I recently read two excellent books. The first was Being Mortal by Atul Gawande and the second was Do No Harm by Henry Marsh. Both focused on a common theme — decision-making and the complexity of “shared” decision-making in health care.

Dr. Marsh is an English neurosurgeon and he writes humanely about his thinking in undertaking his craft, and his failures as well as his successes. Most notable to me was his observation that the actual surgery is often not as difficult for him compared to the decision of whether or not to operate at all. This is because that decision must weigh the potential benefits and risks of operating against the potential benefits and risks of not operating. He acknowledges that no one can predict health outcomes, but even more importantly, only the patient knows the meaning of these outcomes for one’s “life worth living.”

This is precisely the premise of Dr. Gawande’s book. From both a professional and personal perspective he explores the care (or lack thereof) at end of life in our country and what health care providers should be focused on. He suggests that rather than asking patients if they want or do not want further medical treatment we should be asking them:

- What is most important to you?
- How would the treatment affect your life if it is successful and if it is not successful?
- What are your fears and what are your hopes, and which ones matter most?

He notes that well-being is not just about prolonging life but rather it is about the reasons one wishes to be alive. He challenges us to think that the sick and aged have needs beyond those of safety and living longer. They have needs for meaning, control, and shaping every aspect of one’s own life. And he sadly comments that most physicians are neither comfortable nor able to facilitate such a dialogue.

But the few nurses described in his book do make such connections with their patients and he learns from them. Granted, they sometimes go nameless and are largely unconnected to the story line, but they are beacons of light in this dark and complex issue. Yes, as nurses our mission is tending to each “life worth living.” Let’s always keep that front and center as we care for others, but let’s also put our names and credentials to our caring words and actions....Gail
Chitty family establishes nursing endowed chair

Supporting nursing education and, in particular, the MUSC College of Nursing was the main purpose for Dr. Kay Chitty and her husband, Mr. Charles B. Chitty, to generously establish an Endowed Chair in Nursing. The significant gift will structure an endowed chair that will help fund the next generation of stellar nurse faculty who come to MUSC. On Aug. 24, the Chitty family joined MUSC President David Cole, MD, Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, as well as faculty and staff at the Wickliffe House to make the announcement.

Kay Chitty, EdD, MSN, a nurse for more than 50 years, understands the impact a gift like an endowed chair can have for a college or program. From 1989 until 1995, she served as dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga (UTC), where she helped establish the school’s first endowed professorship. When she retired from UTC in 1995, Chattanooga’s Memorial Hospital established the Kay K. Chitty Professorship in Nursing in her honor to recognize her service to both Memorial’s board and the board of Women’s East Pavilion. In 1996, the Chittys moved to the Charleston area.

“For some time I have wanted to make a significant gift to MUSC’s outstanding College of Nursing,” Kay Chitty said. “I really wanted to create an endowed chair in nursing that would allow the college to recruit a faculty member with a national reputation.”

“Kay and Charlie have supported the college financially in ways large and small so this gift of an endowed chair is really the icing on our cake and the pinnacle of her dedication to our MUSC College of Nursing,” said Dean Stuart. “For that our gratitude knows no bounds.”

Kay Chitty often discusses how grateful she is for her nursing education. “I use my nursing knowledge to help friends, neighbors, family members, my husband, and yes, myself. My husband is fond of saying that he doesn’t know how families without a nurse can find their way through the health care system.”

With this generous gift to the college, the Chitty family can be assured that they are helping to prepare future generations of nurses who will help to transform health care in this country.

“In my 50-year career, I have seen a lot of schools of nursing. I stand before you today to tell you that the MUSC College of Nursing is the best nursing school I have been involved with.” - Kay Chitty

In the afternoon of August 17, College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students joined hundreds from the MUSC community and several Mother Emanuel AME Church members in the Drug Discovery Auditorium for the inaugural “Ceremony of Unity & Hope: Commemorating the Mother Emanuel Nine.” Many students served as ushers for the ceremony including Chiffvon Washington, Shanice Dailey, Anna Wayne, and Leigh Anne Irwin.

