And so another year is coming to a close and what a year it has been. I am truly grateful for the ideas, positive attitudes and sense of humor you brought to the college every day. This year, we maintained our focus and energy and honed in on what we do best: educating future nursing professionals, delivering high-quality health care, and advancing the college’s local and national reputation with hard work, innovative thinking, a few late nights, and a hint of imaginative wonder. Below are just a few of the highlights from 2017.

My final holiday wish for you as dean is that every one of you can take time to enjoy the enduring love of family, friends, and neighbors, and embrace the possibility of a new, exciting year to come. Joyous holidays to all! — Gail

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GRATEFUL  By Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

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• We maintained U.S. News and World Report’s No. 2 ranking for online graduate nursing programs, making it the fourth year in a row we were ranked No. 1 or 2.
• We launched the CON Learning Hub, a lifelong learning portal that provides access to up-to-date educational materials targeted to meeting the ongoing and emerging educational needs of nurses and other health care providers.
• We welcomed to campus the president of the American Nurses Association, Pamela Cipriano, PhD, RN, FAAN, who shared her insights into leadership and policy in nursing to our faculty and students.
• We’re on track to beat last year’s research awards of more than $8 million.
• As of December 7, we will have bestowed 279 nursing degrees this year to students in our undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs.
• We also showed a higher sensitivity to each other’s abilities and capabilities. I think we can look back with pride for going the extra mile to support a colleague.

My final holiday wish for you as dean is that every one of you can take time to enjoy the enduring love of family, friends, and neighbors, and embrace the possibility of a new, exciting year to come. Joyous holidays to all! — Gail
CON RECEIVES INNOVATIONS IN NURSING AWARD FROM AACN

The MUSC College of Nursing has received the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award that recognizes the outstanding work of AACN member schools to re-envision traditional models for nursing education and lead programmatic change.

The College of Nursing was recognized for its innovative approach to interprofessional education through its Virtual Interprofessional Learning (VIP), an innovative asynchronous platform utilizing Avatars to engage learners in interprofessional (IP) learning opportunities across disciplines, universities, and geographies. In 2014, with the support of a grant from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation the college created VIP as an online interactive learning experience to increase students’ IP engagement, knowledge of patient quality and safety, and IP communication.

The VIP platform is a virtual health care setting that utilizes avatars. The Interprofessional Education Collaborative Core Competencies (IPEC) guided the development of the VIP with a focus on patient care quality and safety and IP communication competencies. MUSC students from nursing, medicine, and pharmacy completed the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) root cause analysis and communication modules to build baseline knowledge before entering the virtual environment. Via the VIP platform, students interactively conducted a root cause analysis through a complex case in a virtual world scenario. Unique to the evaluation plan is the ability of the VIP platform to assess a number of IPEC competencies through automated scoring, populating at the end of the virtual student experience. Additional evaluation tools include focus groups, a self-assessment of IP practice in patient care and a user experience tool.

This innovative approach helps advance IP education from siloed, limited experiences to accessible, innovative and interactive opportunities that are not bound by time or place. The VIP platform is portable, exportable and generalizable and will promote incorporation of IP education in a wide variety of clinical scenarios and locations.

“We were thrilled to receive this award from the AACN that recognizes our faculty and staff’s hard work and dedication to develop and implement an innovative interprofessional program that will educate and engage our future health care professionals,” said Gail W. Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing.

During the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference, three schools were honored with the Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award in three categories.

- Small School/Liberal Arts Schools - St. Mary’s College
- Academic Health Center (AHC) - MUSC College of Nursing
- Public School without an AHC - Mennonite College of Nursing

The award, including a monetary prize of $1,000, was presented on Oct. 28 at the AACN leadership conference in Washington, D.C.
DECEMBER 2017
1  Schwartz Center Rounds / noon - 1 pm / Gazes Auditorium
2  Cares Clinic Fundraiser / 5:30 pm / Lewis BBQ
7  Winter Convocation / 10 am / Charleston Music Hall
7-8  Board of Trustees Meeting / Colcock Hall
8  Blood Drive / 10 am - 3 pm / Institute of Psychiatry
12  WSI/ARROWS Coffee Hour / 8:30 am / CON Drawing Rm.
13  SCTR Lunch & Learn / Noon / BEB 110
18  Faculty & Staff Holiday Lunch / Noon / CON Drawing Rm.
22  Holiday Break / CON closed; Reopens Jan. 2, 2018

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON
Happy Holidays

WINTER CONVOCATION DETAILS
December 7 @ 10 a.m.
Charleston Music Hall (37 John St.)

