Team building, collaboration, interprofessional education— these are the “buzz words” of health care today. But are they fashionable yet empty rhetoric, or the expression of meaningful transformations in the educational and practice realms of health care?

Here at MUSC we are leading the way in making this concept a reality as we “deliver” on the process and promise of interprofessional collaboration. In the pages that follow, you will read about how we are building bridges in the academic programs here at MUSC, fostering partnerships across institutions, and reaching out globally with hands of help and hope.

Our emphasis on interprofessional initiatives is derived from our belief that health care requires new sets of skills and new workforce approaches to address issues of access to care, patient safety and health care disparities. As a true leader in accelerated and graduate nursing education, we believe that our MUSC College of Nursing graduates must be prepared to practice in an environment in which they can transition effectively among the many roles of leader, follower, supporter, questioner, evaluator and initiator.

But, as in every other aspect of education, to fully embrace and actualize this critical dimension of clinical care, students must have experiences in the classroom, in the clinical setting, and in the global community. They must be taught about interprofessional collaboration in their courses, see it role modeled in the practice setting, and find evidence of it in hospitals and other health care settings. This is not easy, which may be why interprofessional collaboration remains an elusive concept for most institutions.

The interprofessional work we are doing at MUSC, as reflected in the stories in this issue of Lifelines, is groundbreaking and innovative. It spans traditional boundaries, challenges stereotypical professional scripts, and requires new conceptualizations of who does what, when, where and how. As such, it makes the MUSC College of Nursing an exciting place to be and we believe it holds great promise for a better health care future. I hope that you will take a moment and explore this world with us and realize once again how MUSC Nurses Change Lives!

Gail W. Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Distinguished University Professor

Spanning Generations of Nursing Education

Mrs. Nina Allsbrook Smith, a 1926 College of Nursing alumnæ, made a gift in 1993 and it is still funding this generation of nursing students.

You can play an important role in ensuring that nurses in the next generation will have the support needed for an exceptional education. Leave a legacy for the next generation with a gift from your estate plan. Consider a bequest or charitable gift annuity to fund a scholarship or provide other support to the MUSC College of Nursing.

For more information, contact Denise Ciccarelli at 843-792-8421 or ciccarel@musc.edu.
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Health care reform has been one of the most hotly debated topics on a national scale in recent memory. Democrats and republicans have battled toe to toe over the issue, and millions of Americans have expressed their opinions on the topic in various forums from town hall meetings to the voting booth. In the meantime, while the politicians and special interest groups are maneuvering to advance their agendas, the nation’s health care providers and health care institutions have quietly been implementing health care reform of their own.

In 1996, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) launched a quality initiative to improve health care in the United States. One of the products of this initiative is a series of publications called the Quality Chasm Series. Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality (2003), is a report that was produced in the third phase of the quality initiative that focuses on reforming health professions education. Written by the Health Professions Education Summit, the report places an emphasis on interprofessional teams who will provide evidence-based practice and patient centered care, embrace quality improvement approaches, and effectively use informatics in order to improve patient care quality and safety. This issue of Lifelines highlights how MUSC and the College of Nursing are leading the way in this important initiative.
Embracing the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) recommendations for transforming health professions education, in 2007 the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) launched an initiative that is titled Creating Collaborative Care (C3) as a part of a quality enhancement plan required for university re-accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Amy Blue, PhD, Assistant Provost for Education, is the Director of the C3 initiative. She explains, “Through our C3 initiative, we are developing future health care leaders capable of working collaboratively in interprofessional teams, and in turn, improving patient safety and reducing medical errors.”

MUSC is a national leader in interprofessional education and colleagues across the country have called upon us to share our work with them. We are making excellent progress in providing students a variety of classroom based interprofessional learning experiences, including a required interprofessional course. Our next steps are to move interprofessional learning into clinical settings and we are excited about those opportunities.”

“Creating Collaborative Care” is a bold plan that tackles what everyone in health care is talking about, but few are actually doing;” notes College of Nursing Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN. “It takes us beyond the rhetoric to wrestling with how do we teach, role model and clinically implement true teamwork in health care.”

It is not easy and many challenges must be addressed and overcome. When successful, interprofessional education and collaboration open up vistas of new learnings and new perspectives in many domains. Take a look at four domains that have been created to implement the C3 plan at MUSC.

**CURRICULAR DOMAIN**

The curricular domain focuses on interprofessional educational opportunities for students enrolled in all academic programs across the six colleges at MUSC so that they may more frequently learn from, with, and about each other. The intent is to ensure that students develop a requisite set of interprofessional competencies that will enable them to function more effectively in the health care delivery and biomedical research environments.

**Interprofessional Education Day/Course**

One of the many interprofessional educational opportunities that has grown out of the C3 initiative is Interprofessional Education (IPE) Day. The first IPE day was held in January 2006 for all first year students of all colleges at MUSC. The half-day session included interprofessional small group discussions in multiple locations on campus, facilitated by a faculty member and a student from different colleges. In 2007, IPE Day was expanded to a full day activity that was required for all first and second year students to include a speaker and small group case study analysis.

The fifth IPE Day was held on January 8, 2010. All first and second year students participated in this all-day event. Second year students began the day by attending a presentation by the A.L.S. (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease) student from different colleges. In 2007, IPe Day was expanded to a full day activity that was required for all first and second year students to include a speaker and small group case study analysis.

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TECHNIQUES are taught and role-play is utilized to demonstrate effective communication skills. Training topics include: giving bad news, transitions to palliative care, conducting family conferences, advance care planning, cultural and spiritual issues and interdisciplinary conversations.

Dr. Edlund reports that feedback from medical residents and nurse practitioner students has been overwhelmingly positive, as noted by one student’s comment that “the use of these techniques and communication strategies have helped me in my day to day practice to communicate more effectively and feel more confident when I have to have very difficult conversations with seriously ill patients and their families.”

EXTRACURRICULAR DOMAIN

The Extracurricular Domain is building upon existing extracurricular MUSC activities (e.g., the Presidential Scholars program, and community outreach programs such as the Hispanic Health Initiatives) to enhance the opportunities for students to work and interact across the different health professions.

Presidential Scholars Program Is Unique In The Country

Dr. Raymond Greenberg, when he was the Provost of the Medical University of South Carolina, launched the concept of an interdisciplinary scholars program for MUSC. The program was intended to enrich the academic environment of the university and allow meaningful interdisciplinary interaction on a broad range of issues that transcend discipline and professional boundaries. A faculty planning committee designed the program with input from faculty and students on campus.

The Presidential Scholars Program, launched in 2002, is a yearlong experience for approximately 30 students selected by faculty scholarship from each college. Selection for the program is highly competitive. A new class of scholars is selected each year. The program is a non-graded, extracurricular activity and scholars are given a special Presidential Medallion to wear at graduation.

