RANDOM THOUGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS

By Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

It’s summer and balmy nights sitting on my porch find me musing about things that have intrigued me over time. This month I’d like to share some of those with you.

• Most people think there is a moon along with a palmetto tree on the South Carolina state flag. But the image that looks like a moon is actually a gorget, which is a metal neck piece that was part of a military uniform and was worn by many officers as a symbol of rank. Interesting, right?
• Snakes can see through their eyelids – how freaky is that?
• You can actually hear a smile over the phone, so try smiling and see how it feels.
• Why do bad things happen in threes? And why can’t good things happen in fives?
• Travelers who wear backpacks stuffed to capacity take up the space of two people. But they are oblivious to this extra girth and often bump people without even knowing it, which is very annoying.
• Why don’t we pay dividends for health instead of insurance for illness?
• In a recent national survey, clean water was cited as the number one health concern. That’s amazing as we are supposed to be a developed country.
• Elephants are pregnant for 22 months. If that were true for humans I think we’d have half as many kids.
• Why are those pesky love bugs mostly attracted to white surfaces?
• Historically, most wars have been started due to religious intolerance, which makes one question how that reconciles with the commandment of love thy neighbor.
• Children speak the spontaneous and often embarrassing truth. Thank goodness someone does.

• I’d like to see a clear, detailed and understandable bill for health care like the way I do when I buy a car, stay at a hotel, or hire a contractor. Why is this not possible?
• Politically, who you know is more important than what you know …sigh.
• Some people buy things they don’t need with money they don’t have – go figure.
• How do all those marketers get my cell phone number, and why are they not stopped from calling by the do not call registry?
• People should not talk on their cell phones in airplanes or in contained public places. No one else wants to hear their usually loud and totally uninteresting conversations.

Hmmm…I’d like to hear some of your thoughts and observations too. Send a tweet to @MUSC_CON. — Gail

“Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what’s going to happen next.”

- Gilda Radner
DEAN STUART STEPPING DOWN AFTER 47-YEAR NURSING CAREER
Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing Dean Gail W. Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN, will retire at the end of the 2017-18 academic year after dedicating 16 years as dean, 33 years to the medical university and 47 years to the nursing profession.

Since her appointment as dean in 2002, the MUSC College of Nursing has cultivated a leadership role among the state’s nursing programs. In addition, the school has achieved top national rankings in the areas of education and research. Over the past 15 years, Stuart has raised the school’s profile by increasing its research funding by more than 470 percent to become a top tier school for nursing research. The school also landed the No. 1 spot on U.S. News & World Report for online graduate nursing programs in 2015 and continues to be a bright spot for the university as it has been consistently ranked No. 1 or No. 2 in the country for the past four years. And it continues to graduate some of the most highly sought after nursing professionals as bedside nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing faculty.

Before her role as dean, Stuart led the college’s effort to address the nation’s nursing shortage by being one of the first nursing schools to take nursing courses online in 1997 when she was the director of doctoral studies and coordinator of the psychiatric mental health nursing graduate program at MUSC. In 2006, the entire PhD program went online to serve nurses across the country who were interested in a career as a research scientist or educator. In 2009, the school launched another online graduate program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, a program that remains highly in demand today.

Stuart came to MUSC in 1985 first to develop as masters degree program in psychiatric-mental health nursing and then became the administrator and chief executive officer of the Institute of Psychiatry, where she was responsible for all clinical, fiscal, and human operations across the continuum of psychiatric care. She then went on to be the co-director of MUSC’s new Center for Health Care Research. Today, she is a tenured professor in the College of Nursing and a professor in the College of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Stuart is a 1971 graduate of Georgetown University. She went on to receive a master’s in psychiatric nursing from the University of Maryland in 1973 and a doctorate in behavioral sciences from what is now the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (formerly the Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health) in 1985. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, past-president of the American College of Mental Health Administration, past president of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, and is currently the President of the Board of the Annapolis Coalition on the Behavioral Health Workforce. She has also been a van Ameringen fellow at the Beck Institute of Cognitive Therapy and Research and a visiting professor at King’s College, Institute of Psychiatry, at the Maudsley in London.

