I recently returned from a People to People educational trip to Cuba. My desire was to see the country before it changed should the U.S. embargo be lifted. It is such an interesting country that operates on a blend of socialism, communism, and capitalism. I think of it as having one foot in the past and inching their second foot into the present with much progress still needed. The level of government control is high and the people are not wealthy by any standards.

That said, I want to share with you some facts that I found surprising.

- The literacy rate is 99.6 percent.
- Cubans have free health care and free education from preschool through university.
- The maximum number of children allowed to be taught in a classroom is 20.
- Every museum in the country is required to have a “children’s room” that schools visit on a regular basis.
- The life expectancy for Cubans is the same as that of the U.S.
- Cuba bans all guns and those wishing to shoot for pleasure must rent a gun at the shooting range.
- There is a low incidence of crime anywhere on the island.
- The city streets and rural neighborhoods are all kept so clean I was literally astonished.

So one of my take home impressions is that they have much to gain if they are allowed to advance, but they also potentially have much to lose if they fall prey to some of our less desirable American habits and norms. I wish them well in the days ahead - buena suerte! ...Gail
Celebrating Black History Month

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is used to recognize and celebrate the achievements of black Americans. Other countries, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

During this time, the College of Nursing is recognizing the accomplishments of Assistant Professor Tiffany Williams, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC.

Williams, who earned her BSN, MSN and DNP from MUSC, teaches in the undergraduate and graduate level programs. She also has served as the College’s diversity officer for the past two years. Williams brings experience in workplace diversity and diversifying campus culture to both the college and university level by serving on several committees across the campus.

“Dr. Williams brings passion and enthusiasm to the committee,” said Ruthie Conner, PhD, RN, Diversity and Inclusion committee chair. “It is evident that her desire is to ensure that all individuals are treated with kindness and respect.”

As an advanced practice nurse, Williams specializes in working with overweight and obese children and adolescents. She is actively involved in mentoring diverse and underrepresented high school and nursing students and is the advisor to the Multicultural Student Nurses Association and the Robert Wood Johnson MUSC Scholars.

We appreciate Dr. Williams for her dedication and hard work to the College of Nursing by enriching the workplace and strengthening the quality of the educational experience our students can expect to receive.

Homecoming 2016 - Don’t miss out!

The excitement is growing as all MUSC College of Nursing alumni, faculty and students are welcomed home to MUSC for a March weekend filled with reconnecting, remembering and re-imagining!

Friday, March 11
7 p.m. Start the weekend with a gracious Dean’s Welcome Reception at the Charleston Country Club hosted by Dean Stuart. This will be a special event highlighted by the presentation of the 2016 Alumni Association Awards. Faculty are encouraged to attend.

Saturday, March 12
9:30 a.m. The next morning starts out in our newly renovated College of Nursing. Faculty and students will greet you and talk about “Your College of Nursing - On the Rise from Local to Global.” This is something you won’t want to miss! 6:30 p.m. Finally that evening let your hair down and enjoy a Charleston BBQ under the light of the stars with a band and a great view of the Ravenel Bridge at the Charleston Maritime Center. It all awaits you and your classmates so get out your calendar and mark it down now. See you there!

MUSC College of Nursing ranked No. 2 in nation

Online graduate nursing program remains one of the best in country

Great things continue to happen at the MUSC College of Nursing. U.S. News & World Report has ranked the MUSC College of Nursing No. 2 among online graduate nursing programs in America. MUSC College of Nursing surpassed more than 500 nursing schools surveyed to earn the No. 2 ranking on publication’s 2016 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs list. Click here to view the full rankings.

For the past three years, the MUSC College of Nursing has held one of the top two spots. In 2015, the school ranked No. 1; in 2014, it ranked No. 2.