The program explores complex social, political, and human issues of broad interest to health care professionals in a format that maximizes student participation and interaction. A theme is chosen for each year of the program, focusing on the overarching goals of the Healthy People 2010 national initiative. These goals are to: 1) Increase quality and years of healthy life, and 2) eliminate health disparities.

Monthly evening sessions are the main mode of interaction. Two retreats are held and there are several special events with national speakers and the MUSC President. A university-wide forum, led by the scholars, culminates the year’s activities and showcases the work of the scholars.

There are many benefits to the program. Individual student participants benefit by broadening their perspectives and preparation for leadership in their professions and communities. They also value the honor associated with being selected as a Presidential Scholar and the advantages of interaction with local and national experts.

The faculty who are involved benefit by the exposure to students of different disciplines, and the engagement in issues of relevance to them as health professionals and citizens.

The University benefits by the greater intellectual exchange and the perspectives of the students and faculty who are involved. The identification of each group as Scholar’s Program Alumni allows a long-term and creative engagement of these participants with the University.

The greater community benefits from the greater sensitivity to social issues these students bring to their communities and MUSC’s greater involvement in issues of community interest and concern.

Gayenell Magwood, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, is currently participating as a College of Nursing faculty in the Presidential Scholars Program (PSP). Dr. Magwood relates, “I have found the students to be insightful and willing to challenge the status quo. Theses student scholars appreciate their interaction with a diverse group of PSP faculty scholars as well. Moreover, as a faculty scholar, I am intellectually stimulated by such bright students. As the project year progresses there is a synergy that I see taking place. Obviously, each of us comes to the table with different views and even ‘professional’ indoctrination. But the mere fact that students and faculty are given an opportunity to engage in a safe, interprofessional collaborative environment lends itself to developing a commitment to engaging and integrating different health care professionals into our practices and research areas. Maybe even more important is what I see and hear at every meeting—health care providers, proactively facing the complex socio-political issues that impact each and every human.”

Hispanic Health Initiatives

The College of Nursing’s grant funded Office of Hispanic Health Initiatives (HHI), led by Deborah Williamson, DHA, RN, CHM, Associate Dean for Practice, was established to expand the knowledge and skills of interprofessional health care providers to deliver culturally sensitive and effective care to the rapidly growing Hispanic community in South Carolina and improve access and quality of care for this population. Dr. Williamson states, “From my experience, the best way to promote health care provided by an interprofessional team comes from students sharing classroom and clinical experiences. Formal and informal opportunities provide the students with information about the roles of the different professions and how the professions can collaborate to improve health outcomes. In the Hispanic Health Initiatives we look for opportunities to collaborate with MUSC students, but also with Charleston School of Law students, and University of South Carolina School of Social Work and School of Public Health. This richness informs and creates new energy for improving the health status of the residents of our state.”

The many interprofessional activities coordinated through the Office of Hispanic Health Initiatives include offering interprofessional Medical Spanish courses for both beginning and intermediate levels. These courses are specially designed for students, nurses, faculty and staff who want to learn basic phrases, grammar, and vocabulary in Spanish related to health care. The areas of focus for both the beginner and the intermediate courses are for conversations focusing on health, proper pronunciation and basic grammar, and vocabulary for providing culturally competent care for Hispanic patients. The beginner course is offered every semester and the intermediate course is offered every spring and fall semester. These classes also provide continuing education credits for community members who wish to take them.

continued on page 10
The Faculty Development Domain focuses on preparing faculty to be, not only skilled at their professions, but also prepared to support and translate their knowledge in interprofessional collaboration, but also to be come a respected member of our campus-wide family working toward achieving the C3 goals,” says Ms. McDougall.

Apple Tree Society
MUSC’s Apple Tree Society was formed in the late 1990’s to promote teaching as scholarly work. The Society does not have formal membership, but rather it is open to all faculty. A steering committee, composed of representatives from each of the six MUSC colleges, guide the vision and planning for the Society. The goals of the Apple Tree Society are to:

- Expand the faculty development opportunities related to teaching on campus;
- Initiate programs that recognize and enhance the value of teaching as a scholarly activity;
- Explore and support innovative methods and technology for teaching and learning; and,
- Promote the professional development of current and future educators.

The Society hosts monthly brown bag sessions, seminars, and guest speakers. Sessions have included topics on peer evaluation, teaching in a simulated environment, active learning techniques, test construction, and the integration of technology into teaching and learning. Anyone on campus, including students, is invited to attend the sessions. The College of Nursing is seen as a leader on campus in online education, and therefore also has assumed a leadership role in offering a number of brown bag sessions on best practices for online teaching and learning.

The faculty development domain works closely with the other domains to coordinate efforts and provide model programs designed to support faculty as they integrate interprofessional education throughout the curriculum and learning experience.

Interprofessional Faculty Development Institute
Carol McDougall, BSN, RN, Instructor, has served as the College of Nursing representative for the Faculty Development Domain. Ms. McDougall states, “As a member of the Faculty Development Domain I have come to know a phenomenal group of faculty who are as dedicated to interprofessional collaboration as I am. Dr. Joe John and I developed the initial curriculum for what has become the Interprofessional Faculty Development Institute, a six-month program that teaches health care professionals advanced team skills and the skills for interprofessional communication.”

The format of the Interprofessional Faculty Development Institute is designed in six half-day sessions. The sessions include a keynote address, followed by interactive small group sessions promoting critical thinking among the participants. The Institute graduated its first cohort in summer 2009. The second institute began in January and runs through June 2010. Graduates of the institute are competent to teach advanced team building and methods of effective interprofessional education to other faculty, and to ensure that those faculty in turn will be qualified to teach in interprofessional environments.

“This experience has allowed me to not only share and grow my knowledge in interprofessional collaboration, but also to be...
The collaborative relationship between the College of Nursing and the Medical University Hospital Authority (MUHA) has been a long-standing commitment to MUSC excellence. College of Nursing faculty and MUHA nurses share their time and expertise with one another to provide both cutting-edge nursing education and compassionate, competent nursing care, thus exemplifying our belief that “MUSC Nurses Change Lives.”

MUHA has demonstrated its commitment to nursing education in a number of ways. In 2002, the College of Nursing transformed the honor of nursing’s traditional “Capping Ceremony” to a more contemporary and equally important event. Through a collaborative effort among the nurses of the College of Nursing and MUHA, along with Sigma Theta Tau International, Gamma Omicron Al-Large Chapter, the new tradition of a “Stethoscope Ceremony” was created. In a formal ceremony, the entering baccalaureate students are welcomed into the nursing family with the presentation of a stethoscope as a tangible tool of their profession and listen to words of inspiration about the career they have chosen for their life’s work. MUHA provides both financial support as well as speakers for this milestone event.