Coincidentally, as the college honors Stuart’s impact, it will also celebrate its 135th anniversary in 2018. A gala will be held at the South Carolina Aquarium February 23 to recognize the college’s achievements, outstanding alumni, and many friends and peers who have crossed paths with Stuart.

The recruitment of a new dean under way. A university-appointed search committee is beginning the process of soliciting and reviewing candidates. Tyler & Company, an executive recruiting firm, will assist with this national search. The plan is to identify and recruit a new nursing dean who will be poised to assume the leadership role by July 1, 2018.
### JULY

04 Independence Day | state holiday | CON closed
05 Blood Drive | Noon - 5 pm | Horseshoe
09 MSNA Bohemian Bash | 5 - 10 pm | Bohemian Bull (Folly)
10 Nurse Manager Panel | Noon - 1 pm | CON 221
12 DOTS | Noon | CON 202
17 Coffee, Crumpets & Conversation | 9 am | CON Drawing Rm
17 Faculty SGA Lunch | Noon - 1 pm | CON Drawing Room
17 Faculty Assembly | 1 pm | CON 202
19 Staff Meeting | 9 am | CON 202
19 Janelle Othersen Visiting Professorship Lecture featuring Dean Gail W. Stuart | 4 pm | Drug Discovery

### AUGUST

09 DOTS | Noon | CON 202
10-11 Board of Trustees Meeting | Colcock Hall
11 Integrating Behavioral Health in Primary Care | CON 202
15 RN to BSN Pinning Ceremony | 4 pm | St. Luke's Chapel
18 Faculty Retreat | 9 am - 4 pm | Mt. P. Waterfront Pk (Cooper River Rm)
21-25 New Student Orientation | 1 pm | CON 202
21 Faculty Assembly | 1 pm | CON 202
22 Faculty Convocation | 4 pm | Drug Discovery Building (110)
23 Staff Meeting | 9 am | CON 202
24 Stethoscope Ceremony | 4 pm | St. Luke’s Chapel

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**SNA SERVICE AND EVENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**BLOOD DRIVE**
July 5 | Noon - 5 p.m. | MUSC Horseshoe
Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code MUSC (donating blood counts as two service hours). Please send a photo of yourself donating blood to kirklin@musc.edu.

*Sponsored by the Student Nurses Association, CON’s Student Government Association and CHP’s Nurse Anesthesia Program*

**NURSE MANAGER PANEL**
July 10 | Noon - 1 p.m. | CON 221
This is a great opportunity to learn about future jobs and ask questions about what managers look for in new grads. If you have any questions email moseleal@musc.edu.

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**MSNA PRESENTS**

**BOHEMIAN BASH!**

A NIGHT FILLED WITH FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES, AND MORE!

**SUNDAY, JULY 9TH @ 5PM**

**BOHEMIAN BULL ON FOLLY ROAD**

**Tickets: $17 (includes a pulled pork buffet, delicious side plates, and a raffle ticket)!**

Contact: davisha@musc.edu
Venmo: HMDavis0115
FUNDED GRANTS
PI: Gigi Smith, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC
SPONSOR: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
PROJECT PERIOD: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
AMOUNT: $237,847
TITLE: Nurse Faculty Loan Program
GOAL: To provide financial loan support for students enrolled in either the PhD or post-master’s DNP program.

PI: Gigi Smith, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC
SPONSOR: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
PROJECT PERIOD: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019
AMOUNT: $1,140,112
TITLE: Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Program
GOAL: To support innovative academic-practice partnerships to prepare primary care APRN students in the MSN and DNP program. This project will increase the longitudinal clinical immersive training experiences with rural and/or underserved population for selected primary care APRN students, develop a clinical preceptor education and support program, and facilitate post-graduate employment in rural and HPSA and/or MUA in three NP roles: AGNP, FNP, and PNP. The ANEW project will provide traineeships to 14-16 students who commit to at least two years of primary care work in a rural and HPSA and/or MUA after graduation.

