As you know one of the goals of our new MUSC Strategic Plan is to “Commit to Patients First” and no one put patients first more than Florence Nightingale. That led me to thinking about some simple but critical aspects of care that we should be emphasizing to our students and nursing colleagues, particularly from the perspective of patients and families who are seen in our hospital.

I reread some of Nightingale’s work, scanned a number of current articles and talked to those who have recent hospital experiences and here’s a list of some caregiving actions I came up with:

- Listen to what the patient says and engage the patient and their family in their care to be sure that as much as possible they understand what is happening in this new and anxiety-provoking environment.
- Provide respect by always knocking on the door, introducing yourself, making and maintaining eye contact with the patient and not the equipment, and leveling the space differential by bending down or pulling up a chair to talk.
- Create a healing environment by keeping the noise level down in the patient’s room, in the hall and at the nurses’ station.
- Promote sleep at night by turning off the television, removing glare in the room from all sources including phones and computers, and avoiding taking vital signs or blood draws when possible.
- Keep open lines of communication including when there are changes in a person’s condition or treatments, and especially when things get delayed, postponed or cancelled.
- Make sure the room is clean and uncluttered. Wipe surfaces, organize equipment, and minimize random objects that imply confusion rather than calm and reassurance. Patients do not know their environment and keeping it clean, letting them know where things are and how things work will help them maintain a sense of control.
- Maintain professionalism at all times and in all spaces – patient areas, cafeterias, elevators, even the bus stop. And always look professional in appearance to reflect our professional values and self-esteem.

So here’s to Florence during this month of May! I hope we always embody and enact the ideals she held so dear... Gail
Staff of the Year announced

Congratulations to the 2016 College of Nursing Staff of the Year recipient, Gena Ryan. Ryan graduated from Clemson University and worked as associate director of career services at Miller-Motte Technical College before joining CON in March 2014.

The 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 nominated from a vote from faculty and staff.

Ryan received many positive comments that were collected from an anonymous survey. Several pointed out that she was instrumental in the CCNE accreditation site visit. “She never complained about what needed to be done or became unraveled,” wrote one commenter. Others noticed her willingness to take on extra work projects. “Gena is quick to respond to requests and always does so in a pleasant manner and with a caring demeanor.” “Her smile is infectious!”

Other CON staff also were nominated for this award. Toni Fancy-Denton “is always cheerful, very helpful and a good teacher.” Shelly Drake “is always upbeat and willing to help anyone in need.” Catherine Geddings “exemplifies service to others and is extremely conscientious and courteous.” “We are fortunate to have Bernie Jansen.” Meredith Kerr “is very quick and thorough and her follow-up is exceptional.” Beth Khan’s designs are amazing and project our College in a positive light.” Joanne Langdale “is proactive and is as concerned with your issues as though they were her own.” Mardi Long “has fantastic ideas for special projects and the CON would be lost without her.” Moby Madisetti’s positive and pleasant attitude are contagious.” Andrew Matthews “approaches each and every project with a CAN DO attitude. A fantastic co-worker.” Laurie Scott “is exceptionally dedicated to the students and works tirelessly to facilitate their education through development.” Kathy Williams “is always helpful and goes out of her way.”

From Decoration Day to Memorial Day

Everyone loves Memorial Day. Hot dogs, barbeque, friends, family, sunshine, what isn’t there to love? But have you ever stopped celebrating long enough to think about why we observe this fun-filled holiday weekend?

In the final days of the Civil War, the first widely publicized acknowledgment of a Memorial Day-type observance, also known to some as Decoration Day, was held in Charleston, SC, where the war had begun four years earlier. In an area known today as Hamp- ton Park, Confederate soldiers converted a plantation owner’s horse track into a prisoner-of-war camp. More than 250 Union soldiers died while imprisoned there and were indiscreetly buried in a mass grave.

On May 1, 1865, 28 black workmen went to the mass grave site and re-buried the Union dead properly. Soon thousands gathered, including freedmen, school children, Union troops, black ministers, and white northern missionaries, to commemorate the dead soldiers. They had a parade of people marching, singing, and celebrating in their honor. Many brought flowers to decorate the burial field.

What an emotional yet joyous celebration this must have been. This began a long tradition of honoring those that gave their lives in military service.

Memorial Day became a legal holiday in 1967 and in December 2000, Congress passed a law requiring Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day to remember and honor the fallen.

So, this Memorial Day weekend, while you’re surrounded by family and friends welcoming the start of summer – I encourage you to take a moment to remember the significance of this holiday and those brave men and woman that have sacrificed their lives defending this country.