Also in 2002, newly appointed Dean Gail Stuart invited health care institutions across the state to join in her efforts to create an inter-institutional collaborative that was designed to positively impact the nursing shortage in South Carolina. MUHA was the first health care institution to join the South Carolina Nursing Collaborative, leading the way for a number of other hospitals from across the state to provide financial support to the College of Nursing, thus enabling the College to double the undergraduate enrollment and place a number of advanced degree options online for nurses across the state and beyond.

Continuing its commitment to nursing education at MUSC, MUHA established the MUHA Patron Scholarship in 2008. The MUHA Patron Scholarship provides full tuition for two (one each in fall and spring admission cycles) in-state Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing students who have demonstrated high academic achievement. In return, recipients of the MUHA Patron Scholarship make a two-year commitment to work at MUHA post graduation. “The Medical University Hospital Authority has had a long history of collaboration with the College of Nursing,” says Marilyn Schaffner, PhD, RN, GCRN, Administrator of Clinical Services and MUSC Chief Nursing Officer. “MUHA continues this partnership by offering the fifth MUHA Patron Scholarship this spring semester. This scholarship demonstrates the hospital’s commitment to supporting the future of nursing at MUSC with the intent of attracting the best and brightest nurses to provide quality care to our patients.”

In today’s climate of shrinking budgets, forging collaborative partnerships with other organizations to share precious resources makes sound business sense for all involved. The College of Nursing is continually looking for opportunities to forge partnerships with hospitals and other institutions of higher learning in order to achieve our mission of educating nurses in an interprofessional environment to change lives, and provide proactive leadership to improve health outcomes, eliminate health disparities and advance the nursing profession. Below you will read about the bridges the College of Nursing has forged with local Charleston hospitals and Health Sciences South Carolina.
The ties between the College of Nursing and Roper St. Francis Healthcare date back more than a century to 1905 when the Roper Hospital Training School for Nurses was chartered. In 2009, the College of Nursing and Roper St. Francis Healthcare reestablished its collaborative partnership by establishing a Roper St. Francis Healthcare Patron Scholarship. This scholarship provides full tuition for one College of Nursing Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree student who must commit to working for Roper St. Francis Healthcare for one year post graduation.

In addition to establishing this Patron Scholarship, Roper St. Francis Healthcare also expanded the role of the director of professional development to include nursing research. Responsibilities for nursing research were added to the existing role to firmly establish nursing research in each of Roper St. Francis Healthcare’s hospitals as they continue to pursue Magnet designation. College of Nursing alumna, Winnie Hennessy, PhD, RN, CNOR, was appointed as the first Director of Professional Development and Nursing Research. In her new role, Dr. Hennessy also serves as an adjunct faculty member to the College of Nursing where she brings her clinical and research skills to students in both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

The College of Nursing in partnership with the Ralph H. Johnson Veteran’s Administration (VA) Medical Center was selected to participate in the VA Nursing Academy (VANA) program. This VA initiative was developed to bring more nurses into the national workforce and improve the quality of health care veterans receive through partnerships with VA medical centers and schools of nursing. Currently, there are only 15 universities participating in this program. This partnership enabled the College to increase enrollment in the accelerated BSN program by 20 percent. This year we had 165 students who had clinical rotations at the VA.

“Our relationship with the MUSC College of Nursing has always been a strong one, but being a recipient of one of the VANA grants has provided us with an opportunity to strengthen our partnership even more. Not only is this a program that has provided professional development for many of our VA staff as they move into Clinical Instructor roles, but it also has provided a greatly enhanced clinical experience for the students at the Ralph H. Johnson VAMC. These positive student experiences have improved their knowledge base, and been an extremely valuable recruiting tool for our facility—a true win-win situation for everyone involved,” says Mary Fraggos, MS, RN, CNA, CNOR, Associate Director for Nursing and Patient Care Services, Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center.

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The recent humanitarian crises in Haiti and Chile with the subsequent outpouring of support from around the world help to renew one’s faith in humanity. In the face of this unimaginable human suffering, people from all walks of life, religions, and nationalities came together to lend a helping hand to fellow human beings in great need. Countless medical professionals donated their time and expertise, at times putting themselves in harm’s way, in order to provide compassionate and desperately needed care to the wounded and vulnerable victims of the earthquakes.

In response to the crisis in Haiti, the Medical University of South Carolina established the MUSC Haiti Relief Fund at the Coastal Community Foundation to aid in the relief efforts. MUSC students held raffles and other fundraisers to help support this cause. Within days of the January 12th earthquake, multi-disciplinary medical surgical teams from MUSC packed their bags and found themselves in the rural, mountainous terrain of this poor, Caribbean nation as they provided life-saving care to dozens of critically injured patients.

As Americans, we are accustomed to the generous outpouring of support that comes in response to a natural disaster. But victims of natural disasters are not the only vulnerable populations in the world who are in desperate need of aid and medical care. Millions of individuals and families around the world live in extreme poverty, much like those individuals in Haiti before the earthquake. These individuals struggle daily to provide food for their families and have little or no access to health care. A group of College of Nursing students and alumni have recently donated their time and expertise to lend a helping hand to several such impoverished communities around the world. Read on to learn about the amazing work that they are doing.

PERU

While working as a Clinical Nurse Instructor in the Transitional Care Unit at MUPA, College of Nursing alumnus, Lana Beckely MSN, PT, RN (MSN, ’95) discovered one of her nursing students, Mildred (Millie) Pochet, was quite dynamic and very fluent in Spanish. Ms. Beckley had an upcoming mission trip to Peru planned, and asked Ms. Pochet if she would be interested in going with her. Ms. Pochet was interested and asked if fellow nursing student Amanda (Mandie) Turner could go as well. Ms. Turner was a seasoned missionary, but this was to be Ms. Pochet’s first trip. On September 26, 2009, the three women flew to Lima, Peru to meet the other members of the team for the first time.

Ms. Beckley explains, “Our team included a cardiologist, a physician’s assistant, an engineer, three nurses, two nursing students (Mandie and Millie) and a naval architect. Once reaching Puerto Maldonado, we became a well-oiled wheel. We treated over 800 people in different areas ranging from cities to jungle villages. The students were amazing and I felt like a proud mother hen watching and listening to them care for and evaluate the people of Peru. Millie and Mandie learned so much, yet had a great knowledge of how to meet, greet and embrace their patients. The students used their insight and education to improvise when necessary and solidify their treatment suggestions. I can’t say enough positive things about Millie and Mandie. They both went with the flow and experienced some very rough conditions to say the least. I hope to continue taking the MUSC College of Nursing students with me on future medical trips. I value the standard of student the College of Nursing creates and I am a proud alumnus as well.”
Health Care in Peru: A Story of Injustice
By Amanda Turner (written while a fourth semester Accelerated BSN student.)