GRANT SUBMISSIONS
PI: Emily E. Johnson, PhD
SPONSOR: NIH/NIMHD
TITLE: Bariatric Surgery Access Among the Under-Served Diabetes Population: Factors and Implications
GOAL: To propose a mixed-methods evaluation that initiates with analysis of secondary data to identify existing disparities in bariatric surgery, as well as facilitators and barriers to bariatric surgery access in underserved patients with obesity and diabetes. This will be complemented with key-informant interviews of patients with obesity and diabetes to identify in-depth barriers to access to care, not identifiable with quantitative analysis.

PI: Melba A. Hernandez-Tejada, DHA
SPONSOR: Dept. of Public Safety/Victims of Crime Act
TITLE: Elder abuse assessment training and mental health services program
GOAL: To train health care providers how to detect elder abuse, as well as provide information, referral, and treatment services.

PI: Wendy A. Muzzy, MRA, MLIS
SPONSOR: Dept. of Public Safety/Violence Against Women Act
TITLE: Innovative treatment for female victims of military sexual trauma and PTSD
GOAL: To offer evidence-based counseling services tailored to female victims of military sexual trauma in an innovative context.

PI: Michelle Nichols, PhD
SPONSOR: PCORI
TITLE: Survive to thrive: Living well with stroke
GOAL: Building on prior work from Tiers I & II, in Tier III, we will continue to strengthen and expand our partnerships while refining our comparative effectiveness research questions and developing a research plan for subsequent grant funding with the goal of developing a Letter of Intent and full proposal for submission to a PCORI Broad-based Pragmatic Clinical Study announcement. Based on input from stroke survivors and their caregivers/care partners, the group adopted this expanded name (adding on Living Well with Stroke) to be representative of patient/family member experiences and goals.

PI: Cathy O. Durham, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
SPONSOR: Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
TITLE: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program
GOAL: To support innovative interdisciplinary academic-practice partnerships to prepare psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students in the MSN and DNP programs for the professional track in order to expand the lifespan of the behavioral health workforce through increased longitudinal placements and provide interprofessional training in collaborative practice for students, faculty, and preceptors.

PI: Avani C. Modi, PhD (University of Cincinnati)
SUB PI: Janelle Wagner, PhD
SPONSOR: Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
TITLE: Fostering medication adherence in children with epilepsy using mHealth technology
GOAL: To test the effectiveness of a mHealth intervention in improving adherence to prescribed seizure medication and quality of life, is not only significant, but is necessary. The unique design of this study will provide a stepped up care for families who need more intensive behavioral health intervention.

PI: John C. Sieverdes, PhD
MENTORS: Ken Ruggiero, PhD, Lynne Nemeth, PhD, RN, FAAN, Prabhakar Baliga, MD, Ruth Campbell, MD
SPONSOR: NIH/NIDDK
TITLE: A mobile health self-management behavioral program to reduce the risk of protein energy wasting in kidney transplant wait-list patients
GOAL: To become an independent investigator as a behavioral scientist in the area of chronic kidney disease conditions. A candidate’s current emphasis involves the development and dissemination of a behavioral health promotion program using mobile health approaches to increase adherence to physician recommended lifestyle self-care practices in kidney transplant wait-list patients.
KELECHI RECEIVES RESEARCH MENTOR AWARD

Professor Teresa Kelechi, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been unanimously selected to receive the 2017 Peggy Schachte Research Mentor Award. This award has recognized individuals at MUSC who have excelled in mentoring faculty in obtaining research support from private and public organizations or government agencies. The award targets a faculty mentor or other colleague who encourages and supports the advancement of others as successful, extramurally funded investigators.

For more than 20 years, Kelechi has excelled as a nurse scientist, nurse educator and a mentor since joining MUSC in 1987. As the David and Margaret Clare Endowed Chair, Kelechi’s primary research focus is venous leg ulcer (VLU) prevention. She’s involved in not one but two studies that can help patients who suffer from leg ulcers and are in many cases underserved, and in most cases, depressed, and in great need of effective, low-cost interventions.

Her VLU prevention research has resulted in an evidence-based, self-monitoring model using infrared technology to detect elevated skin temperature of the lower leg, a precursor to VLU development. She also is testing a self-management intervention in which a cooling cuff is placed around the lower leg to determine the efficacy of its VLU prevention when the temperature is elevated. She has received funding from the National Institute of Nursing Research for this study, as well as for a study of a wound powder applied to various types of wounds that develop at the end of life.