Convocation and Graduation quickly approaching

Convocation is the pinning ceremony for the students earning a BSN and the hooding ceremony for the students earning a MSN, DNP, and PhD. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 19 at 2 p.m. the Charleston Music Hall, 37 John Street. Graduates should arrive by 1 p.m. so they can be assisted with robing and lined-up for the processional. Faculty should arrive by 1:30 p.m.

Graduation is Friday, May 20 at 9 a.m. at the MUSC Horseshoe. Click here for more details.

If you plan to use social media, use the hashtag #MUSCGrad16 which has been established for commencement. Also, The Catalyst has a new graduation message wall and yearbook pages that will be featured in the May 20th Commencement issue (see pp. 8-9). Note: Submission deadline has been extended to midnight, Friday, May 13. All Class of 2016 graduating students are encouraged to participate.

NEWS & NOTES
### MAY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUE 10</td>
<td>Confederate Memorial Day (state holiday)</td>
<td>CON open</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 13</td>
<td>MUSC Employee Appreciation Event</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON 16</td>
<td>Faculty Assembly</td>
<td>1 - 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>WED 18</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
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<td>THU 19</td>
<td>College of Nursing Convocation</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<td>THU-FRI 19-20</td>
<td>MUSC Board of Trustees meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 20</td>
<td>MUSC Graduation</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
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<td>MON 30</td>
<td>Memorial Day (state holiday)</td>
<td>CON closed</td>
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### JUNE

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<td>WED 15</td>
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**MUSC NURSES WEEK 2016 FAMILY FIELD DAY**
Sat., May 7 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Behind the Drug Discovery Bldg.
All MUSC staff, faculty, students & volunteers are invited to take part in this fun event.
Games for kids, food trucks, craft fair & more...

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK**
May 6-12, 2016

**IT'S TIME TO TAKE YOUR NURSING CAREER TO A HIGHER LEVEL**

**RN-BSN ONE YEAR ONLINE**

"The industry is pushing for the proportion of nurses with baccalaureate degrees to increase from 50% to 80% by 2020."

- The Institute of Medicine, The Future of Nursing Focus on Education

**APPLY NOW JUNE 1 DEADLINE**

**MAY 2016 | eCONnections**
Student leadership recognized
MUSC’s top student leaders and student teams gathered on April 20 at the annual MUSC Student Leadership and Service Banquet recognition event which was hosted by the Office of Student Programs and the Division of Education and Student Life.

Congratulations to several College of Nursing students who were recognized with MUSC Gives Back Awards for their college and campus leadership. The Student Nurses Association was recognized with a MUSC Gives Back Community Volunteer Award for Student Organizations for their clothing drive for migrant workers.

Representing the College of Nursing, Swati Patel, ABSN student, received a Most Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award and Shannon Elam, ABSN student, was selected for induction into the MUSC Student Leadership Society. Elam also completed the Interprofessional Education Fellowship. Congratulations to all.

Schnitzer selected for fellowship
Congratulations to DNP student, Grace Schnitzer, for receiving a nurse practitioner fellowship award from Peak Vista Community Health Centers after she graduates in May.

She will begin a one year fellowship to aid in the transition from student to independent provider that focuses on outpatient primary care. She will rotate through different clinics including pediatrics and women’s health. Schnitzer will work closely with three other fellows throughout the program and the group will complete a quality improvement project at the completion of the program.

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a nonprofit federally qualified health center that provides a variety of services and care for the underserved population in Colorado Springs, CO and surrounding areas.

MUSC patient care techs receive scholarships
Danielle Greig and Yulia Romanzanova have been awarded the MUSC Medical Center Patient Care Tech scholarships for students enrolled in the College of Nursing ABSN degree program.

Greig is a patient care tech on the digestive disease unit. She completed her prerequisites at the College of Charleston, and has been a camp counselor for Pattison’s Academy, an intern with the American Lung Association, and a volunteer with the MUSC Children’s Hospital. Greig also is a certified counselor for Darkness to Light, and is interested in continuing her education to become a nurse practitioner.

Romanzanova, also a patient care tech, works on the joint replacement unit. In June 2015, she was selected as the MUSC Employee of the Month. Romanzanova was nominated by Val Kneece (ABSN ’14), who wrote, “Yulia exemplifies the pillars of Service and People everyday on our floor.” She is a graduate of Ulyanovsk State Pedagogical University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and ecology.

Many thanks to Andrea Coyle and Linda Horton at the MUSC Medical Center for reviewing the applicants for this scholarship.

Successful Doctoral Presentations
Congratulations to the following doctoral students who either successfully presented their final DNP project or PhD defense.