We'll call her Sofia. She is seven. About a year ago, her parents noticed that there was something wrong with her, but like many of the rural poor in Peru, they decided to use their money for food rather than a doctor. However, after months of watching their daughter grow weaker, Sofia's parents saved up their money and took her to the big hospital in Lima. Unfortunately, the hospital doctors were not used to treating children and misdiagnosed her with tuberculosis. Her parents borrowed as much money as they could and paid for the extensive series of injections to cure their daughter only to watch as she grew sicker and sicker. With no money left to find, let alone treat another diagnosis, they returned to their village.

A few months later, word spread that the village church would be hosting a group of doctors and nurses from the United States, and they brought Sofia. At registration, her father only asked for vitamins and parasite medicine, perhaps knowing that whatever was eating away at their daughter was going to be more than they could afford to cure anyway. When the little girl ducked under the tarp that lent a scanty privacy to our small, dirt floor exam room, I would have thought she was about five. She perched on the chair next to me, exposing massively enlarged cervical lymph nodes bulging out above her shirt and making her small arms look even smaller. It seemed every lymph node on her body was visibly enlarged. Her liver was palpable almost at her waistline and her spleen was spilling out of its safe hiding place behind her ribs. She swung her feet nervously as her father paced in front of us.

He brought us all of her medical records and sat quietly under the avocado tree near him on the bench subtly turned to the side to give him privacy, but their ears were still obviously tuned to our conversation. His eyes met mine and then fell. These words meant nothing to him. I carried the papers back out to him. The women sitting near him on the bench only as a possibility, but as a mutual understanding between us. His strong exterior could not hide the pain of the impossibility of the situation and I did not even try to hide mine. I bent over to kiss Sofia's head.

He shook my hand and carried her home.

“I view my journey to Peru as a blessing and a spiritual rebirth. This trip allowed me to set aside any feelings of negativity and self-pity and empowered me with confidence and greater purpose. I now see mission trips not only as a possibility, but as a necessity in my future career in nursing.”

~ Mildred Poches

BELIZE MEDICAL MISSIONS

College of Nursing alumna, Amanda (Geise) Whisnant, CPNP, (MSN, ’05) is the Medical Director for International Servants, a nonprofit mission that provides services to those in need in Belize. Amanda's husband, Paul Whisnant, is founder and CEO of International Servants. Each year, Amanda leads medical teams to Belize that are comprised of 25 to 30 medical volunteers from the United States, ranging from nurses and technicians to physician assistants, nurse practitioners and physicians. These teams treat thousands of patients in urban areas and remote jungle villages.

Ms. Whisnant reports, “My two years at the College of Nursing were two of the best years of my life. I always look back with fond memories, especially when I think of the wonderful faculty, such as Gigi Smith, MS, APRN, CPNP, PC. Their tireless dedication to training and pouring their lives into their students, have helped mold my character and make me the person I am today. They instilled in me the desire to help others less fortunate than myself, and to provide health care for the precious children of the underdeveloped world. It is a joy to do my job as the Belize Medical Director. I love leading our Belize Medical Mission Teams as we travel deep into the jungles of Belize and provide free health care for the people there. Nothing is more rewarding than caring for a needy child who would otherwise receive no medical care. It is my hope that other students and alumni who read this article will be inspired to do the same, to give back, to give freely of their services when they can, to make a difference in this world... one precious life at a time.”

Saving a Child’s Life
By Amanda Whisnant
Each year we treat thousands of poor, needy patients in our jungle medical clinics. Most of our patients live in leaf and stick huts, with mud floors, in grinding poverty with very little food or clothing. As Belize Medical Director, I lead teams of doctors who volunteer from the US on weeklong trips into the jungle. It’s rewarding to save so many lives, but there are often children and adults that we can’t help, and that breaks my heart.

One such patient was Xiomara. Xiomara lives in a leaf and stick hut, with a mud floor, with no electricity or running water. Her family is desperately poor. In June 2008, I discovered that Xiomara had a serious heart murmur, and that she would die if she didn’t get heart surgery. But there are no heart surgeons in the country of Belize, nor a competent medical facility to perform such a difficult life-saving procedure. Xiomara's case seemed hopeless, she was going to die and there wasn’t anything we could do to help her in our jungle medical clinic.

So, for 6 months, I called hospitals in the US until I located a hospital in Tampa, FL, that ended up flying Xiomara to Tampa and performing the surgery for free, saving this precious child's life.
UGANDA
In December 2009 while most students were finishing up their final exams, Christmas shopping, and enjoying all the festive events of the season, College of Nursing BSN student, Hannah Brearley was busy packing up the 62 pairs of shoes that she had collected in a box placed in the College of Nursing lobby for a project she called Happy Feet. Ms. Brearley was joining eleven other MUSC students (medicine, nursing, physical therapy and physician assistant programs participated) on a mission trip leaving on December 11, 2009 bound for Uganda with the Palmetto Medical Initiative. The physical therapy group had asked her assistance in collecting shoes to give to the patients whom they would be treating, and who likely would not have a pair of their own.

The Palmetto Medical Initiative traveled with a total of thirty individuals, including the 12 MUSC students. The group included physical therapists, medical students, physicians, nurses, a cardiac profusionist, pharmaceutical sales rep, a wedding planner, a hotel manager, and even a full-time nanny.

Unexpected Joy
By Hannah Brearley
One of the neatest transformations was that of our group. We came as individuals, unsure of the trip and its demands, and God transformed us into a cohesive unit that worked to triage, assess, treat and love the people in the surrounding areas of Masindi.

Each day we traveled from our hotel in Masindi, Uganda, to areas in need determined by the pastors and the local missionary.
We used churches and schools to set up the daily clinics where we offered treatment, free prescriptions, physical therapy, and reading glasses. Reading glasses may seem insignificant, but the Ugandans were desperate for them. Why? So that they could read the Bible. The glow on their faces when they would read scripture to us in their new glasses was an unfathomable joy.

On another note, it broke my heart to see hundreds of women, babies, and families in need of care turned away. Most of the Ugandans seen were those who had traveled the night before and who had slept on the ground in order to reserve their spot in line.
The great part of this trip is that we were able to see and treat over 1,500 people in five days. Not only were these people treated, but they were loved. We learned from local pastors that the doctors in Uganda are very stoic and prefer not to touch their patients. I can’t imagine. These people were not only desperate for medical care, but they were desperate for a smile, the touch of a hand on their shoulder, or my personal favorite, a great big bear hug.
AARP PRESIDENT VISITS MUSC CON

The College of Nursing’s Office of Practice hosted Jannie Chin Hansen, RN, MS, FAAN, AARP President 2008-2010, on February 8, 2010. During her visit, Ms. Hansen gave a presentation to faculty titled, “Politics, Policy and Nursing.” Ms. Hansen, of San Francisco, CA, was elected by the Board to serve as AARP President for the 2008-2010 biennium. In addition, Ms. Hansen serves as an ex-officio member of the Board’s three standing committees: the Board Governance Committee, Board Audit and Finance Committee and the Board Member Value-Social Impact Committee. She has previously chaired the AARP Foundation Board and served on the AARP Services Board.