Kelechi, a certified wound care nurse, practices in a residential care facility, where she provides foot care and geriatric consultation. Her education includes a BSN from Kent State University, an MSN in gerontological nursing from Case Western Reserve University, and a Ph.D. in nursing from MUSC.

This award, along with other faculty awards, will be presented at Faculty Convocation on August 22.

The Peggy Schachte Research Mentor Award was established in 2012 by an endowment from the College of Medicine in honor of Margaret P. (Peggy) Schachte, MBA, who founded and served as director of the MUSC Office of Research Development from 1993 to 2009, and played a major role in initiating and championing research mentorship activities at MUSC.

RECENT WORK

PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


POSTER PRESENTATIONS


WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

The Elder Abuse Training and Treatment Programs observed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 15 by hosting an informational table in the hospital for faculty, staff, students, and patients. Under the leadership of program director, Melba Hernandez-Tejada, DHA, the research staff including, Mara Steedley, Jordan Hardy, and Gabrielle Mooneyham, promoted awareness of elder abuse in community-residing older adults and educated the public about the importance of social support as a preventative factor. In addition, Mayor John Tecklenburg signed a proclamation for WEAAD in Charleston, spearheaded by community partners in the City of Charleston’s Mayor’s Office on Aging and their Ending Abuse Later in Life grant.

The Elder Abuse Training and Treatment Programs train healthcare providers on how to identify and refer cases of elder abuse, as well as treat survivors of elder abuse who are experiencing psychological distress through trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy via telehealth.
THE BETTER CARE RECONCILIATION ACT OF THE SENATE

The long-anticipated replacement bill of the U.S. House passed American Health Care Act (AHCA), known as the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) was unveiled on June 22 after being crafted by a select group of Republican Senators in closed door sessions over the past several weeks. The bill is the repeal and replacement effort of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) from the Republican-led Senate. Two core measures of the BCRA are the deep cuts in Medicaid funding and the end of the ACA mandate that most Americans have health insurance. In doing so, the bill aims to create a new system of federal tax credits to help Americans buy health insurance while offering states the ability to drop many of the benefits required by the ACA like maternity care, emergency services and mental health treatment.

The Senate maintains that the bill differs from the House-passed AHCA because it removes a controversial segment known as the “age tax” that increases costs for older Americans that rely on subsidies to pay for their health care. Instead, the BCRA ties subsidies to income rather than age but also makes the subsidies harder to obtain because of tighter income requirements. An analysis of the bill completed by the American Nurses Association (ANA) finds that while the BCRA maintains many of the ACHA’s provisions, some of the BCRA measures continue to dismantle our current health care system.

On June 27, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office reported that this bill would leave 22 million more Americans uninsured (a figure slightly lower that the 23 million projected with the AHCA). The office estimates that some 15 million would lose health care coverage by 2018 and then the number would rise through 2026.

The vote on the bill has been delayed until after the weeklong July 4 recess because of growing concerns from moderate Republican senators that this bill could damage our country’s social safety net. And, a similarly small number of conservative Republicans are concerned the Senate Bill will not lower insurance premiums but instead continue to spiral the national debt. Republicans can only afford to lose two members of their party for this bill to pass. For his part, President Trump said he anticipates Senate Republicans will pass their Affordable Act Repeal bill once negotiations are complete.

Concurrently, several Republican Governors have expressed concern about sharp cuts to Medicaid funding for their states, particularly in states with Medicaid expansion as part of the BCRA that includes a “phase out” of Medicaid expansion, forcing those states to figure out what to do with the millions of lower-income Americans, including a majority of children who use it for health coverage. The ANA stands in opposition to this bill as it goes against the ANA’s core principles for health system transformation and is urging nurses to contact their Senators to speak out against the current bill.