SUCCESSFUL DNP PROJECT
Anna Day
Jameela Goudarzi
Vanessa Hartmann
Richard Hill
Wesley Jacobs
Brandi Knight
Vicki Morton
Teonica Morton
Jade Nelson
Emily Rowland
Christina Sweatman
Jillian White

SUCCESSFUL PHD DEFENSE
Kempa French
Jama Goers
Crystal Graham
Candace Jaruzel
Felicia Jenkins
Melinda (McCuster) Lalonde
Novelette Prosper
Phyllis Raynor
Amy Szajna
Lori Vick
Rebecca Walker

Thank you Sigma Theta Tau International Gamma Omicron Chapter for the healthy snacks provided to students during finals week!
Funded grants

PI: Brian E. Bunnell, PhD
SPONSOR: NIH/NIMH
TITLE: Technology-Based Solutions to Improve Quality of Care in Child Mental Health Treatment
GOALS: To provide training for developing scalable, technology-based, patient-centered solutions by identifying strategies to address barriers to homework use and adherence.

Grant submissions

PI: Teresa W. Atz, PhD, RN, CHSE
SPONSOR: NCSBN Center for Regulatory Excellence
TITLE: Do Multi-Patient Simulation Scenarios Bridge the Nursing Readiness to Practice Gap?
GOAL: To examine the efficacy of a multi-patient simulation experience for senior ABSN students by developing essential clinical competencies and readiness for practice, in terms of simulation based testing and real world testing six months later.

PI: Carrie L. Cormack, DNP, CPNP, and Cindy Dodds, PhD
SPONSOR: RWJF
TITLE: Integrating Palliative and Humanistic Patient Care Models into Healthcare Education
GOAL: To facilitate the acceptance and adoption of palliative and humanistic models of care for individuals with life-limiting disabilities through student education and faculty mentorship. This project aims to integrate palliative and humanistic care models into the pediatric content area, specifically concerning children with medical complexity, for nursing and physical therapy graduate students.

PI: Catherine O. Durham, DNP, FNP
SPONSOR: MUSC’s Office of Interprofessional Initiatives/Development of New Interprofessional
TITLE: Development of New Interprofessional PIHC and IPC Partnership
GOAL: To create a model that can be exported to community partners, who frequently prefer a longer student rotation, rather than multiple rotations of new students. This new clinical experience would strategically schedule students (APN, MD, PA, PharmD) enrolled with the Institute of Primary Care and MUSC dental students rotating through ECCO’s free dental clinic to work with faculty preceptors at Partners in HealthCare integrating tele-health and utilizing outcome measures to drive quality improvement initiatives.

PhD student wins

A GOOD SEASON FOR ROSE
Monica Rose, PhD student, has been named a 2016 AANA Foundation Doctoral Fellow by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Foundation for her dissertation study titled “Assessing Post-Operative Information Transfers: A Pilot and Feasibility Study.” Along with the prestige of this award comes a cash award of up to $10,000.

Rose also has been awarded the Competency and Credentialing Institute Research Grant by the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses. This funding supports graduate students in a research-focused doctoral degree (PhD, DNS, EdD) to conduct research related to perioperative nursing practice and contribute to the development of perioperative nursing science.

MUNN AND GILBERT RECEIVE STTI AWARD

On May 19, Allison Munn and Michelle Gilbert, both PhD students, will receive the New Investigator Award from Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Gamma Omicron-at-Large Chapter. Munn’s study titled, “Factors Influencing African American Mothers’ Adoption of Baby-Friendly Practices: A Mixed-Methods Study” and Gilbert’s study titled “Identifying Barriers in Accessing Early Intervention Services in Underserved Populations” will receive up to $2,000 and will be presented at the Annual Chapter Research Awards meeting at Burton’s Grill in Mount Pleasant, SC.

NIH notices reminder

NIH & AHRQ grant application changes for due dates on or after May 25, 2016. Notice Number: NOT-OD-16-081

LOWCOUNTRY NURSING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

June 24, 2016

Bridging the gap between research and the bedside.
Pasos update
Below is a quarterly report illustrating the work Pasos and their partner, Fetter Health Care Network, has provided to support pregnant Latina women in the Charleston area.

On the radio
On March 30, Kurtyss Kasten, ABSN student, was on the EL SOL radio show, PASO a PASO, informing the community about nutrition and healthy eating for kids. This experience was an extension of his community project for the population focused nursing course he completed in the fall. His clinical group identified the impact of food deserts on health and worked with the LowCountry Street Grocery to increase access to fresh produce for the Midland Park community.

