Green with Success
The PhD program celebrates its 10 year anniversary
Why choose the MUSC College of Nursing?

The College of Nursing at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston is the only academic health sciences center in South Carolina, and thus is on the cutting edge of health care practice, education and discovery. The College also excels in the use of innovative technologies to enhance learning, including our dynamic online programs of study. Most importantly, our nursing graduates assume leadership roles throughout the state and beyond and actively shape the health care of tomorrow.

- An underrepresented diversity rate of 23% for the College, with 55% diversity in the BSN program.
- A 95% pass rate for NCLEX-RN in 2010.
- Leading the state in educating over 250 future primary care NPs and educators.
- A 92% graduation rate for 2010-11.
- Current enrollment of 431 students:
  - > 177 BSN (baccalaureate)
  - > 39 MSN (masters)
  - > 163 DNP (doctor of nursing practice)
  - > 52 PhD (doctor of philosophy)
- 97% of graduating students believe they made the right choice in selecting MUSC College of Nursing.
- 97% of our current students believe they are receiving a high quality education.
- Ranked in the top 50 nursing programs in NIH funding nationally in 2010.
- The only accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in the state.
- 87% of tenure track faculty are doctorally prepared.
- A 100% pass rate for AANP certification exam for family nurse practitioners in 2010.
- Increased total grants funded by 25% this past year.
This issue of Lifelines celebrates the amazing success and the ten year anniversary of our PhD in Nursing program. The visual theme for the issue is that of trees, as we link the growth of the program to that of a tree…germinating the seed…growing from a young sapling…and now emerging with a crown of strong and productive branches and leaves.

Most profoundly, planting a tree plants a hope. That’s how I see our PhD in Nursing program. As you read about our graduates and current students you will see stories of hopes realized, aspirations achieved and future possibilities unfolding.

Our story does mirror the life of a tree in many ways. Starting seeds for trees can be one of the most rewarding gardening and academic activities, as we have experienced here at MUSC. According to arborists, young trees need to be looked after for three to five years after planting, and growing trees require nutrients, water, sunlight and room to flourish. That is exactly what our faculty provide in their mentorship, research collaborations and scholarly guidance of our PhD students.

MUSC was one of the first schools in the country to move our PhD program entirely online and it is clear that that ingredient alone has allowed many students to flourish who might otherwise not have been planted in doctoral education. Our graduation rates are among the best in the nation, and the publications and presentations of our students rival those of any school in the country.

From another perspective, to plant a tree is to give body and life to one’s dreams of a better world. Trees contribute to community pride and feelings of connectedness. They provide beauty, perspective, and a sense of legacy. Most importantly, planting a tree ultimately benefits a future generation. There is no greater legacy for a nurse than to pass on his or her knowledge, expertise and experience to the future generation. Each of our PhD graduates is doing exactly that in a unique and reflective way.

And so I invite you to read this issue of Lifelines and share in the pride of our PhD decade of excellence. It has been said, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” Here at MUSC we are on it now!

Gail W. Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Distinguished University Professor
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The College of Nursing’s PhD in Nursing

program was launched in 2001, enrolling nine students in the inaugural class. The program evolved from a campus-based web enhanced program to an entirely online program in 2006. Today the program has an enrollment of 52 students from 20 states spanning the country (see map on page 9) and has graduated a total of 33 students in its first decade.

All PhD programs at MUSC are housed in the MUSC College of Graduate Studies. In the words of Perry Halushka, PhD, MD, dean of the College of Graduate Studies, “The Nursing PhD program has grown dramatically since it inception under Dean Stuart’s leadership. I have been impressed with the quality of the dissertations and the trainees. The high quality is a testimony to the faculty serving as mentors and the excellence of their research. Clearly this program is preparing a cadre of academic leaders in nursing. We are pleased that the College of Graduate Studies can play a role in this most successful program.”

