I am preparing to go back to Liberia later this month to continue my work in helping to prepare mental health clinicians in the small West African country. To date we have “graduated” 160 nurses to work with adults. We are now embarked on another program to prepare nurses to provide mental health care to children and adolescents.

One of the gifts I received from my friends in Liberia is a Palaver Hut. You can see what it looks like in the photo above. You may be wondering what exactly is a Palaver Hut? It is a circular structure constructed of clay and bamboo or wood, with a thatched roof. Organic materials including decomposed leaves are plastered on the interior and exterior for preservation and decoration.

Most importantly, in Liberia a Palaver Hut is the place where guests are welcomed. It offers a place for dialogue with people of diverse cultures. It is a place where troubles can be sorted out, problems solved and good stories shared. Everyone in the village participates in the construction of the hut, feasting and celebrating its completion.

I am writing about this because in many ways I think that together, we here in the College of Nursing have constructed our very own Palaver Hut. And we recently welcomed our CCNE site visitors into our hut to hear our stories and learn about all the great things we do in our village. It appears that they were impressed and pleased by what they saw as we hoped they would be. Now it is time to internalize their appraisal and congratulate ourselves on all that we have accomplished and the ways we have grown and flourished over these many years.

We should all feel proud that our Palaver Hut is a thing of great beauty in so very many ways!...Gail
MUSC Medical Center achieves Magnet® status

MUSC now becomes one of only three Magnet organizations in South Carolina. Only 8 percent of U.S. hospitals and less than 1 percent of hospitals globally attain this coveted status, which can impact how the public and other health care professionals view the organization. U.S. News & World Report’s annual showcase of “America’s Best Hospitals,” for example, includes Magnet recognition in its ranking criteria for quality of inpatient care.

A subsidiary of the American Nurses Association, the ANCC promotes excellence in nursing and health care through internationally recognized credentialing programs. The Magnet Recognition Program is the ANCC’s most prestigious distinction, awarded to health care organizations that strive for quality patient outcomes while providing safe and positive work environments for employees across the entire institution.

“Magnet recognition is a validation of the quality of nurses we have here at MUSC,” said Marilyn Schaffner, PhD, RN, the Medical University’s chief nursing officer.

“This is the gold seal,” said Andrea Coyle, MSN, RN, Magnet program manager. “It means our patients can be assured of quality care and that everyone will know an extraordinary patient experience is our goal. It means our nurses practice to fullest extent of their licensure and that we will continue to raise the bar on health care outcomes. It is a statement to the community we serve how much we value their positive experience at MUSC.”

Nurses across campus see a variety of benefits in earning the Magnet recognition.

Katreia Dabner, a research nurse in the Department of Neonatology, said it gives MUSC a greater knowledge base by encouraging nurses to explore issues and seek solutions to problems. “MUSC is very big on research,” Dabner said. “It helps with advancements in health care, especially research-based practices.”

One advancement in health care was highlighted during the Magnet recognition process. It involved a team of nurses who saw a problem with patient IVs and came up with a solution likely to be implemented in hospitals across the country.

As part of the strategic plan, the Medical University made sure to back up the Magnet effort with the appropriate resources. This included collaborating with the College of Nursing to reopen the RN to BSN program and offering scholarships to MUSC nurses so that they could continue their education toward higher nursing degrees.

That effort paid off. When the ANCC conducted a four-day site visit to MUSC in July, interviewing more than 400 nurses and making detailed rounds of every unit area of the hospital, they were impressed.

- MUSC News Center

Hispanic Heritage Month

The theme for this year’s National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep. 15 – Oct. 15) is, “Honoring our Heritage. Building our Future.” The significant contributions that Hispanic and Latino Americans have made in the United States and their heritage and culture are celebrated each year throughout the month. These dates are significant because Sep. 15 is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on Sep. 16 and 18, respectively. In addition, Dia de la Raza (Columbus Day) is recognized on Oct. 12. For more information, visit www.hispanicheritagemonth.org.