A Piccolo Spoleto event that you should not miss
On May 31, the MUSC Writing Center and Humanities Committee will partner with Piccolo Spoleto to bring four nationally-acclaimed nurse writers, Cortney Davis, Jeanne Bryner, Veneta Masson, and Muriel A. Murch, as part of the Sundown Poetry Series at 6 p.m. at the Dock Street Theatre. Please follow the link below for more information. An on-campus, brownbag event will also be held at noon on May 31 in the Basic Science Auditorium, where these nurse writers will discuss the role the arts and humanities have played in their personal and professional lives. Admission is free. All students and faculty are encouraged to attend. http://www.piccolospoleto.com/literary-ideas-sundown-poetry-from-the-ward-to-the-word/
Check out Martina Mueller who is highlighted as the senior researcher in SNRS’s second quarter publication. Her story can be found at: http://www.snrs.org/about/senior-researcher-martina-mueller-phd

Michelle Nichols, PhD, RN, has been appointed to serve as the SNRS state liaison for South Carolina. Her role with SNRS is to serve on the Membership Committee, promote membership across the state, serve as the liaison between our membership in South Carolina and the SNRS Board, and identify individuals to present at research conferences and programs.

Dean Gail Stuart’s textbook, Principles and Practice of Psychiatric Nursing, has just been published in Indonesian. This is the sixth translation of her textbook internationally.

CV updates & FAIR database

It’s time to begin the annual faculty evaluations process for 2015-16. 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. There is a fillable Word document for each of the faculty evaluation forms; they 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. If you have questions about the process, please contact Julie Barroso, department chair.

Click here to read the latest TACHL newsletter.

Faculty member making a difference

Michelle Nichols, PhD, RN, has always had an interest in countries and cultures other than her own, but it was her desire to work with underserved populations that recently took her across the globe. The assistant professor traveled with a small clinical team, comprised of a physician, two nurses and two pharmacists, to Panama for 10 days to volunteer for a medical mission trip.

After flying to Panama City, they traveled 11 hours by car to Soloy, a remote village, where they provided care to an indigenous tribe known as the Ngöbe-Buglés. Because they are located in a mountainous region, resources are scarce and some families must travel by foot for up to three days in order to be seen by a provider.

Supplied with only the resources they brought, the group converted a classroom at the local school into a makeshift clinic, using sheets as privacy screens. In a little over a week, they treated nearly 1,000 people ranging from newborns to the elderly, many whom suffered from parasites, fungal infections, extensive wounds, malnutrition, and pain management needs.

Given that many of the villagers live in small huts with dirt floors and no plumbing, health education was a primary objective. Even the simplest concept of teaching them to boil water before drinking it was extremely important.

Although this had been a dream of Nichols for many years, she said the level of poverty she saw was overwhelming at times. After her second day of screening patients, she left the clinic mentally and physically exhausted, questioning whether they were making a difference at all. That evening she focused on why she became a nurse. It was not to solve everyone’s problems or make everything right, but rather to just be there with patients, conveying empathy, compassion, and care as they faced their unique circumstances.

While they were able to prescribe medications, offer treatments, and provide basic health education, they also held their hands, gave hugs, and shared caring moments. The villagers knew they had her undivided attention.

This was so much more than a vacation for Nichols; it grounded her commitment to serve the most underserved populations. She returned renewed, refreshed, and even more passionate about making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.
Share your Photos!
MUSC Class of 2016 Yearbook Pages for the May 20 commencement issue of The Catalyst

Graduating students: Here’s a chance to do something with your cellphone & digital photos

Share photos from some of your most memorable moments as MUSC students. Dig out and share photos from such special events as your white coat ceremony, student service projects, class group activities, medical mission trips, Match Day, awards programs, social events, etc. (Note: Please don’t include photos with patients – HIPAA) privacy

- Upload your photos and caption info to The Catalyst’s ‘Suggest a Story’ link at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/catalyst/suggest.htm
- Photos due midnight, Friday, May 13

For info, contact The Catalyst, 792-4107
Come Write on Our Wall!

Class of 2016 - MUSC Graduates

- Got a favorite memory, turning point or ‘Aha’ moment that helped define your time as a student at MUSC?
- Want to credit a person, group of people or thing (even if it’s Ben & Jerry’s) that got you through some tough times while at MUSC?
- Tell us your plans and where you’re headed next.

Share your brief answers to these questions or post your own comments and include your name and college by Friday, May 13 for the May 20 Commencement issue of The Catalyst

Share at Catalyst@musc.edu

Deadline: Friday, May 13

Questions: 792-4107