In the pages that follow we will introduce you to the director of the program and have her share her insight into why she believes the program has been so successful. We also will hopefully impress you with the amazing accomplishments of our current students and our esteemed graduates as collectively we celebrate our 10th anniversary of the PhD in Nursing program.

For complete information regarding the program, visit our website at www.musc.edu/nursing.
Gail Gilden, ScD, RN has served as the director of the PhD in Nursing program since it went to an entirely online format in 2006. There is a bit of irony in this, as she fulfills this role virtually—interacting with students, faculty, and staff from a geographic distance, but also as close as her keyboard, telephone, iPod, and fax machine. Dr. Gilden’s primary residence is in Alpharetta, GA (near Atlanta), but her husband’s work also takes them to places around the globe. Currently, Dr. Gilden and her husband are based in Italy. “I think there is no better understanding of what it is like to learn from a distance than to be away from the main campus in this role. One quickly sees the difficulties encountered by students,” says Dr. Gilden.

Dr. Gilden joined the faculty of the College of Nursing in 1990 and has taught at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. She also has served the college in the roles of department chair and associate dean for academics. Lifelines spoke with Dr. Gilden about the uniqueness of the program and why she believes it has been so successful.

What is the focus of the PhD program?
Our focus is to produce nurse scientists who will generate new knowledge, conduct research, and disseminate their findings. The majority of our graduates work in academic settings.

How unique is an online PhD program and how does it differ from one that is campus based?
The major difference between an online and campus-based program is the method through which access to learning is achieved. Rather than in classrooms, our online program uses advanced technology and yearly on-campus residency weeks.

About 10 percent of nursing PhD programs in this country describe themselves as being online, yet I find each online program has a different combination of requirements in the learning process. Our program is designed to capitalize on the beauty of online learning, or what has been coined “anytime, anywhere” learning. We require very little synchronous learning in the courses, meaning not all students and faculty in different time zones are required to be online at the same time. We allow students to progress in course work in a part or full time pace, and we have minimal campus residency time. This flexibility appeals to adult learners, which I believe, combined with the high quality of the program, accounts for the rapid growth in student numbers. While maintaining rigorous admission standards, we have watched our applicant numbers more than triple in six years, well beyond our projected goals.
What accounts for its success?
From my perspective, the program is like a much loved recipe that has a mix of all the right ingredients - start with an administration that supports innovation; add a faculty committed to mentorship and who strive for the common goal of scholarship excellence among our students; stir in a handful of talented and dedicated support staff; and last but not least, carefully blend in a large helping of bright students who want to be promising nurse scientists. We adjust the recipe each year to achieve the best product possible. That's how it works.

What is special about studying at the Medical University of South Carolina?
MUSC is an academic health sciences center ranked within the Top 100 in the nation for receipt of federal funding. The College of Nursing is ranked in the top 50 in NIH funding among colleges of nursing across the country. With a focus on Translational Science—bench to bedside to community—nursing plays a critical role in transforming health care within the state and nation. With numerous funded research centers and special initiatives, the possibility for interprofessional collaboration to nurture student projects is tremendous!

Why is the BSN to PhD entry into the program important?
Graduates of a nursing PhD program are on average 10 years older than graduates of any other discipline. For nurses, the traditional path to a terminal degree has included the Master’s degree and years of working in a clinical setting. Consequently, doctoral nurse graduates have fewer years to build a research trajectory and contribute to knowledge in their chosen field. The BSN to PhD program is the quickest path for early career nurses who know they want to be nurse scientists. We are seeking early career nurses who will have more years to contribute to nursing science and serve as nurse leaders and educators. (Note: The BSN to PhD program has graduated two students and currently has eight enrolled.)