Ms. Hansen holds an appointment as Senior Fellow at the University of California, San Francisco’s Center for the Health Professions and consults with various foundations. She transitioned to teaching in 2005 after nearly 25 years at On Lok, most recently as its executive director for the last 11 years. On Lok, Inc., is a nonprofit family of organizations providing integrated and comprehensive primary and long-term care community based services in San Francisco. On Lok was the prototype for PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), which was signed into federal legislation in 1997 making it law.

In January of 2009, the Medical University of South Carolina Simulation Center was recognized as one of 15 Loebard Centers of Educational Excellence in the United States. As part of this exclusive collaboration, the MUSC Simulation Center has been invited to collaborate in a number of initiatives supported by this group.

On November 9 of this past year, the MUSC Simulation Center also had the honor of hosting the biannual Loebard Centers of Educational Excellence retreat. Approximately 40 representatives from 15 different states stayed at the Charleston Place Hotel, toured the Charleston waterfront on Spirit Cruise Line, and conducted their three-day event at the MUSC Simulation Center. This recognition is one of several national recognitions the center has been awarded.

PARTNERS IN HISTORY: College of Nursing works with MUSC Archives to help preserve history

By: Brooke Fox, MUSC University Archivist

The College of Nursing has partnered with MUSC University Archives to preserve and promote the rich history of the College and its graduates. Professional archivists from the MUSC University Archives, with support from the dean’s office, have transferred historical materials from the College’s archives to the University Archives located on the third floor of the MUSC Library. The intent of this transfer was to ensure long-term preservation in a secure environment and to facilitate the use of the collections by researchers. For the last two years, archives staff have organized and inventoried more than 45 cubic feet of records documenting the history of the College of Nursing and the women and men who made it.

The vast majority of the College’s historical collection was collected by former dean Ruth Chamberlin in the late 1960s and early 1970s for her book, The School of Nursing of the Medical College of South Carolina. Dean Chamberlin gathered together photographs, scrapbooks, correspondence, memoranda, notebooks, ledgers, and other information. In addition to these early records, there are hundreds of files about the administration and evolution of the College of Nursing, which detail specific individuals, initiatives, and programs, some of which are long gone.

In addition to preserving the history of the College, the University Archives is actively promoting it. One of the most exciting elements of this partnership has been the inclusion of the College’s historical materials in MUSC’s digital archives and institutional repository, MEDICA (http://medica.library.musc.edu). Alumni can visit the web site and see digital collections from the College that include class photos dating back to 1897, the papers of former Roper Hospital Superintendent of Nurses, Marguerite Andell, and dissertations written by College of Nursing students. The College of Nursing Class Composites, 1897-2002, are one of the most popular collections in the digital library. In a new feature, visitors can leave comments about items on the MEDICA web site, allowing classmates to share stories about their time at MUSC.

The University Archives is actively collecting additional materials that document the evolution of the College of Nursing and its many programs. Anyone with mementos from their time at the College of Nursing are encouraged to contact the University Archives to help complete the documentary record.

COMPETITION STRESSES VALUE OF EXPERIENCES

MUSC and Creating Collaborative Care’s 4th annual CLARION Interprofessional Case Competition brought interprofessional teams of students together to delve into a case study of a sentinel event to conduct a root-cause analysis and provide recommendations. The objective of CLARION is to broaden the educational experience of health care students through interprofessional interaction, as well as raise awareness of each profession to increase patient health outcomes. Students from Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society and the MUSC Student Government Association worked hard to plan the competition.

Four teams were under the spotlight at the finalists’ competition that took place on March 3, 2010. All four teams did remarkably well. College of Nursing Assistant Professor, Cynthia Hudson, DNSc, RN, PHCNS, BC, served as the Faculty Advisor of the winning team. Dr. Hudson’s team traveled to the University of Minnesota to compete at the National CLARION Competition on April 10. At the time of this publication, the outcome of the national competition is not known.

STUDENTS AND FACULTY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN MEDICA

Adding articles, posters and dissertations to the MEDICA web site is easy. Just visit the MEDICA Participate page located at http://medica.library.musc.edu/participate.php for directions and details.

For more information about the College of Nursing Collection or MEDICA, please contact Brooke Fox, MUSC University Archivist at (843) 792-6477 or foxeb@musc.edu.
DEAN RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean and Distinguished University Professor, is the recipient of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association’s (APNA) 2009 Distinguished Service Award. The award is given as recognition for commitment, initiative, loyalty, integrity, and exceptional and meritorious service to the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

Dr. Stuart has provided years of leadership and service to APNA in multiple capacities by serving as President of both the association and its foundation, reviewer for the Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (JAPNA), and editor of the association’s newsletter and web site. Janet York, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN, APNA member and conference Co-Chair, remarked, “In her national policy and service appointments she represents the organization, envisions the future of psychiatric nursing, and most of all gives a voice to our specialty in forums in which nurses are not typically represented. She often uses the words “nurses are not at the table” but she never misses the opportunity to get us there. When she is at the table there is no way to ignore the force of nursing. Without a doubt her commitment to the organization is exceptional and reflects meritorious service.”

“APNA is honored to have Gail Stuart as a recipient of the APNA Distinguished Service Award. Her service to nursing and in particular psychiatric nursing is unparalleled. No matter how busy she is, she remains accessible to all of us who benefit so richly from her perspective, wisdom and vision on the issues and challenges we all face,” said Nicholas Croce, Executive Director, APNA.

FACULTY ACCOLADES

Nancy Duffy, DNP, RN, CEN, Director of Undergraduate Programs and Assistant Professor, earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Rush University in Chicago, Illinois.

The title of her dissertation was “A transformational teaching model: The South Carolina Nurse Educator Coalition.” The project was a collaboration between MUSC, the University of South Carolina, and Clemson University nursing faculty designed to facilitate effective use of faculty, increase enrollment, increase satisfaction with teaching and learning, and evaluate the effectiveness of simulation in nursing education.

Phyllis Bonham, PhD, RN, MSN, CWOCN, Associate Professor and Director of the Wound Care Education Program at the College of Nursing, was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) at their annual meeting held in Washington, DC in November 2009. Dean Gail Stuart remarked, “Dr. Bonham has joined the ranks of other nurse leaders who are fellows in this most prestigious of nursing organizations. Her induction into the Academy of Nursing recognizes her substantive contributions to the profession and her leadership role in the field of wound care.” With Dr. Bonham’s induction, 16 percent of the College of Nursing faculty are Fellows in the AAN.