Students from the six colleges were invited to submit reflections, poems, or prose for the ceremony. A few were read during the ceremony, while others were presented in a remembrance box to a church representative. A beautiful magnolia tree was planted in the Clyburn Lawn with a plaque inscribed with the names of Emanuel’s nine victims. The ceremony fell on the two-month anniversary of the tragic shooting at the Mother Emanuel AME Church.

Several prayer vigils, services, and group worship meetings were held in the days and weeks following this tragedy. The Charleston community continues to support each other, as evidenced by the beautiful student-driven ceremony.
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON 7</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 9</td>
<td>Student Activities &amp; Volunteer Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>WED 16</td>
<td>SNA Chipotle Fundraiser</td>
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<td>5-9 p.m.</td>
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<td>MON 21</td>
<td>Faculty Assembly</td>
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<td>1 - 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>WED 23</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 28-30</td>
<td>CCNE Accreditation Site Visit</td>
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### OCTOBER

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<tr>
<td>FRI-SUN 2-4</td>
<td>SNA State Convention (see details below)</td>
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<td>Myrtle Beach</td>
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<td>THU-FRI 8-9</td>
<td>MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting</td>
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<td>Colcock Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON 19</td>
<td>Faculty Assembly</td>
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<td>1 - 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>WED 21</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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*** Save the Date ***

64th Annual Student Nurses Association
SC State Convention presents “Future Fever-Ignite Your Career”
Myrtle Beach, October 2-4, 2015

This year’s convention will include an NCLEX review and several focus sessions aimed on nursing education and a future career as a registered nurse. Register by September 12 to receive the early registration discounted price.

www.sna-sc.org/events/convention-2015

"Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new.”
- Og Mandino

Like MUSC College of Nursing on Facebook!

RESEARCH FOR LUNCH

Facilitated by Jane Zapka.
Bring your own lunch.

September 8
Noon
CON 513
"Health Promotion Education and Self-Management Behavior Among African-American Men” (R01)
Drs. Lynne Nemeth & Chanita Hughes Halbert

September 14
11 A.M.
CON 513
"Improving Quality of Care in Child Mental Health Facilities" (R01)
Dr. Ken Ruggiero
Scholarship news

Congratulations to ABSN student, Shannon Elam 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.

The NURSE Corps Scholarship Program provides nursing students with financial support in exchange for a commitment to serve at least two-years upon graduation in a qualifying NURSE Corps site, earning the same competitive salary and benefits as any new hire. Participants receive tuition, eligible fees, other reasonable costs, such as books, clinical supplies/instruments and uniforms, and a monthly stipend.

Elam currently works for the VA hospital as a student nurse technician, and is actively involved in MUSC's Presidential Scholar’s program, the Multicultural Student Nurses Association, the Student Nurses Association, and the Indian global health initiative program under CON's Suparna Qanungo, PhD.

The MUSC Women’s Club is seeking applications from MUSC’s most deserving students for its annual scholarships. The deadline for submission is 4 p.m., Monday, September 7. Scholarship recipients will be notified by September 11 and invited to a membership event on September 15.

53 graduate from RN to BSN program

At the inaugural pinning and graduation ceremony honoring the students of the RN to BSN program, 53 registered nurses received a MUSC College of Nursing pin along with a Bachelors of Science in nursing degree. The graduates completed three full-time semesters course of study in the online nursing program that began in fall 2014.

Forty-nine of the graduates are MUSC nurses who saw this opportunity as a chance to continue their nursing education. The MUSC Medical Center is encouraging its nurses with associate degrees to enter a baccalaureate nursing program by creating a culture that fosters continuing education. Although nurses entering the RN to BSN program already hold jobs in the nursing field, they are often unable to seek promotion without a baccalaureate degree. In addition, there is growing evidence that facilities with a large proportion of baccalaureate-prepared nurses have better patient outcomes, including reduced morbidity and mortality.

“With changes in health care, we need a nursing workforce that is continually growing, learning and assuming new roles in patient care, said Dean Gail Stuart. “We want to ensure that our nurses are in optimal positions to deliver on the new expectations and demands of our evolving health care system.”

The ceremony, held on Aug. 18 at St. Luke’s Chapel, included guest speaker, Marilyn Schaffner, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CGRN, administrator for clinical services and chief nursing officer at the MUSC Medical Center. Forty-three students graduated with highest honors for receiving a grade point average between 3.9 and 4.0.