How have you been able to be successful as an off-site administrator?
Improved technology, such as Skype and Adobe Connect, has been critical to having quality virtual meetings with students and faculty. I also do come to campus about four times a year. The PhD faculty have adapted well to not having an administrator who is on-site. We have all learned how to run meetings, view presentations, negotiate discussion, and electronically vote with participants at a distance. Distance administration had its share of growing pains. But, as a result, I think we have become more open minded about what can be accomplished with distant participants. For example, our students are able to defend their final dissertations from their hometowns, and the faculty and peer audience can watch and hear the presentation at their respective sites.

Students and graduates cite residency week as one of the highlights of the program. Describe the experience.
We call the one-week visit on campus our “residency week.” It is always held the second week of July and is a requirement for the first three years of the program. Depending on the year of progression, the goals for the residency are varied. New students enjoy meeting the faculty and peers, and learn to navigate the online program and how to access campus resources. They are socialized about the rigor expected in course work. Returning students present their scholarship in progress, engage in peer critique, and strategically plan for the dissertation phase of study. Students and faculty highly value this intensive week. Students express a heightened sense of focus and determination for the following year of the program, having been immersed in small group critique of their research ideas. We are seeing our students graduate on time, and we feel this week of intensive focus is one necessary component of that success.

Please explain the program’s “toolbox courses.”
The toolboxes are a series of four short “how to” courses that allow students to practice the skill sets required for publishing and writing grants. These courses focus on the
“nuts and bolts” of literature searching, synthesis of ideas, publishing and presenting, finding funding, and building a career path. These are the skills students are expected to acquire, but are often lost amidst more theoretical course content and theory. So, we have anchored these skills in our aptly named Toolbox Series of courses. The courses are graded as pass/fail to encourage practice and mastery, rather than the critical synthesis required in other courses. The toolbox courses help to “level the playing field” in that students come to doctoral work with a wide variety of work experiences and writing expertise. Faculty know that each student has the opportunity to acquire the basic tools for scholarly work. So far, the students have rated the courses highly and the results are evident in our doctoral student publications (see page 22).

**How do the online students access campus supports?**

It has been very important that the essential campus resources be equally accessible to our online students as for the students who learn on campus. This required flexibility and different ways of communicating for library services, the Writing Center, Enrollment Services, Financial Aid, Student Health and technology support services. Each of these services has adapted to the fact that our students have different communication needs. The traditional notion of “dropping in” to complete a paper form has completely migrated to electronic requests and forms. The PhD students are highly satisfied with the campus services and technology support. This is indeed the most efficient future for our entire campus, which the College of Nursing is pioneering.

**Publications instead of a traditional dissertation - how does that work?**

The traditional dissertation is a five-chapter manuscript that describes in detail a student’s research question, methods, findings, and conclusions. Under this traditional model, new graduates must significantly revise and streamline their work for journal submission, and sadly, many dissertation findings are never published. We support an alternative approach called a “dissertation compendium.” It requires students to write at least three submissable manuscripts on their dissertation methods and findings before graduation. Faculty are able to mentor and encourage the writing and submission process. The final dissertation compendium includes the three articles and introductory and summary chapters that tie the complete work together. Our graduates leave the program with first authored published or submitted manuscripts in their topic of interest, and the experience of having submitted for publication. This greatly enhances the student’s CV and employability.

**This all sounds great! Do you have a “wish list” for the PhD program?**

Our students would greatly benefit from additional funding resources. Each year, we lose talented applicants who find programs that are better able to support students with tuition dollars. It is increasingly difficult for students to borrow federal loans. Having private sources to fill the need would greatly stabilize the financial picture for many of our students. This need is especially true for minority and disadvantaged students.