Among other activities, the MUSC Alliance for Hispanic Health is currently sponsoring the Hispanic American Heritage Month Speaker Series. To see a calendar of events including information about this series visit http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/ahh.

The College of Nursing promotes health and wellness among Hispanic and Latino individuals in the local community. The Hispanic Health Initiative (HHI) is dedicated to collaborating with the community to decrease health disparities in this population. Click here for more information on the HHI and to learn about volunteer opportunities.

CON Writing Task Force Writing Guides

Essential information for students, staff and faculty: http://musc.libguides.com/writing
## OCTOBER

**FRI-SUN 2-4**  
SNA State Convention  
Myrtle Beach

**THU-FRI 8-9**  
MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting  
Colcock Hall

**MON 19**  
Faculty Assembly  
1 - 4 p.m. | CON 202

**THU 29**  
Recruitment Activity: VA Medical Professional Development Day  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. | VA Medical Center

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**WINTER CONVOCATION**  
December 10 @ 10 a.m. | Charleston Music Hall

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**NOVEMBER**

**WED 11**  
Veterans Day  
CON open

**SAT 14**  
7th Annual SCNF Nurses Walk  
9 a.m. | Wannamaker County Park

**MON 16**  
Faculty Assembly  
1 - 4 p.m. | CON 202

**WED 18**  
Staff Meeting  
10 a.m. | CON 202

**THU-FRI 26-27**  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
CON closed

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**FREE FLU SHOTS**  
Oct. 7 and 8 | 7:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.  
Colbert Library Portico

Flu vaccine is available for MUHA, MUSC, UMA, Crothall, Sodexo employees and volunteers. You must bring your MUSC ID badge. Updates and other flu satellites will be posted on  
[www.musc.edu/ehs](http://www.musc.edu/ehs).

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**STUDENT MEDICAL HISTORY CLUB PRESENTS**  
The Resurrection of the Apparantly Dead” by Dr. Nic Butler  
October 14 | noon | Waring Library (175 Ashley Ave.)

Lunch is provided for those who RSVP before Oct. 12.  
To RSVP contact the Waring Library at 792-2288 or waringhl@musc.edu.  
or visit their Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/groups/2229912812/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2229912812/)

For more information go to [http://waring.library.musc.edu/wls.php](http://waring.library.musc.edu/wls.php)

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**National Midwifery Week - Oct. 4-10**

Created by the American College of Nurse–Midwives, National Midwifery Week was established to celebrate, recognize and honor the work and role of midwives.

On the last day of National Midwifery Week, the Avery Research Center will host a symposium, “Celebrating Black Midwives.” This symposium will include a panel presentation and film screenings of “Bringin’ in da Spirit: A Film History of African American Midwives” and “All My Babies: A Midwife’s Own Story.” “Celebrating Black Midwives.” This event is free and open to the public.

Saturday, October 10 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
College of Charleston | Avery Research Ctr.  
McKinley Washington Aud. | 125 Bull Street  
[http://avery.cofc.edu/programs/](http://avery.cofc.edu/programs/)

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**Check out the new CON events calendar**

Use it to track all of our goings on  
[http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/student-services/events_calendar.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/student-services/events_calendar.htm)

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**Institute for Applied Neurosciences Mini Symposium**

October 22 | 9 – 11 a.m. | Bio Engineering Bldg. (Room 112)

“Imagine - transforming your ideas into valuable health care products to make a difference in patient’s lives”

Larry Boyd, PhD, MEM, from the Research Triangle Park (NC), will be a guest speaker and will discuss the process of developing innovative ideas into products ready for commercialization. Members of the IAN team will provide an overview of the Institute for Applied Neurosciences.
MUSC Medical Center interview blitz
The MUSC Medical Center will host an “Interview Blitz” for the ABSN Class of December 2015 on Oct. 20 and Oct. 26. Nurse managers from the hospital will be interviewing graduates for upcoming positions on their units. Students will be notified of sign-up procedures, and specific times for their interview. A professional resume and professional dress are required for participation. More details will be provided to members of the Class of December 2015 via email.