Family and friends are welcome to attend.
Graduates report to the Charleston Music Hall at 9 a.m.
to prepare for the event. Caps will not be worn for this event.
Group photos will be taken at 9:30 a.m.
so please be prompt.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Institute of Psychiatry
Friday, December 8
10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Pizza & t-shirts for all donors
To schedule your gift of life visit
http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood

JANUARY 2018
2  Back in Business / CON Reopens
15  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / CON closed
16  Professional Development Series / Noon / CON 202

CELEBRATING 135 YEARS
FEBRUARY 23, 2018
SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM | 7 - 10 PM

TICKET INFORMATION:
$50 before January 15 ($75 after January 15)
$25 for MUSC students
To register and purchase tickets
visit musc.edu/nursing/gala

Let our New Year’s resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.
Geron Preston
Each year more than 2 million people are hospitalized after suffering a very serious injury resulting from car crashes, motorcycle accidents, and pedestrian incidents, along with people who have been shot or stabbed. According to Ken Ruggiero, PhD, national estimates show that 20 to 40 percent of that population develops significant symptoms of PTSD and depression in the first year after their injury.

Ruggiero is the director of MUSC’s Telehealth Resilience and Recovery Program (TRRP) and a professor in the College of Nursing. Tatiana Davidson, PhD, also on the College of Nursing faculty, is TRRP’s Co-Director. TRRP is designed to catch trauma patients early and screen them for PTSD and depression. The TRRP team focuses on patients still in the hospital who have experienced a traumatic injury to educate them about emotional recovery after traumatic injury and tell them about the program. If the patient agrees, they will receive a follow-up phone screen for PTSD and depression one month after they’ve been discharged. Patients who screen positive are offered formal treatment. Patients use iPads, computers, smartphones, or other electronic devices to connect them with PTSD specialists while recovering in their home. (The program supplies iPads to people who need them.)

Launched in September of 2015, the College of Nursing led program has grown significantly and their innovative, scalable approach to addressing patients’ mental health needs after traumatic injury has been getting increased attention. The TRRP team has made quite an impact in SC.

In its second year, TRRP has approached and educated around 500 patients at an MUSC Health hospital, with 282 of those patients completing a 30-day mental health screen over the phone, which led to 106 recommendations to connect to a mental health provider.

Data from the 30-day telephone screens suggested a high prevalence of PTSD and depression. Although the team did not see meaningful differences by age group, they did see differences in risk for PTSD and depression by race and gender. Women were more likely than men to screen positive for PTSD or depression at the 30-day phone call, and African Americans were more likely than white patients to screen positive. Most patients who screened positive for PTSD and/or depression during the 30-day screen accepted recommendations for assessment and treatment (34 percent of patients declined assessment and treatment services).

Ruggiero, who is also the co-director of the Technology Applications Center for Healthful Lifestyles (TACHL), estimates that in the program’s first two years, the team has served more than 1,000 patients who would not have received any mental health services under the old model. “Although we view this as a success, we also view it as only the first step in the process. The next step is to expand the program and explore how to adapt and implement it in other trauma centers across South Carolina,” he said.

In July, TRRP secured a three-year award from the Duke Endowment grant to expand the program across the state. With support and partnership from the MUSC Health Center for Telehealth, the program will include three other trauma centers in South Carolina. Its first two partners will be Palmetto Health and Trident Medical Center.

Colleagues at TACHL are currently testing a tablet-based patient portal that can be used at MUSC and our partnering trauma centers that will dramatically increase the efficiency of the program and reduce staff burden.

Olivia Eilers, program coordinator for TRRP, said it’s important for trauma survivors and their loved ones to know what to expect emotionally after an injury. “We see a lot of patients who aren’t prepared for the emotional trauma because the focus is so much on healing physically,” she said. “Emotional health is just as important. As a community, we need to keep working to reduce stigma around mental health by providing the right resources and continually letting people know it’s ok to ask for help.”

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**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLICATIONS**


**PRESENTATIONS**

- Stuart, G. W. (Nov. 2017) The psychiatric mental health workforce in Nebraska: Progress and potential. 2nd Annual Psychiatric Nursing Workforce Summit, Omaha, NE.


LENDING A HELPING HAND
On Nov. 21, the MUSC Men in Nursing group joined Father-to-Father, Inc to give out 150 Thanksgiving meals to the North Charleston community. Pictured (right to left) Berry Anderson, Andrae Deweese, Nick Jackson, Zach Noltemeyer, Charles Howard, Park Ashley and John Anderson.