**If you look into your crystal ball, what do you see in the future for the PhD program?**

In my crystal ball I see our continued growth as a research intensive school with clusters of students with common interests who are drawn to MUSC because they want to be mentored by our faculty experts and strong research teams. These students will be increasingly diverse and expand their collaborations and networking with researchers from outside their immediate domain to include those from other disciplines and other countries. The ability of our graduates to work outside of the nursing silo in partnership with others is a highly valued competency, and one that will brand the MUSC image as producing leaders in innovation.
As of the fall 2011 semester, the PhD in Nursing program has 52 student enrolled. The students have impressive credentials and are geographically spread throughout the continental US, with 25 percent living in South Carolina. Other states represented include Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.
Movers & Shakers

It’s been an exciting 10 years for the College of Nursing and we are extremely proud of what our students have accomplished. Take a look at what some of our graduates are doing now.
CLASS OF 2004

Jennifer Shearer is an associate professor in the Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing at Charleston Southern University where she teaches at the undergraduate and graduate level as well as in the health promotion program. Her students participate in community health projects such as health promotion with pregnant teens, heart health education with community groups, foot clinic at the homeless shelter, and vision screening with preschoolers. Jennifer also has interests in global health and has taken students to Ethiopia for cultural exposure to international nursing (see below).

Jennifer Shearer is the first graduate of the MUSC PhD in Nursing program. She began her career as a nurse educator in Nigeria, teaching in a diploma school of nursing that was part of a Southern Baptist International Mission Board hospital.

“That 2-year experience certainly opened my eyes to the vast difference in health care around the world. I met some wonderful medical missionaries and I really desire to see some of my students commit to international missions,” says Jennifer.

When Jennifer joined the faculty at Charleston Southern University (CSU) she was given the opportunity to build interest in global education by starting a task force. Eventually with the assistance of an Ethiopian professor at CSU, Jennifer made a fact-finding trip to Ethiopia in 2008 with the purpose of returning the next year with her students. In 2009, she and CSU colleague and MUSC doctoral student, April DeGuzman, traveled with a group of students to explore Ethiopia’s health care system and make some connections with a few nursing schools. Jennifer explains, “We are hoping to return with faculty one day in a collaborative teaching partnership. We also hope to take a larger group of nursing and health promotion students who can engage in a ministry that will broaden their view of nursing.”

What started as a small task force under Jennifer’s leadership has now blossomed into a university committee and an active and strong global education program.

CLASS OF 2005

Lynne Nemeth, associate professor at the MUSC College of Nursing, has authored or co-authored 20 publications since graduating, including publishing findings from her dissertation in Implementation Science in 2008. She is currently the principal investigator on an NIH grant and co-investigator on four additional federal grants. In 2006, she received the Palmetto Gold Award for Excellence in Nursing from the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

Regarding her time in the PhD program Lynne writes, “I fondly remember spending those intensive days in class with the initial cohort of PhD students, especially looking forward to when our classmate Phyllis Bonham would pass the chocolate along to keep us focused.”

Cynthia Allen is a clinical instructor in the MUSC Department of Family Medicine. In 2010, she received the Palmetto Gold Award for Excellence in Nursing from the South Carolina Nurses Foundation and from 2007 to 2010 graduating students selected her for the MUSC College of Nursing Golden Lamp Award.

To her fellow PhD graduates, Cindy offers this advice, “As a MUSC graduate, continue to diversify your career; build a strong interprofessional network; and demonstrate gratitude, compassion and excellence.”

Phyllis Bonham retired in June 2011 from the MUSC College of Nursing (see article on page 31) and was named professor emeritus upon her retirement. She has authored or co-authored 21 articles in peer reviewed journals post graduation and authored three evidence-based guidelines for wounds due to pressure, arterial and venous disease. She has also been a principal investigator on one grant since graduation. Phyllis writes, “I am proud to be a graduate of the PhD in Nursing program. I enjoyed the entire doctoral learning experience including the challenges. I am appreciative to all the faculty and fellow doctoral colleagues who shared the experience.”
Charles Hossler is the associate dean for the College of Health Professions (COHP), the interim department chair for social work, and associate professor of nursing at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. His primary interests lie in health promotion-disease prevention, diabetes prevention, and obesity. He has conducted research on diabetes disparities among African-Americans, diabetes prevention in rural Appalachia, and the impact of nutrition education in schools. Currently, he is Co-PI on Marshall’s Nutrition Education Program and the Social Work Title IV-E grant to provide training for potential adoptees in the state. In addition, Dr. Hossler is the principal investigator for the COHP PROMOTE grant working to lower diabetes risk in rural Appalachians through nutrition and physical activity education.