The RN to BSN program is currently accepting applications for the fall 2016 semester.

Speak you mind, even if your voice shakes.
— Maggie Kuhn

ABSN PROGRAM PASS RATES

CON ........... 95.15%
SC ...............91.31%
USA ............. 86.76%

As of August 2015
**Funded grants**

**INVESTIGATORS:** (PI) Gigi Smith, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC; (Co-PI) Joy Lauerer, DNP, PMHCNS-BC RN  
**SPONSOR:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)  
**TITLE:** Impacting At-Risk Populations Through Multi-modal Training of Nursing and Medical Students in SBIRT  
**GOALS:** To improve and enhance the training of health professions students (undergraduate and graduate nursing students, and medical students) to provide competent screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment for persons who have or are at-risk for substance use disorder.

**INVESTIGATOR:** (PI) Kenneth J. Ruggiero, PhD  
**SPONSOR:** NIH/NIMH  
**TITLE:** Bounce Back Now: A Low-Cost Intervention to Facilitate Post-Disaster Recovery  
**GOAL:** To help disaster survivors address mental health needs by self-monitoring their emotional recovery through freely accessible resources. The project’s aim is to evaluate a novel, scalable, and highly sustainable smartphone/web-based intervention that is designed to address post-disaster PTSD and depressed mood. The intervention, Bounce Back Now, will be tested in a study with 5,000 disaster survivors and will be accessible by any internet-connected device (e.g., laptop, tablet, smartphone).

**INVESTIGATOR:** (PI) Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, CNM  
**SPONSOR:** Trident United Way  
**TITLE:** Charleston PASOs – Improving Access to Health Services for the Tricounty Hispanic Community  
**GOAL:** Through collaboration with local health, social, and academic professionals, as well as Hispanic community members and leaders, Charleston PASOs will provide a coordinated support service that improves access to health care by diminishing or removing multiple barriers that prevent tri-county Hispanic families from being able to access necessary health and social services. Barriers addressed by PASOs include language differences; mistrust and fear; misinformation about where, how, and when to access services; low literacy; lack of health insurance; and cultural differences related to healthcare practices and systems navigation.

**INVESTIGATOR:** (PI) Susan D. Newman, PhD, RN, CRRN  
**SPONSOR:** MUSC’s SC Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund  
**TITLE:** Development and evaluation of multimedia and technology-enhanced components of a telehealth SCI self-management intervention  
**GOAL:** To conduct additional, essential pilot work to support the development of a technologically enhanced, peer-supported self-management intervention in partnership with the SC Spinal Cord Injury Association (SCSCIA).

**INVESTIGATOR:** (PI) Kenneth J. Ruggiero, PhD  
**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 employee assistant program providers on how to effectively screen and assess firefighters for mental health symptoms following a potentially traumatic event.

**Grants submitted**

Brian E. Bunnell, MS resubmitted an Individual Fellowship Application (F32) in response to PA-14-149: 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).

**Publication & podcast**

> **PUBLICATION**  

> **PODCAST**  
Interview with Kenneth Ruggiero, PhD  

**MUSC 2015 Research Day**  
**November 12-13**  
**Abstract deadline is Friday, September 18**

Click here for more information  

OFFICE OF RESEARCH
Federal legislative work that needs our attention

by Amy Williams, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC

To paraphrase the prestigious Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) 2011 report, nurses must see policy as something they can influence rather than something that simply happens to them. In fact, policy makers rely on nurses for their influence on public and health care policy matters. One way to realize this call to action is to begin seeing advocacy for our profession, patients and communities as part of our role, in the same way that we pre-medicate patients prior to painful procedures or act as a voice for a patient that is ill and cannot convey their needs for comfort. As we begin this academic year, we should make a commitment to ourselves, our profession and, our patients that we will take advocacy on in our professional roles. According to the American Nurses Association (ANA) government affairs division, there are some key issues being debated in the federal legislature that need to be watched and advocated for this year to move our profession forward:

• The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act 2015 (S. 578, H.R. 1342). This bipartisan legislation would amend Medicare law to allow APRNs to sign home health care plans of care and certify Medicare patients for the home health care benefit.