Critical Care Student Nurses Association initiated
A College of Nursing student organization has been initiated this fall for students who have an interest in critical care nursing. The Critical Care Student Nursing Organization has developed a constitution, selected an advisor, Kathy Neely, MSN, RN, CCRN, and elected officers. A schedule of events has already been planned beginning Oct. 5 with a presentation by Jacqueline Bunalow titled, “Critical Conversations for Compassionate Care.” For more information visit the Facebook page, MUSC Critical Care Student Nurses’ Association.

The newly elected officers are: Executive Board: Catherine Folsom, Sarah Vaughn Hardy, Jordan Townsley; Secretary: Bethany Dyar; Representatives: Paige Cox (4th semester), Swati Patel (3rd semester), and Peter Gibbons (1st semester).

Elam steps into WIG program
Congratulations to Shannon Elam, ABSN student, on her acceptance into the Future Women In Government (WIG) Program for the Eastern and Southern Regional Conferences that will be held in Charleston Oct. 9-10. The conferences are aimed for undergraduate and graduate students who are engaged and passionate about leadership.

The WIG program demonstrates hands-on leadership and mentoring for the next generation of women civic and political leaders. The Women In Government Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of all female state legislators across the country which provides educational resources, expert forums, networking and leadership opportunities.

Scholarship news
> NURSE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP
Congratulations to Satavia Gaston, Accelerated BSN, Class of May 2016 for being selected for The NURSE Corps Scholarship Program. This selective program of the U.S. Government helps alleviate the critical shortage of nurses currently experienced by certain types of health care facilities located in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Upon graduation, NURSE Corps Scholarship recipients work at these facilities for at least two years, earning the same competitive salary and benefits as any new hire.

Gaston has a previously earned BA degree with a major in psychology from Winthrop University. She was also the recipient of the Earl B. Higgins Scholarship offered through the MUSC Office of Diversity.

> SCNF SCHOLARSHIP
Shakira Lynn, DNP student, has been selected to receive a South Carolina Nurses Foundation Nurses Care Scholarship. This $3,000 scholarship comes from funds generated by the Nurses Care license tags offered by the SC Division of Motor Vehicles.

Before entering the CON, Lynn earned an MSN degree from Mercer University. She recently returned from a mission trip to Honduras with Mercer On Mission, an organization that provides students with experiences throughout developing countries to provide medical care to patients who would otherwise be unable to receive access to adequate health care.

> MEDICAL UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
The Medical University Women’s Club awarded ABSN student, Emily Giddens, and DNP student, Amanda Hare one of their annual scholarships. They were selected for the scholarship based on her academic achievement, community service, financial need and faculty recommendations. All full-time students in their second or subsequent years from any of the six MUSC colleges are eligible and encouraged to apply for these annual scholarships, and this year the organization awarded a total of 11 scholarships totaling $14,000.

Doors to Freedom
Sadly, human trafficking is very prevalent in the Lowcountry area. Doors to Freedom is a local nonprofit established in 2011, with a mission to provide a safe place for survivors of sex trafficking to experience a transformed life. They currently provide services for domestic minor girls aged 12 thru 20. The services include life skills, individual and family counseling, continuing education, and vocational training. In the future, they plan to open a safe house where the girls can receive the transitional care and support they need.

Doors to Freedom is also hosting the Race for Freedom 5K and Walk on Oct. 3 at Wannamaker Park in N. Charleston. Registration is closed but if you would like to donate or learn more about the organization go to www.doorstofreedom.com.
Funded projects
Gigi Smith, PhD, has received a $928,000, three-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to improve and enhance training of students in health professions to provide competent screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment for persons who have or are at-risk for substance use disorder. Substance abuse ruins lives, destroys families, and increases health care costs. South Carolina is a state with significant chronic illness, including substance use paired with a large medically disenfranchised population. The award is one of 63 issued this year totaling nearly $19 million over three years.