Winnie Hennessy has co-authored five publications since graduation. She began her career as a medical-surgical nurse, followed by 16 years as an intensive care staff nurse working in CVICU, MICU, CCU and surgical trauma. Her “ICU era” also included working in a private hospital in Amsterdam, Holland. After completing her master’s degree, she transitioned from the bedside to managing the research activities of the Digestive Disease Center at MUSC and concurrently worked with a diverse group in MUSC’s grassroots palliative care movement. She later became the palliative care coordinator at MUSC. In 2009, Winnie left that role and is now the Director of Professional Development and Research for Roper St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston.

Gayenell Magwood is an associate professor in the MUSC College of Nursing. She has had six publications since graduation and published findings from her dissertation. She has been the principal investigator on one NIH grant and co-investigator on two federally funded grants since graduation. In 2007, she received the Palmetto Gold Nursing Excellence Award from the South Carolina Nurses Foundation. In 2010, she received the Healthcare Hero Award, Researcher category from the Charleston Business Journal. This year, she was selected as a Participant Scholar to attend the NIMHD, Translational Health Disparities Course. Today she is continuing to pursue her commitment to an academic research career that she finds both challenging and rewarding.

Valeria Smith is the nurse educator/nursing affiliations coordinator for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salisbury, NC where she received both the Clinical Employee of the Month and then Clinical Employee of the Year Award in 2010. Her advice to current PhD students is, “There is a light at the end of the tunnel, just keep moving!”

James Lawrence writes that his current positions include four jobs that are representative of his overachiever personality. He is a full time geriatrics and extended care nurse practitioner at the VAMC in Decatur, GA and a
part time NP with Guardian Hospice. He is also an assistant professor of nursing at Kaplan University’s School of Nursing and founder and president of his own consulting company, Aging Successfully, LLC, that has allowed him to work with small businesses, the Chinese and Irish ministries of health, and other academic institutions in the areas related to aging.

Since graduation he has published his dissertation along with five other articles. He has received one state award, six national awards, holds five current contracts with national pharmaceutical companies on their committees of expert panels, has an appointed position under Georgia Governor Sonny Purdue as adviser on healthcare, and held an appointed Think Tank position under President George W. Bush’s administration as adviser on aging. On a national level he is presently the national chair for the American Nurses Credentialing Center Committee of Experts on Geriatric Nursing, Vice Chair for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Nominating Committee, and was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

“One of my greatest and most powerful gifts that I received as a result from my MUSC education is the wonderful relationship that afforded me the chance to know professionally and personally Dr. Elaine Amella. She epitomizes the grace, style, commitment, and responsibility of being a nursing leader more than any other person in my life! Just as her NYU advisor, Mathey Mezey, bestowed upon her, Elaine passed on to me these wonderful attributes that I am now able to bestow upon my undergraduate and graduate students as well as my patients and clients.”

> Marilyn Schaffner is the chief nursing executive and administrator for clinical services at the MUSC Medical Center. She is the editor of the column “Leading the Way” in Gastroenterology Nursing. She has also published articles in the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research and Computers Informatics Nursing. In 2006 and 2007, she served as an Honorary Commander at the Charleston Air Force Base. In 2010, she received the SC Nursing Workforce Leadership Award.

To current PhD students Marilyn writes, “Dr. Lynne Nemeth gave me advice that I have passed on to many students who are struggling near the end of their program – a time when you can see the light at the end of the tunnel but may feel overwhelmed with the obligations remaining to reach your goal. She said, ‘Pick your graduation date and work backwards outlining what needs to be accomplished each month to reach that goal.’” Marilyn further relates, “One of my favorite roles as a leader is to mentor. Since graduating, I have had the privilege of serving on a DNP and DHA dissertation committee. There is no greater joy than to watch others grow in the process of continuing their education.”