“The College of Nursing’s frequent top ranking among the nation’s nursing schools is a testament to the excellence and ingenuity of MUSC,” said Gail Stuart, PhD, dean of the MUSC College of Nursing. “Twelve years ago, we were one of the first nursing schools to make a commitment to innovative nursing education through online instruction. Today, the College of Nursing remains engaged in what has become a standard practice while continuing to focus on innovations that will enable us to further distinguish MUSC from other institutions.”

Click here to view the full rankings.
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

| MON 1 | Faculty Workshop: Plagiarism Discussion w/ Tom Smith, PhD | 1 - 3 p.m. | CON 202 |
| THU-FRI 11-12 | MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting | Colcock Hall |
| MON 15 | Presidents’ Day | CON open |
| MON 15 | Faculty Assembly | 1 - 4 p.m. | CON 202 |
| WED 17 | Staff Meeting | 9 a.m. | CON 202 |
| MON 29 | Faculty Workshop: QI Workshop w/ Marilyn Laken, PhD | Noon - 4:30 p.m. | CON 202 |

### MARCH

| FRI 11 | Homecoming Event | Dean’s Welcome Reception & Alumni Awards | 7 p.m. | Charleston Country Club |
| SAT 12 | Homecoming Event | Global to Local | 9:30 a.m. | College of Nursing |
| SAT 12 | Homecoming Event | BBQ Under the Stars | 6:30 p.m. | Charleston Maritime Center |
| MON-FRI 14-18 | Spring Break |

For more listings of events & meetings go to CON’s events calendar http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/events_calendar.htm

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“**Have a vision. Be demanding.**”

- Colin Powell, the first African American appointed as the U.S. Secretary of State

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**STILL AMONG THE BEST**


ONLINE GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS BY U.S. News & World Report
Student win
Michelle (Shelly) Orr, PhD candidate, has been named to the national ANA Professional Hospice & Palliative Care Panel. Orr, faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University, is a leader in palliative care in the ICU. Her dissertation research involves palliative care planning in the ICU. Congratulations!

Loan forgiveness
NURSING STUDENTS: You may qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Join this webinar to learn more about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and the necessary steps medical/health professions students should take upon graduating and starting residency (if applicable).
Feb. 3 @ 7 p.m. EST
Topics for discussion include: eligibility requirements, eligible public service organizations, repayment options, employment certification. Register for the webinar today.

NCLEX PASS RATE SCORES
MUSC College of Nursing
4th Q 2015 = 95.74%
2015 = 94.81%
Nationwide
2015 = 84.51%

>> SAVE THE DATE <<
RN-BSN Pinning Ceremony
August 16 @ 4:00 p.m.
St. Luke’s Chapel

Amy Williams, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, was interviewed Jan. 28 by three Wando High School broadcast journalism students for their award-winning, student-produced news program, Tribe Talk. Tribe Talk is a broadcast journalism program for Wando High School that focuses on the interesting stories for their student body and faculty. The bi-weekly episodes are shown to more than 3,600 faculty, staff and students.
Grant submissions

INVESTIGATOR: Julie Barroso, PhD, ANP, RN, FAAN
SPONSOR: NIH/NINR
TITLE: An Adaptive RCT Comparing Telehealth to Face to Face Cognitive Behavioral Stress Management for HIV-related Fatigue
GOAL: To develop and evaluate an adaptive intervention with tremendous reach to alleviate fatigue in HIV-infected people.

INVESTIGATOR: Cristina M. Lopez, PhD
SPONSOR: NIH/NIDA
TITLE: Meeting Kids Where They’re At: Feasibility of an Enhanced Evidence-based Substance Use and Sexual Risk/HIV Prevention Program for Rural African American Girls Via Telehealth
GOAL: To enhance community acceptance and test the feasibility of this telehealth-based intervention.