This grant will allow Smith, associate dean for academics in the College of Nursing, and the MUSC SBIRT team to develop and implement training programs to teach undergraduate and graduate nursing students, and medical students the skills necessary to provide evidence-based screening and brief intervention and refer patients who are at risk for a substance use disorder (SUD) to appropriate treatment. The training programs will implement a unique strategy to address the unmet detection and treatment needs of the underserved and at-risk population for SUD by educating all clinical faculty at MUSC’s colleges of nursing and medicine in the use of SBIRT. This program also will integrate SBIRT training into existing courses in the nursing and medicine curricula to promote competency of all nursing and medical graduates in using SBIRT.

Grants submitted
Lynne S. Nemeth, PhD, RN, FAAN, resubmitted an R25 application titled, “A Virtual Learning Collaborative for Alcohol Screening, Brief Intervention and Treatment in Primary Care.” This application represents an innovative, virtual learning collaborative (VLC) in which primary care practice clinicians and staff will engage in web-based learning, quality improvement planning and review of performance on alcohol screening, brief intervention and medication management measures over 12-18 months. This VLC will promote the dissemination and implementation of alcohol guidelines developed by the National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and use sound implementation science concepts to foster effective adoption of strategies to improve practice outcomes.

Elaine J. Amella, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN, submitted a proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the Future of Nursing Scholars. The program’s goal is to develop the next generation of PhD-prepared nurse leaders who are committed to long-term leadership careers that advance science and discovery, strengthen nursing education, and bring transformational change to nursing and health care. This proposal requests support for one RWJF Future of Nursing Scholar for the MUSC online PhD in Nursing program. Our PhD program strives to take nursing science to the highest level in a culture of innovation, collaboration and accountability.

Publications & presentations


Magwood, G. (Sep. 2015). “Integrating research with action to promote health equity.” 13th Annual Research Symposium Integrating Research with Action to Promote Health Equity, Greenville, SC.
Earlier this year, Kurt Menke, founder of Bird’s Eye View GIS, visited Charleston to train several groups, including College of Nursing faculty, how to map their communities. Participants attending the Inter-Professional Institute for Public Health Mapping were taught how to use free and low cost, easy-to-use applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping tools for public health mapping. Health mapping allows community-based and small organizations to collect and visualize information about their communities using techniques to support planning and decision-making about community health. These tools support the collection and visualization of health statistics, demographic information, community resources, and events thereby facilitating a better understanding of community conditions.

To fund this project Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, received a grant from Public Service Communications and the National Library of Medicine to provide training for faculty, staff, students, and community members on free and low cost tools for public health mapping. Williamson partnered with STCR (South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute) to provide the workshops at no cost to participants.

Public health mapping has the potential to manage and transform the health of a community and has generated significant interest among academics and community members. The visual image introduces a depth of understand about resource location that has not been available previously due to the cost and complexity of many mapping tools.

The first two institutes held in February and April had 25 attendees. As the third workshop approached, held September 28-29, interest grew to 55 people registering for the training. Attendees identified a variety of reasons for their interest in public health mapping technology including the use in global work to mark location of individuals with diabetes in rural India for improved delivery of services. Another reason participants attended was that they wanted to identify meeting places of teens. Even students were interested in how the tools could assist their projects by identifying resource locations for special populations.

To continue this work, suggestions for future collaborations with NLM and Public Service Communications are under discussion. The Institute is looking for opportunities for MUSC students to present their mapping projects at national meetings.

Michelle Nichols, PhD, RN, and 11 Accelerated BSN nursing students spent a Saturday in September conducting health screenings at the Sea Island Cultural Fair on Johns Island. As part of their clinical experience in population health, students provided health education and screening for hypertension, cholesterol, blood glucose, and body mass index to local community members.

What would you do to improve health care?