Established in 1973 under the aegis of the American Nurses Association, the Academy serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The AAN’s approximately 1,500 Fellows are nursing leaders in education, management, practice and research.

Raymond Greenberg comments, “When I think of superlatives to describe our award winner, words like integrity, work ethic, effective communicator, team player, and high performer all come to mind.”

Previously, Ms. Shull was also named as a James Russell Nazzaro Trustees Leadership Fellow at MUSC. Her professional leadership roles include serving on the board of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Business Officers, most recently as President. She is also very active in the MUSC Alumni Association and has served as President of the Department of Health Administration and Policy Chapter and as President of the College of Health Professions Alumni Chapter.

DEAN GAIL STUART (right) receives the 2009 APNA Distinguished Service Award from Mary Johnson, APNA President.
HAIGHT RECEIVES Distinguished Alumnae Award

Barbara Keanough Haight, DrPH, RNC, FAAN. Professor Emeritus, received the 2009 Saint Joseph College Distinguished Alumnae Award, designated The Mary Rosa McDonough Award. Dr. Haight worked as a registered nurse and raised five children. She returned to school, earning a master’s degree in Community Health/Gerontological Nursing from the University of Kansas and a doctoral degree in Health Education/Counseling from the University of South Carolina. In 1985, Dr. Haight joined the faculty of the College of Nursing at MUSC where her pioneering work in a critical area of Gerontology, the Life Review, is one of her many professional achievements significantly impacting the nursing profession. While serving at MUSC, Dr. Haight held numerous leadership positions and was the first nursing faculty member to receive the University’s Distinguished Service Award. Upon her retirement from Saint Joseph College in 2003, Dr. Haight was named Professor Emeritus.

NEW FACULTY WELCOME

Berry S. Anderson, PhD, RN joined the faculty of the College of Nursing as an Assistant Professor on February 1, 2010. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from South Carolina State University and his Doctorate in Nursing from MUSC. Dr. Anderson is a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the executive nursing subcommittee of the International Society of Neurostimulation, and the International Society for Transcranial Stimulation.

Dr. Anderson’s research focuses on the use of brain stimulation technologies to understand brain function and treat psychiatric disorders. He has authored or co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed articles and collaborated on more than 40 clinical research trials concerning transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), vagus nerve stimulation (VNS), deep brain stimulation (DBS), epidural prefrontal cortical stimulation (EPCS), and transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS). Dr. Anderson is a Presidential Scholar at MUSC, a Janssen Scholar, and received the Ruth Chamberlain Award from MUSC and the Sharon Davis Memorial Award from Freedom From Fear. Dr. Anderson has taken a leading role educating physicians and nurses about TMS. He served on the Steering Committee of the Association for Convulsive Therapy developing the first international transcranial Magnetic Certification (TMS) board certification exam.

Dr. Anderson has a 30-year experience as a nurse and educator, and worked for seven years as an Army nurse serving worldwide. He is certified as a public health clinical nurse specialist.

ACCOLADES

Cynthia E. Hudson, DNSc, RN, PCHN, BC, Assistant Professor, has been appointed to the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Advanced Public Health Content Expert Panel. Content Expert Panel members develop the nationally recognized ANCC Board Certification Exams for their nursing specialties.

Dr. Hudson has over 30 years experience combined as a nurse and educator and practiced for seven years as an Army nurse serving worldwide. She is certified as a public health clinical nurse specialist.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kathryn Holohan, a fourth semester student enrolled in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program received a Palmetto Gold Scholarship at the Annual Gala on April 24 in Columbia, SC. The Palmetto Gold Scholarship Program is the single largest scholarship program for undergraduate student nurses in the state. A $1,000 scholarship is awarded each year to recipients from each of the 23 approved registered nurse programs in the state.

Ms. Holohan has a 3.9 GPA. Prior to her enrollment at MUSC, she graduated magna cum laude from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Health Science, and studied abroad at the University of Seville in Spain. She also completed an internship at the Anderson Free Clinic in Anderson, SC. A Spanish minor in her undergraduate studies, Ms. Holohan has continued to pursue an interest in the Hispanic culture. She was selected to participate in a specialty clinical group that is part of the College of Nursing’s Hispanic Health Initiative. She also collaborated with her fellow nursing students to design a developmentally appropriate teaching plan for Spanish-speaking children ages 1-4. She plans to continue her education and pursue a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD

On February 24, 2010, collaborative partners in the One Voice, One Plan initiative traveled to the statehouse in Columbia to meet one-on-one with state legislators to emphasize the importance of continued funding for nursing in South Carolina. Nancy Duffy, DNP, RN, CEO, Director of Undergraduate Programs, and Carol McDougall, MSN, RN, Instructor, accompanied 27 College of Nursing students to a legislative luncheon. Dr. Duffy reports, “The One Voice, One Plan Legislative Lunch was an opportunity to meet with legislators to verbalize the need for support of higher education and the issues facing nurses and citizens in this state. It’s empowering to realize that your opinion and presence can shape legislative action. As future leaders, it’s important for students to become involved and stay involved in the legislative process. The trip to Columbia was the first step. Of all of the nursing programs represented, the MUSC College of Nursing had the most impressive showing. “Our students were the most visible of all the colleges that attended. They all wore their MUSC coats and name badges, looked highly professional, and were ready to converse with the legislators as they came into the conference room. They made me very proud that they were representing the MUSC College of Nursing,” says Ms. McDougall.
Congratulations Class of December 2009
**OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARDS**

Three College of Nursing graduates were presented the Outstanding Alumnus Awards at the 2010 Annual Homecoming that was held on April 10, 2010. The recipients of these awards are Phyllis Bonham, PhD, RN, CWOCN, FAAN, Marie Segars, MSN, RN and Nancy Tassin, MSN, RN.

**EDUCATION AWARD**

Phyllis Bonham, PhD, RN, CWOCN, FAAN is the first graduate of the College of Nursing PhD program to receive this honor. She is an Associate Professor and Director of the Wound Care Education Program at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing. Dr. Bonham has 42 years of nursing experience, 34 years in Wound Ostomy and Continence Nursing and is board certified in Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing.

Among her many academic, clinical, research, and professional leadership roles, Dr. Bonham developed and implemented the Wound Care Education Program at the College of Nursing in 1994, which is accredited by the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society (WOCN) to prepare post-baccalaureate nurses for specialty practice in wound care nursing. The program has over 330 graduates including nurses from throughout the country, as well as international nurses. Since 1984, she has maintained an independent practice as a Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurse Specialist providing direct care, education, and consultation services to several hospitals and home health care agencies in Charleston.

