrona, Hispanic Health Initiative scholar, aired her first live radio show on April 29. Cutrona discussed summertime child health and safety on El Sol radio, 980 & 1480 AM with a listenership of 2,500. During this semester she worked with PASOs “promotores” (community health workers) to identify health topics and designed the radio show’s content around feedback she received.

5th year of funding for Pasos
Trident United Way has awarded funding for the PASOs program in Charleston for a fifth year. The College of Nursing is the tri-county affiliate of the statewide Pasos program. Funding supports the ongoing development of the Promotores program. Promotores, or community health workers, are Hispanic women who provide navigation, education and outreach within their communities. Currently, 14 promotores are active in the Charleston community and provide a resource for MUSC students.

Partners in HealthCare expands into Huger
Beth Jensen, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE, (pictured right) and Charlene Pruitt, MSN, RN, are the faculty leads in the expansion of Partners in HealthCare into the Huger community. Partners in HealthCare is a collaborative practice between MUSC and East Cooper Community Outreach. Health programming is expected to begin in June with a variety of outreach programs and the clinic will be open on Tuesdays. This summer Jensen and Pruitt will be working with a clinical group of ABSN students in NURSU 409 Population Focused Nursing course to expand local activities related to health and wellness.

HHI’s newest cohort
Congratulations to the following students who were selected into the Hispanic Health Initiatives program (HHI) based on academic performance, interest in diverse cultures and community participatory action. Cohort 18 includes: Aliyah Anjarwalla, Sarah Christopher, Angelina Guzman, Matthew Jones, Kaitlyn Litton, Romina McCandless, Kate Phinney, Caroline Ravenel and Joseph Matthew Stocking.

The HHI Scholars Program addresses communication, cultural effectiveness, and health equity through participation in community based activities and faculty research.
Durham, Williamson honored with teaching awards

Cathy Durham, DNP, APRN, FNP-C and Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, have been recognized for their teaching excellence. Durham, MSN/DNP program interim director, has been awarded the Teaching Excellence as a Developing Teacher award. Williamson, associate dean for practice, is the recipient of a Teaching Excellence Award as Educator-Mentor: Clinical/Professional. In addition to a cash award from the MUSC Foundation, Durham and Williamson will be given a pewter medallion to wear with their academic regalia during the 2015 commencement exercises and a specially designated parking space for one year. The award will be presented during the fall faculty convocation that will be held on August 25. The MUSC program was established 11 years ago to recognize faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the university’s teaching mission.

Green named Staff of the Year

Congratulations to CON’s 2015 Staff of the Year Award recipient Sabrina Green. Green came to the College of Nursing in February 2005, working in the Hollywood School Based Clinics. Following her time there, she worked in a couple of departments within the College of Medicine. In November 2009 she returned to the CON as a fiscal technician. While she has been working in the College, Green completed her bachelor’s degree and is now pursuing a master’s.

Below are just a few of the comments Green received in a College wide survey. “Sabrina is a wealth of knowledge and is always willing to assist with procurement.” “No matter how much work she has, she always smiles and is helpful.” “She is professional at all times and represents the College well. A big HURRAH for Sabrina!”

The College of Nursing Staff of the Year recognition began in 2008 and has been given annually at a breakfast hosted by the CON faculty recognizing administrative professionals. The recipient is selected from a vote from their peers and faculty. Along with a plaque, the recipient is given a cash award. Past recipients include: Carlos Lopez (2010), Bernie Jansen (2011), Yolanda Long (2012), Maria Toler (2013), and Raquel Vining (2014).

Several other CON staff members were nominated for this award. Here are a few remarks: “Joan Bonaparte is one of the most helpful support staff.” “Briana Davis is an energetic team player.” “Catherine Geddings made our move back to the College as painless as possible and through all of it never lost her sense of humor nor her smile.” “Bernie Jansen is a pleasure to work with and always solves the problem!” “Meredith Kerr is always willing to pitch in and help.” “Joanne Langdale always has a positive attitude when doing one of the most difficult jobs in the College” “Yolanda Long has been the backbone of the PhD program. She is a welcoming, supportive problem-solving voice.” “Carlos Lopez is wonderful to work with.” “Moby Madisetti is one of the most proficient and helpful, yet humble people here.” “Gena Ryan is amazing.” “Jo Smith is always prompt, polite, positive and on point!” “Raquel Vining is very flexible, organized, and always there to solve problems.” “Jessica Williams is the consummate team player and extends herself and her services to faculty without hesitation!”

Faculty wins

Professor Lynne Nemeth, PhD, RN, FAAN, was the keynote speaker at the DNP capstone presentation at Radford University on Apr. 24.

Project Diabetes was a recipient of the James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Leadership Award. Ida Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN, principal investigator, accepted the award in Columbia on Apr. 27.

Berry Anderson, PhD, RN, assistant professor, gave a continuing legal education lecture to a group of local guardian ad litem attorneys on Mar. 18. The topic was mental health and substance abuse.

Faculty announcements

CV UPDATES & FAIR DATABASE
It’s time to begin the annual faculty evaluations process for 2014-15. An up-to-date CV in the FAIR database and a completed self-evaluation must be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled evaluation appointment. The fillable PDF versions of the faculty evaluation forms are located on the CON Intranet under Resources > Faculty Evaluation Forms. Start early so you will be prepared for your evaluation that will take place in June.

MAGNET RECOGNITION PROGRAM®
The MUSC Medical Center will receive a Magnet® site visit July 20-23. The Magnet Recognition Program® is a recognition granted by the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center, an affiliate of the American Nurses Association, to hospitals that satisfy a set of criteria designed to measure the strength and quality of their nursing.

FACULTY CONVOCATION
Mark your calendar. Faculty Convocation has been set for August 25 at 4:30 p.m. in the Drug Discovery Auditorium.
2015 FAMILY FIELD DAY
Saturday May 9
11am-2pm

Location: The Park behind the Drug Discovery Building

Members of Administration will be volunteering to sit in the tank!!

Games for kids:
- Face painting
- Jump Rope Contest
- Pillow Case Race

And so much more including:
- Food Trucks
- Craft Fair
- Bake sale
- Zumba