References:

BCRA LEAVES POOR AND SICK BEHIND

WHAT BCRA PROPOSES:
• Eliminate Medicaid expansion
• Reduce Medicaid eligibility
• Triggers a significant increase in the uninsured by 2026
• Allow states to impose work requirements for certain Medicaid recipients
• Reduce eligibility for premium tax credits to purchase individual insurance
• Eliminate critical cost-sharing reductions for co-pays and deductibles
• Increase premium costs for low- and middle-income seniors

HOW CAN IT AFFECT YOU:
• By weakening your consumer protections
• By making it easier for states to deny coverage to individuals with pre-existing conditions
• By eliminating funding for the Public Health and Prevention Fund, which pays for crucial preventative and other public health services

PROVIDING CARE TO MIGRANTS

June was a busy month for PASOs and the Hispanic Health Initiative Scholars. Both groups attended local migrant camps in collaboration with the Franklin C. Fetter Health Clinic. The groups visited a health clinic at the White Migrant Camps where a majority of patients are Haitian. Although this introduced a language barrier (none of the students nor the Fetter employees spoke Creole, the native language of Haiti), students brought their “A” game and executed excellent oral health screenings, took vitals, and performed blood work as taught by College of Dental Medicine’s Amy Martin, DrPH. After assessments, PASOs distributed follow-up information and brochures.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE: When Kathryn Kinyon Munch, DNP, isn’t teaching undergraduate nursing courses, she shares her talents as a quality improvement (QI) coach for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Last month, she attended the CF Foundation’s Fundamental Learning Leadership Collaborative in Chicago, IL where she met with all the CF Center teams for a face-to-face learning-leadership collaborative. As a QI coach, she is training CF centers around the country in the art and science of quality improvement.

MOVING UP: Shannon D’Alton, MSN, APRN, will transition from her clinical faculty position to a tenure track position as instructor on the educator clinician track.

BABY ON BOARD: Congratulations to Chris and Gena Ryan. The couple welcomed their first child into the world on June 11. Their son, Lucas, was born weighing 8 pounds and 4 ounces and measuring 21 inches long.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT: If you know a doctoral student who should showcase his/her outstanding dissertation or final DNP project nominate them for the Outstanding Dissertation and DNP Project Awards. AACN created this awards program to recognize and showcase outstanding dissertations and final DNP projects completed by students in research- and practice-focused doctoral programs. Many doctoral students are advancing ground-breaking research and practice innovations that are worthy of national recognition and could serve as exemplars for other students to emulate. Nominations may be made by the dean, doctoral department chair, dissertation committee chair, or capstone project advisor. Letters of Nomination are due September 13.

SCHWARTZ CENTER ROUNDS: What we do is not always easy...are you aware that MUSC holds interprofessional monthly discussions to talk about the more difficult aspects of our work? Whether you are a faculty member, staff member, clinician, or student, we hope you will join us for Schwartz Center Rounds.

Schwartz Center Rounds is a national program that began at MUSC in November, 2008, and is an interdisciplinary forum where we discuss the difficult social and emotional aspects of the work we do. Panelists are invited to give a brief presentation at the beginning of the program and then facilitators guide an open forum discussion, encouraging the audience to share personal stories and experiences.

Schwartz Center Rounds and the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare take place on the first Friday of most months at noon in Gazes Auditorium, with lunch provided by Hospital Administration. Rounds will resume after a summer break September 1. Please see MUSC Yammer and future issues of eCONnections for future topics and date reminders.

FACULTY CONVOCATION: This year the inaugural James W. Colbert Lectureship will be a part of Faculty Convocation. The inaugural Colbert Lecture speaker, Brian “B.J.” Miller, MD, is a pre-eminent speaker on patient-centered care, palliative and end-of-life care, and assistant clinical professor of medicine at UC San Francisco. Faculty Convocation is scheduled for August 22, at 4:00 p.m., with a reception at 5:45 p.m. in the Drug Discovery Auditorium. The Colbert Lectureship Series was established through the generosity of the family of the late Dr. James W. Colbert, to honor his tenure as Provost at MUSC. Distinguished guests will include the family of Dr. Colbert.

WHAT DEFINES A LEADER? Compassion, Respect, Innovation, Collaboration, Integrity—do you know someone who demonstrates these characteristics? Please nominate them for the Values in Action Award. This award honors five employees each year who help fulfill MUSC’s vision statement, leading health innovation for the lives we touch.