**ADMINISTRATOR AWARD**

Marie Segars, MSN, RN is the Administrator/Senior Vice President for McLeod Regional Medical Center, McLeod Home Health, McLeod Hospice, and McLeod Health and Fitness Center in the Florence, SC area. She has spent most of her nursing career at McLeod, having also served as the Vice President of Patient Care Services, Associate Vice President for Nursing and Nursing Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. During her tenure at McLeod, she developed a unique management style inclusive of fine wit and wisdom that encourages growth and the pursuit of excellence in other health care professionals. She fosters a balance of knowledge and experience with vision through a values-based approach. She graduated from the College of Nursing with a BSN degree. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of South Carolina and was selected to participate in the Wharton Nurse Fellow Program at the University of Pennsylvania. She also has been recognized as a mentor and a role model to women in health care roles, as well as women in executive roles in business. She is a 2009 honoree of the TWIN Award (Tribute to Women in Industry), and a 2009 Woman of Distinction Recipient honored by the Girl Scout Organization.

**BEDSIDE NURSE AWARD**

Nancy Tassin, MSN, RN is a graduate of the College of Nursing’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing degree programs. She is a Past President of the College of Nursing Alumni Board and is a lifetime member of the College of Nursing Alumni Association. She personifies a professional commitment to quality patient care, and demonstrates skills in communication, team building, regulatory standards and a willingness to accept challenging roles.

Ms. Tassin is an Administrator for a service line at the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital Authority. In this role, she is responsible for strategic planning and financial and quality accountability for the Musculoskeletal Service Line. She recently developed and launched a Vertebral Fracture Clinic and an Osteoporosis Center. She also is the first registered nurse to serve as president of the South Carolina Association of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Greetings students and alumni,
We just celebrated our annual Alumni Homecoming and Silent Auction on April 10th and it was a great success!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alumni Board and Joint Alumni Board President. It has been an honor to work with such wonderful people and I look forward to continuing to be involved with the alumni programs.

Sincerely,
S. Karlayne Tool, MSN, RN, CPNP
President, CON Alumni Association
ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED AT HOMECOMING

Five scholarships were awarded at the Annual Alumni Homecoming that was held on April 10. These scholarships are a vital part of celebrating the accomplishments of our current students enrolled in the various degree programs. Your membership in the College of Nursing Alumni Association makes these financial awards possible.

ELIZABETH ANN JONES ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Catherine Ling is the recipient of the Elizabeth Ann Jones Alumni Scholarship. Ms. Ling is in her final semester of the PhD program. While enrolled in the program she has received numerous awards and grants including an American Nurses Foundation/Southern Nursing Research Society research grant and a Gamma Omicron AtLarge Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Research Award. The MUSC Clinical and Translational Research Center has sponsored her dissertation research project focused on clinical research to help people who are obese. She was also selected to participate in the prestigious MUSC Presidential Scholars program.

Ms. Ling has authored or co-authored over 13 publications and poster presentations and is a member of several professional organizations including the Southern Nursing Research Society. Her goal after earning her doctorate degree is to continue her work in chronic disease prevention and management through lifestyle modification and conduct research that examines guidelines along age and gender lines.

RUTH CHAMBERLIN ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Amemmarie Donato, an Instructor in the College of Nursing, is enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program and is the recipient of the Ruth Chamberlin Alumni Scholarship. Twenty-five years ago, Ms. Donato started her nursing career in the Netherlands. After moving to the United States with her family, she received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from New York University and her Master of Science in Nursing degree from Columbia University. She is an ANCC certified Family Nurse Practitioner, a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and the American Nurses Association. She is currently serving as the President of the Lowcountry Advanced Practice Group.

Ms. Donato has been teaching in the College of Nursing since 1998 in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Her faculty practice is at Student Health Services at the College of Charleston. Her interests are in mental health and women’s health. Her residency project for the DNP program is focused on high-risk behaviors on college campuses. She will become certified in motivational interviewing and will use this strategy to communicate with students who engage in risky behaviors to increase their motivation to change.

IRENE DIXON ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Katie Chamberlain is the recipient of the Irene Dixon Alumni Scholarship. Ms. Chamberlain is an outstanding Accelerated BSN student who is currently ranked first in her class and has a perfect 4.0 GPA. Ms. Chamberlain is a research specialist with the Medical University of South Carolina Division of Pediatrics and has participated in four poster presentations at regional and national conferences. She has been inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society and is the first author for a Populations Based Nursing course project that has been submitted as a poster presentation for a professional conference. She also serves on the Medical University Hospital Authority Ethics Committee as a student representative.

Before attending the College of Nursing, Ms. Chamberlain completed at Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Furman University. She traveled during the summer of 2007 on a medical mission trip to Costa Rica with the Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children. She is currently certified by Darkness to Light as a Steward of Children.

ELIZABETH MILLS ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Accelerated BSN student Daniel Borkert is the recipient of the Elizabeth Mills Alumni Scholarship. Mr. Borkert is an extraordinary student and humanitarian. Beyond an undergraduate degree in cross-cultural studies and a graduate degree in Bible, Mr. Borkert has participated in numerous experiences in the United States and abroad to provide relief and teach people in developing countries. He hopes to expand this role after he becomes a registered nurse. Most recently, Mr. Borkert traveled to Mexico, India, and Southeast Asia with the purpose of understanding cross-cultural perspectives.

GAIL W. STUART ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Elizabeth Roehner is the recipient of the Gail W. Stuart Alumni Scholarship. Ms. Roehner is a first semester student enrolled in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. Ms. Roehner is a second degree student and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Middle Tennessee State University. Ms. Roehner excelled in her first career as an area sales executive with Pitney Bowes, Inc. Global Mainstream Solutions. She was in the top 15 percent of the national sales force and maintained strong relationships with a large, diverse customer base. She was a leader, initiating and organizing company projects with the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, and Chicago Youth Centers. Her professional background set the foundation for accountability, dependability, and excellent organizational, communication, and time-management skills which are essential to a nurse.

As a new student, Ms. Roehner enthusiastically became involved in the College of Nursing Student Government Association as a class representative. Her positive energy and enthusiasm have been an asset to the organization, her class, and the College of Nursing.

Consider giving to the College of Nursing Alumni Scholarship funds.

Make a difference in someone’s future today.

Contact Denise Ciccarelli at (843) 792-8421 or ciccarel@musc.edu to make a donation.
Class Notes received after February 1, 2010 will appear in the next issue.

1949
Gloria Miller is 82 years old and has five children. Three living children with 12 grand and great-grandchildren.

1960
Jane Barton is retired, enjoys social activities with friends and is looking forward to her 50th college reunion.

1961
Carolyn Johnson works as a Clinical Psychologist in Virginia Beach, VA and enjoys her three grandchildren.

1962
Barbara Jackson’s father filmed her 1962 class graduation on 8mm film that she recently put on DVD. She says, “We all look great.”