If you said YES you should join the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School Lowcountry Chapter. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement is the premier interdisciplinary health care quality organization worldwide.

We’re putting together a network of students from all programs across MUSC and students interested in health care from The Citadel, CofC, Trident, and the Charleston School of Law. Offered programming will include dynamic speakers, interactive QI activities, and research/project opportunities for students.

Want to know more? Go to www.IHI.org or www.facebook.com/IHIOSLowcountry.

If you are a student, email Nancy Saldutte at salduttn@musc.edu with your name, school, college (or department/area of study) and join. Come learn QI, improve health care, beef up your resume/CV, network, travel, and meet students in other programs/universities around the Lowcountry.
CON welcomes new staff

Alex Walters, has joined the College of Nursing as the educational technology specialist. In this position he will be assisting faculty with Moodle and Tegrity. Walters comes to Charleston from West Virginia where he was a fifth grade teacher. His office is in room 309. He can be reached at walteale@musc.edu.

Do you have an interest in the arts?

Do you enjoy painting? Sculpting? Photography? Writing essays, poems, or music? If so, this is the opportunity for which you’ve been waiting: the publication of the 20th volume of Humanitas, a literary journal comprised of artistic works by MUSC faculty, staff, and students.

All members of the MUSC community are invited to submit to Humanitas during the open submission period, to begin immediately. The deadline for all submissions to this year’s volume is December 27 at midnight.

Because this is the 20th volume of Humanitas, priority for inclusion and consideration for place-winning will be given for submissions that creatively incorporate the number 20.

Submission guidelines and previous volumes of Humanitas may be found online: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/humanities/humanitas.htm

Students: If you have an interest in participating on the student editorial board for this year’s volume, please send a brief explanation of your interest to Ashley Smith (smiasn@musc.edu) by October 1.

Baby boy Jansen has arrived

Congratulations to Bernie Jansen. He and his wife, Frannie welcomed a baby boy into the world on Sep. 25 weighing 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 19 inches long. Brantley Francis Jansen joins proud big sister, Amelia (3).

Box: A new file sharing system

Box is a new MUSC compliant secure file storage/sharing system that is a more secure way to store and access your MUSC files.

To gain access to Box, login to musc.edu/catts. Click on “My eLearning lesson.” You will be directed to a new page. Click on “Self Enrollment” on the top toolbar. Next, locate “Box Resource Lessons” and select “Enroll.” Select all three lessons and click on “Add Lessons”.

One business day after you have completed the sessions, you will receive an email with a link to your Box folder. To login, use your MUSC email address and NetID password.

CON Recognition Fund

The College of Nursing is collecting funds for this year’s Recognition Fund. These funds are used throughout the year to support things like flowers for births and bereavement, cards, and food for College of Nursing events.

Faculty is encouraged to contribute $50 while staff is asked to contribute $25. Please drop off a check made out to the ‘CON Recognition Fund’ to Kathleen Cartmell’s office (room 523) or in her mail slot in the 5th floor workroom.

Writing workshop offered

Diane J. Angelini, EdD, CNM, will be offering a one-hour, small group writing workshop titled, “Organizing and Outlining a Manuscript for Novice Writers: What Contents Matter” on October 28 (time and place is to be determined).

Bring any manuscripts you are working on or ideas to the workshop. Space is limited to five participants. RSVP by email to: Diane Angelini at angelini@musc.edu.

COLLEGE HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The College of Nursing will officially close at the end of business Tuesday, December 22 and will re-open Monday, January 4, 2016.

The way the state holidays fall this year, this will equate to four days of annual leave:

12/23 = Annual Leave
12/24 = Holiday (Christmas Eve)
12/25 = Holiday (Christmas Day)
12/28 = Holiday (Day after Christmas)
12/29 = Annual Leave
12/30 = Annual Leave
12/31 = Annual Leave
01/01 = Holiday (New Year’s Day)

If you plan to take additional time off during this time, please get approval to do so from your supervisor.