INVESTIGATOR: Deborah Williamson, DHA, MSN, RN, CNM
SPONSOR: Trident United Way
TITLE: Charleston PASOs
GOAL: PASOs will provide referrals, health education and other services to at least 60 individuals throughout pregnancy, empowering them to navigate their health needs in the future. Additionally, follow up with at least 80 percent of program participants will occur within five weeks after the birth of their child. The follow up will serve as an opportunity for PASOs to provide further services, such as information related to breastfeeding and infant care. Participants will be reminded of the importance of keeping their six-week postpartum appointment, and additional assistance will be provided as needed to increase these visits. In each year, the team of Promotores will facilitate at least four workshops in Spanish in topics related to maternal child health, such as labor and delivery, family planning and breastfeeding.

Publications & presentations

> PUBLICATION

> PRESENTATIONS


> POSTER

Cathy Durham, DNP, with her poster at the AACN Doctoral Conference in January.
New faculty announcements

Michaela Lewis, DNP, CPNP, CPN, CPEN, is an instructor in the College’s undergraduate program. She brings nine years of combined experience in pediatric emergency, pediatric medical-surgical, and pediatric intensive care nursing to MUSC. She has earned numerous certifications including emergency nursing and as a pediatric emergency nurse. Originally from Fayetteville, NC, Lewis obtained her associate’s degree in 2006, and a BSN in 2008 from Gardner-Webb University. Later, she earned a DNP degree from the MUSC in 2015.

Lewis enjoys reading, traveling, participating in volunteer activities within the Charleston community, beach walking, and spending time with her family and miniature schnauzer, Max.

Martha Sylvia, PhD, MBA, RN, is an associate professor in the College of Nursing and the director of population health analytics at MUSC Health. She also holds an adjunct appointment at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (JHUSON). Sylvia is the author of the first clinical data management textbook for the DNP program and provides leadership in nursing education at all levels. She was the recipient of the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award at JHUSON. She has more than 10 years of clinical nursing experience which includes acute care medical/surgical nursing; provider office staff nursing; case management; management of community and health plan case management services; and executive leadership of a community-based free clinic for the uninsured.

Sylvia received her BSN from the University of Vermont, and earned an MSN, MBA and PhD in nursing from Johns Hopkins University.

Sylvia has a passion for creating and understanding the structure, analytical methods, and clinical utility of large multifaceted data sets for ultimately improving the health of and healthcare delivery for individuals, groups, communities, and large populations. The focus area of her practice scholarship and research is in population health strategy, design, methods, implementation, management, and evaluation; health services, translational, outcomes, and feasibility research; quality improvement; and data analysis, structure, definitions, design, and management.

College wins

Brian Conner, PhD, RN, has been elected to serve as the Lowcountry representative on the South Carolina Nurses Foundation (SCNF) Board of Trustees.

The SCNF, established in 1974, is a nonprofit that aims to promote high standards of health care by facilitating the advancement of nursing through rewards, grants, and scholarship. It also works to improve the quality of health care to all SC citizens by advancing the profession of nursing in the state. The SCNF, an affiliate of the South Carolina Nurses Association, is supported largely through gifts and donations to find the various scholarship and award programs.

Several faculty members including Gigi Smith, PhD, Elaine Amella, PhD, Cathy Durham, DNP and Amy Williams, DNP, attended the 2016 Doctoral Education Conference in Naples, FL. The conference brought together academic leaders, faculty and students to discuss doctoral education. This year’s theme was enhancing nursing science and improving patient care through big data. During their visit, they provided three presentations and one poster.

SAVE THE DATE

Faculty & Staff Retreat
Monday, August 22
9:00 a.m.
Cooper River Room at Mount Pleasant Waterfront Park

FACULTY WORKSHOPS

Monday, February 1
1 - 3 p.m. | CON 202
Discussion about plagiarism with Tom Smith, PhD

Monday, February 29
Noon - 4:30 p.m. | CON 202
QI Faculty Workshop with Marilyn Laken, PhD, RN, FAAN
SAVE THE DATE

HOMECOMING 2016 MARCH 11 - 12 CHARLESTON, SC

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!