CLASS OF 2007

> Robin Bissinger is an associate professor and director of graduate programs in the MUSC College of Nursing. She also coordinates the neonatal nurse practitioner team at the MUSC Medical Center. Since graduation, she has authored seven publications and published findings from her dissertation. During May 2011 commencement exercises, she received the Outstanding Teaching

Marilyn Schaffner, James Lawrence, and Laurie Zone-Smith at the 2006 commencement ceremonies.
Faculty Award for the Graduate Program. In 2007 and 2009, she received the Distinguished Leader in Neonatal Nursing Award from the National Association of Neonatal Nurses. Robin writes, “My PhD has opened up a world for me working nationally. I am the president of the National Certification Corporation and the vice chair for the Congress on Economics and Practice. It expands your horizons beyond a research focus and provides the skills you need to lead on a local, state and national level.”

Laurie Zone-Smith is the associate chief nursing officer for professional practice at Naples Community Healthsystem (NCH) in Naples, FL. She has co-authored two publications since graduation and received the Professional Nursing Achievement Award from NCH Healthcare System in 2010. Presently, she is serving as the director of the Florida Organization of Nurse Executives Region II and the director of the South West Florida Organization of Nurse Executives.

“My fondest memories during the PhD years of study at the MUSC College of Nursing were of the thought provoking, challenging, supportive and inspiring faculty, in addition to my dissertation committee: Dr. Gail Stuart (chair), Dr. Pam Cipriano, Dr. John Welton and Dr. Yvonne Michel. Continual encouragement to never give up (even after many re-writes); multiple affirmations that a strong and capable nurse leader knows that anything is possible; and knowing where to find the source of truth are three keys that assured an earned diploma. Today, I continue rewrites on the dissertation and will remind myself daily of these lessons until it is published,” says Laurie.

Furthermore, “As teacher, coach and mentor to nurses in residency and seasoned nurses, I now invest in the development of powerful leaders who work to achieve the recommendations of the IOM Future of Nursing report. The combined impact of 1) the clinical nurse who owns patient care safety and health outcomes of each patient in their care, and 2) leaders who cut the red tape and expect nurses to use their professional autonomy to change workflows and care practices using evidence and learned lessons, will assure that the profession and our patients thrive. I engage clinical nurses to flex their spirit of inquiry; design and test quality projects; conduct research studies; build knowledge based nursing initiatives; and drive interdisciplinary power plan development. In each phase of learning, earning and yearning, it is my colleagues and relationships that started at the CON and MUSC that I will always reflect upon with a full heart of gratitude.”

Susan Newman is an assistant professor in the MUSC College of Nursing. Since graduation, she has published eight journal articles, and received four grants, two of which are federally funded. Recently, Susan was selected as a NIH Fellow for the 11th Annual OBSSR/NIH Summer Institute on Randomized Clinical Trials Involving Behavioral Interventions. In 2010, she received the Editor’s Choice Award from Rehabilitation Nursing Journal. Additionally, she was named a Liberty Fellow of South Carolina Class of 2012, awarded the Palmetto Gold Award for Excellence in Nursing by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation, and received the Unsung Hero Award (in recognition of disability advocacy) from the Disability Resource Center. In 2009, she was named a NIH Fellow for the NIH Summer Institute on Community-Based Participatory Research Targeting the Medically Underserved.

Laurie Zone-Smith with her husband, Todd; oldest son, Carson; and twins, Thomas and Wyatt.
CLASS OF 2009

> **Sharon Bond** is an associate professor in the MUSC College of Nursing. Since graduation she has published an article and has three more in process. Also, Sharon writes a bi-monthly column called “Updates from the Literature” for the *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health*. She has received funding for two grants, one of which is federally funded. She was named the Peer Reviewer of the Year by the *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health*, and was a finalist for the Mary Ann Shah New Author Award.