LEADING AND SHARING
Teresa Stephens, associate professor, presented, Holocaust Whispers: Lessons in Resilience, on her work with Holocaust survivors and the use of their stories in her resilience research at a workshop for Vanderbilt University’s Holocaust Teaching Fellows on Nov. 27.

PRESENTATION
Martha Sylvia points out informatics challenges for population health management at the meeting of the Nursing Interest Workgroup of the American Medical Informatics Association in Washington, DC on Nov. 5.

CONSIDER GIVING TO THE CON RECOGNITION FUND THIS YEAR
The contribution recommendation is $50 for faculty and $25 for staff. These funds are used to send faculty and staff cards and flowers for births and adoptions, bereavement, purchase retirement gifts, and to pay for parties and showers.

Only checks made out to ‘CON Recognition Fund’ can be accepted.
Drop off a check in Shannon Phillips’s mailbox in the 5th floor mailroom.

Thank you for your support!
MUSC Foundation for Research Development (MUSC FRD)
Lunch and Learn

Funding Translational Technologies Through the SBIR/STTR Program

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

MUSC Education Library Classroom 109

12:00pm to 1:00pm

MUSC Foundation for Research Development Executive Director Michael Rusnak will present technology development services available through FRD.

Eva Garland, PhD, President of Eva Garland Consulting, will discuss the SBIR/STTR program. These government funded programs provide funds to domestic small businesses with strong potential for technology commercialization to engage in research & development.

Dr. Eva Garland is the founder and CEO of Eva Garland Consulting, LLC (EGC), which is headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Founded in 2013, EGC assists technology companies in obtaining and managing grant funding. EGC’s team of 22 Ph.D. scientists and grants management specialists works with clients to develop strategic non-dilutive funding plans; prepare grant applications; and provide grant compliance and accounting services.

The company specializes in working with early stage technology companies, assisting them with tapping into the $3B of funding available through the federal Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant programs, as well as other federal, state, and private grant opportunities.
Coffee Hour

Tuesday, December 12
8:30am – 9:30am

College of Nursing
Drawing Room

Featuring
Gail Stuart, Ph.D., F.A.A.N., R.N.
Dean, College of Nursing

For questions or additional information contact:
wsiinfo@musc.edu

Sponsored by The Women Scholars Initiative and the Center for ARROWS Diversity & Ethnic Relations Committee

http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/muscdiversity
http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/arrowinitiative/arrows

All Are Welcome!
Translational Research Across the Lifespan: Enhancing Recruitment & Engagement of Pediatric and Geriatric Populations in Research

SCTR Special Populations Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, December 13, 2017
12:00pm-1:00pm

MUSC Bioengineering Building (BEB) Auditorium 110

Experienced pediatric and geriatric research teams will share their lessons learned, strategies, and helpful resources to optimize recruitment and retention of these special populations. Please join us for the conversation to enhance inclusion in research!

Call Ford Simmons at 843-792-2994 for more information or email simmonwi@musc.edu.
MUSC Translational Research Day

Friday, January 26, 2018
8:30am to 12:30pm

Drug Discovery Auditorium & Lobby
A Continental Breakfast will be served

Registration for Posters and Poster Setup opens at 8:00am.

Keynote Address by Dr. Richard M. Silver begins at 9am

Join the MUSC SCTR Institute as we highlight translational research efforts across MUSC. Translational Research Day will provide a forum for trainees, K scholars and translational investigators to display translational-based research to the MUSC community via a judged poster session.

$500 SCTR vouchers will be awarded to the best poster presentations at the end of the event!

Register or submit an abstract for your poster NOW at sctr.musc.edu (under Quick Links)

Submit an abstract by:
Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 5pm

General Registration ends:
Friday, January 12, 2018 at 5pm
Hollings Cancer Center Fellowship Program is an exciting new research program designed to train the next generation of exceptional cancer scientists at the Medical University of South Carolina. This prestigious program will initially fund up to 5 two-year postdoctoral fellowships and up to 5 two-year graduate student fellowships.

**Postdoctoral & Clinical Fellows**

Fellowships will be awarded to promising postdoctoral or clinical fellows who are focused on finding ways to prevent and cure cancer.

For clinical fellows, this award is intended to support additional fellowship years for physician-scientists to focus on scientific research.

**PHD AND MD/PHD CANDIDATES IN ALL DISCIPLINES ARE ELIGIBLE**

**Apps Due:** January 26, 2018

**Graduate Fellows**

Graduate Fellowships will provide two-year research fellowships to support the development of highly promising and accomplished graduates with the potential to become independent cancer researchers.

**DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN ALL DISCIPLINES ARE ELIGIBLE**

**Apps Due:** January 31, 2018

For more info, visit: hollingscancercenter.org/research/fellowship