• Safe Patient Handling and Mobility, expected to be re-introduced in the coming months by Congressman John Conyers. This program has the potential to increase patient safety and decrease staff injuries while increasing nurse retention and recruitment.

• Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act (H.R 2083/ S. 1132). This bipartisan bill would require Medicare-participating hospitals to establish registered nurse (RN) staffing plans using a committee made up of a majority of direct care nurses to ensure patient safety, decrease readmissions and encourage nurse retention.

• Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2713). This bipartisan bill was reintroduced in early June to maintain a strong support of these programs through fiscal year 2016 as they have for the past 50 years. Title VIII programs help nurse education from entry-level through graduate study by providing the largest source of federal funding that supports institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities. In turn, countless patients receive the benefit of care from highly skilled nurses that these programs support.

More information about these pieces of legislation including policy briefs to use when contacting your legislators as well as priorities for the 114th Congress can be found on the ANA website. Please notify your elected federal officials (House of Representatives and Senators) of your support for these important programs today.

REFERENCES:
New faculty join CON

Julie Barroso, PhD, ANP, RN, FAAN, has joined the College of Nursing as a professor and will be teaching in the PhD program. Barroso has been an educator since 1989, teaching in BSN, MSN, and PhD programs. She has mentored numerous PhD students and junior faculty, and has sponsored three funded NRSA grant applications. An internationally recognized expert in qualitative research, she has taught qualitative research methods and qualitative data analysis to doctoral students. Barroso earned a BSN from Florida State University, an MSN from the University of South Florida, and a PhD in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin. As an adult nurse practitioner, Barroso treated patients with HIV infection for 15 years while holding academic appointments. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Association of Providers in AIDS Care, the first nurse to be selected to serve in this capacity. She has won several teaching awards, most recently the Outstanding PhD Faculty Award from the Duke University School of Nursing. She has published more than 60 articles, most of them data-based.

Kari Mau, DNP, APRN-BC, has been hired as an instructor in the Accelerated BSN program. Mau received a BSN from Purdue University, a master’s and doctorate of nursing practice from Arizona State University, and is certified as a women’s health nurse practitioner. She also earned certifications in electronic fetal monitoring and as a registered nurse first assistant. Mau is currently a fellow in the Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Program at the University of South Carolina. Her research interests include perinatal mood disorders, fatigue and pain in hospitalized patients, and diversity in nursing. She was honored as “Nurse of the Year” in the education category by the Arizona March of Dimes in 2008. Mau has served as faculty in pre-licensure and RN to BSN undergraduate programs as well as a graduate nurse practitioner program. In addition to teaching in the undergraduate program at MUSC, she practices as a nurse practitioner at the Breast Health Center in Bluffton, SC.

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 wide 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 S23) or in her mail slot in the 5th floor workroom.

Health Care Heroes nominations

Nominate a Health Care Hero. The Charleston Regional Business Journal is looking for individuals and organizations that have a passion for health care and patients. There are nine nomination categories, including nurse, and health care researcher. Nominations are open now through September 11.

Showcases and Opportunities

Monday, August 31 @ 9 a.m.
Memorial Waterfront Park (Mt. Pleasant) | Cooper River Room

Come prepared to showcase one item and one opportunity for the future. You can present alone or with a colleague to two. Presentations should be 5 minutes or less.

Dress is casual. Lunch will be provided.

CCNE Site Visit
9/28 - 9/30
Please join us

Looking Toward TOMORROW
AN EVENING WITH DAVID J. COLE, MD, FACS

The MUSC Alumni Association is pleased to sponsor a series of alumni receptions with MUSC’s seventh president, David J. Cole, MD, FACS. Mark your calendar and join us at the location nearest to you.

Don’t see a city near you on the list?
Stay tuned for future locations.

For more information or to RSVP, call 1.843.792.7979 or visit musc.edu/pres-reception

Columbia, SC
Tuesday, September 15
The Palmetto Club
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Washington, DC
Wednesday, October 28
101 Constitution Avenue
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Greenville
Thursday, November 5
The Poinsett Club
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Spartanburg
Thursday, February 25
The Piedmont Club
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Charlotte, NC/Rock Hill, SC
Thursday, April 21
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Florence
Thursday, May 5
6:00-7:30 p.m.