Sharon notes, “The highlight of my doctoral program was, in conjunction with my colleagues at the Hollings Cancer Center, receiving an award for an National Cancer Institute (NCI) RO3 to study attitudes and knowledge about the HPV vaccine among diverse populations in South Carolina.”

> **Pamela Murphy** is the interim nurse manager of the postpartum and level I nursery at the MUSC Medical Center. She also is an advanced practice lactation consultant. Pamela has had three publications since graduation and reports, “In addition to my full time position, I conduct lactation seminars for a national continuing education company, have my own private home lactation consultant business, own and manage a free searching site for lactation related continuing education (www.breastfeedingconferences.com).” Pamela also developed and hosts a biannual conference for health care professionals. For more information on it, visit www.thelactationconference.com.

> In December 2009, **Berry Anderson** completed his PhD in nursing and then left his research nurse management role at the MUSC Institute of Psychiatry to accept a position at the MUSC College of Nursing as an assistant professor. He is thrilled about his decision to attend the College’s doctoral program and is pleased how it has helped his career.

“Now I am better equipped to pursue my research ideas of improving mental health care for all patients. The College has wonderful faculty to guide each student through the rigors of the program. I was very fortunate to have a research position during my doctoral work that blended nicely with my dissertation,” says Berry.

Berry published an article from his dissertation, and presented his final data at the national meeting of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. Also, he has published seven journal articles since graduation.

“If you are thinking of pursuing a doctorate, don’t wait any longer. I know it is hard and it seems like you have too many responsibilities, but you can do it. During my doctoral studies, my wife finished law school and we had three children. I had many late nights, but it was worth it. I would definitely do it again.”
Lucy Megginson’s identical twin sister, Melinda Spriggle, enrolled in the PhD in Nursing program in fall 2011. The two sisters share their thoughts about the program and following in one another’s footsteps.

According to Lucy, she believes her sister will exceed expectations. “My amazing and talented identical twin, Melinda, has started her own journey into MUSC’s PhD program. Melinda and I are true soul mates in the most marvelous way. We’ve shared life, work, and academic experiences from as far back as I can remember. We both knew from our evenings on the porch studying for undergraduate nursing tests that one day we’d be in a much different place, that we would become experts in nursing, that we would become leaders of a new generation of nurses. We’ve paced each other through the RN-BSN, MSN, and now doctoral courses of study. It’s been over 20 years in the making but we’re here. I feel as if I’m handing the baton in this amazing race—a self-paced life-changing pursuit for knowledge development that only doctoral nursing students can relate to. Words fail to describe the significance of how Melinda lived alongside me during my journey and how I plan to do the same for her. As she researched various programs of study, MUSC became the clear choice, not because of my experience but because of the program fit and research match with faculty. At every step she will find me cheering her on and cheering the loudest.”

Melinda’s decision to continue seeking personal and professional development has never been a question of IF but rather WHEN. “I am a self-prescribed lifelong student. The road from a predominantly clinical diploma program to a forward-thinking undergraduate program to a research-oriented, philosophy-driven graduate program has prepared and prompted me to seek the challenges of doctoral study. MUSC’s PhD in Nursing program’s commitment to evidence-based nursing education, collaborative teamwork, leadership, and recognizing nursing as both an art and science appeal to both my personal and professional values.”

Regarding following in her sister’s footsteps, Melinda continues, “Accompanying one another on this journey has been an experience filled with challenges, tears, joy, anxiety, frustration and hope. The journey we started together continues and I aspire to follow my older sister’s exemplary path in becoming a nurse educator, scientist and mentor.”
programs at the graduate and undergraduate levels. “I believe all of these exciting and forward-thinking opportunities were born from the seeds planted and nurtured during my time at MUSC.”