1965
Elizabeth Allen enjoys retirement. Her daughter, Diana, completed her residency in Psychiatry and was married July 4, 2009.

1967
Carolyn Grace retired from Public Health Nursing in December of 2008.

1970
Catherine Curtis authored Psychiatric Mental Health Success.

1972
Barbara Scott is retired and enjoying life. She divides time between Florida and North Carolina.

1974
Evangeline Peterson is retired and living in Oak Island, NC.

1980
Nancy Burgess encourages all her classmates to their 30th reunion.

1983
In June 2009, Loretta Camarano-Kanges received her PhD in Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco.

1988
Karen Howard is an APRN at Palmetto Primary Care Physicians in Summerville, SC.

1990
Joanne Dourado is a Research Liaison with a pharmaceutical company. She has a wonderful husband of 18 years and a beautiful 2 ½-year-old daughter.

1997
Kathleen Goodwin is currently an Account Manager for Amedisys’ Home Health Services, coordinating home health for MUSC Department of Outcomes Management since 2002.

Helen Seal (see Mitchell Seal ’96)

2001
David Pikenton is a Certified Flight Registered Nurse with Airlift 5 in Bellingham, WA.

2003, 2006
Leigh Beck is currently a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at MUSC Pediatric Emergency Department.

Lt. Col. Frankie Evans is Senior Case Manager in Warrior Transition Battalion at Ft. Bragg, NC. She is certified as a CNOR, CCM.

2006
Elizabeth Hassen is teaching full-time at the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

2009
Catherine Coker is employed at Palmetto Health Richland in the Adult Medical Oncology unit.

IN MEMORIAM
Lucille Jones Bretland, 1940
Dorothy Elizabeth Chinnis Light, 1941
Margaret Reynolds Ellis, 1942
Merle Newton McGuire, 1946
Kathleen Ackerman Sauls, 1947
Inez Dudley Weeks, 1947
Mary Buckner Hlott, 1948
Judy Blaine Gaillard, 1960
Annie Ellis Waters Brunot, 1964
Bonnie Jane Wiggins Wilcox, 1983
Down Barr Duggins, 1990
Dwayne Edward McDonald, 1991
Christine Dowds Rowland, 1996
Michele Lindsay Causey, 1998
Non Paul Hazelwood, 2001

Mitchell Seal and Helen Seal (’97) are still enjoying the Navy adventure. Mitch is aboard the Naval School of Health Sciences San Diego and Helen is a Charge Nurse of a med-surgical unit. Life in San Diego is as good as the weather.

Class Notes received after February 1, 2010 will appear in the next issue.
2nd annual Hilton Head BBQ a Success

The Hilton Head Island Dean’s Advisory Board 2nd Annual Barbeque Benefit once again was a smashing success. More than $9,000 was raised to fully endow the College’s 125th Anniversary Nursing Scholarship Fund that will support nursing students in their pursuit to become innovative nurses of the future.

“At a time of economic uncertainty, we’ve been able to achieve our endowed scholarship goal of raising $125,000 over the past year thanks to the tireless efforts of our committed volunteers on the Hilton Head Island Dean’s Advisory Board,” said Dean Gail Stuart. “The College of Nursing will continue its mission of educating nurses thanks in large part to the support of the Hilton Head community.”

Ruth E. Edwards chaired this year’s Hilton Head Island Dean’s Advisory Board and lead its volunteer members in selling tickets and sponsorships for the event. The Barbeque Benefit was held Sunday, November 8, 2009 at Honey Horn Plantation on Hilton Head Island. Sponsors included The Broken Arrow Barbeque Team, The Heritage Classic Foundation, Hilton Head Regional Healthcare, The Greenery, Inc., Resort Services, Inc., and Bess Soper Catering. Many thanks for the ongoing energy, enthusiasm and support of our Hilton Head Advisory Board.
Anthony Consonery is the recipient of the Medical University Hospital Authority Patron Scholarship. Mr. Consonery began the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in January 2010. He had the highest grade point average of the admitted students for this cohort—an impressive 3.87 GPA from Clemson University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology.

In addition to his outstanding academic abilities, Mr. Consonery has demonstrated a well-rounded commitment to health care through various activities such as volunteering at the Clemson University Free Clinic, assisting with patient intake and communication in the emergency room triage unit at Greenville Hospital System, and participating in a medical mission trip through World Baptist Missions to Honduras. A soon to be second generation nurse, Mr. Consonery’s mother is a nurse anesthetist. He has expressed interest in this career path, but also pediatrics and critical care.

Mrs. Othersen also has played an important role in the success of the MUSC College of Nursing. Over the years she has held positions at the Charleston Museum and the Health Sciences Foundation of MUSC, including the Trident United Way, South Carolina Medical Association Foundation, the Charleston Garden Club. She has just completed a five-year term as a member of the South Carolina Medical Association; the Christian Family Y; and the Charleston Garden Club. In addition to her stellar academic accomplishments, Ms. Othersen has also volunteered for the Big Brother program and Heartland Hospice. Janelle Lester came to Charleston from her family farm in Newberry, SC, to attend the Medical University’s College of Nursing. She graduated in 1954 with second honors. As a registered nurse, she then went to work at Roper Hospital. She married Dr. Biemann Othersen in 1959 and with her husband raised four children: Megan, Mandy, Margaret and Biemann III. Two of her daughters followed her example and chose careers in nursing. In 1959, Mrs. Othersen joined the Charleston Medical Society Auxiliary. Her efforts in that organization helped them to raise awareness among the state’s students about the many career opportunities open to them within the field of health care. She has served as the President of the Auxiliary; the South Carolina Medical Association; the Christian Family Y; and the Charleston Garden Club. She has just completed a five-year term as Superintendent of the Ladies Benevolent Society, an organization formed in 1813 and credited with beginning home-health nursing in the United States. She also has been involved in the governance of many non-profits in South Carolina, including the Trident United Way, South Carolina Medical Association Foundation, the Charleston Museum and the Health Sciences Foundation of MUSC.

Mrs. Othersen also has played an important role in the success of the MUSC College of Nursing. Over the years she has held leadership roles on the Alumni Board and the Dean’s Advisory Board. She worked diligently to establish the state’s first endowed chair in nursing at MUSC to honor her dear friend, Ann Edwards. Mrs. Othersen also initiated a successful Doctors Honoring Nurses Scholarship Campaign and, most recently, served as the Class of 1954’s class agent, coordinating the class’s golden graduate reunion.

Her senior quote in the Nursing Annual was “Twinkling eyes and merry laughter will be her assets forever.” Her enthusiasm and enjoyment for life remain as strong as ever, standing as an inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their generosity and their lifelong example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike. The College of Nursing is grateful to the Othersens for their inspiration and example for our students, faculty and citizen volunteers alike.
"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

~ John Lennon

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