> Leslie Parker is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Florida. She has published one article and has two more in press. “The PhD program was a wonderful experience. It is hard to imagine that you could have such close contact with faculty and fellow students in an online program.”

> Jodi M. Protokowicz is an assistant professor at the Community College of Baltimore County. She reports that she presented her dissertation research at the 2011 AWHONN conference and is working to get her results published.

> Christy M. Smith teaches online and is adjunct faculty at Excelsior College in Albany, NY and Colorado Christian University in Denver, CO. She writes, “I am currently writing a textbook for Lippincott with a publication date of 2013 titled Focus on Nursing Research. The book is geared for students in five to eight week long nursing courses.”

> Ruth (Stockdell) Conner is an assistant professor in the MUSC College of Nursing. In 2010, she received the MUSC Foundation Teaching Excellence Award for Developing Teacher, as well as the Golden Lamp Award which is selected by graduating students.

> Leonora Horton is an assistant professor in the MUSC College of Nursing and a certified nurse-midwife practicing in the MUSC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and at MUSC’s Student Health Services. In 2010, she received the Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award and in 2011 the Golden Lamp Award. Lee fondly recalls the amazing support and encouragement that she was, without doubt, our student party in 2009 and the cruise on the speedboat, Thriller. We all felt like it was a perfect example of what the PhD program is like—full speed ahead, no time to stop and enjoy the view!”

> Brian Conner, MUSC College of Nursing assistant professor, has published one article since graduation. “The best memories are of residency weeks in Charleston. The 2008 cohort bonded incredibly well during the first residency week and we have stuck together ever since. The best memory
received throughout the process from her committee and colleagues. She writes, “My success was as important to them as it was to me.”

> Lisa Sternke is a clinical instructor in the MUSC College of Nursing and a member of the nurse faculty of the Veterans Affairs Nursing Academy (VANA). She is also the interim nurse manager of the Charleston Center. She has published twice since graduation and was invited by the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) to participate in a Grantsmanship Workshop.

> Julius Kehinde is a post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Utah College of Nursing. He is the first post-doc from the College’s PhD program. “I am glad for the opportunity I had to attend the MUSC CON. The PhD program compares well with other top doctoral programs in the U.S. I was blessed with great mentors such as Drs. Edlund, Kelechi, Pope, Mueller, and York (my advisor). These faculty members made my experience at the College a great and memorable one. This list is not complete without mentioning Dr. Elaine Amella, a distinguished researcher and teacher. Dr. Amella and I met weekly on Skype. At these meetings, she shared with me the art and science of research and gave me feedback on my work. She is passionate to see her students succeed. She is the epitome of what mentoring is all about. Her guidance and help got me through the program

Julius Kehinde holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria and Master of Science in nursing from University of Phoenix. Prior to completing his PhD in nursing degree at MUSC in May 2011, he worked as a registered nurse in Nigeria and England for 12 years.

In 2000, Julius was a nursing supervisor in a skilled nursing facility in California, a position he held for 18 months. As a result of his experience as a nursing supervisor in the skilled nursing facility and orthopedic unit, he chose fall prevention among older adults living in long-term care facilities as his area of interest. He is passionate about gerontological research and his work has been published in a prestigious nursing journal. He also is the first author of another systematic review that is currently in press.

Nominated by Dr. Elaine Amella, Julius was selected to present his work at the 2008 Technical Assistance Workshop of the NIA/NIH in Washington, DC. His work also was presented at the 2009 Transforming Fall Prevention Practices Conference in Tampa, FL.

In 2008, Julius was one of the five doctoral students selected for the Johnson & Johnson Minority Nurse Faculty Scholarship (the scholarship was renewed in 2009).

Julius' research lends credibility to his originality, innovation, and creativity. For instance, in his dissertation study titled, “Structure and process-related fall risks for older adults living with dementia in nursing homes,” he used observational methods to validate participant’s responses to a questionnaire survey. The study was funded by the MUSC South Carolina Clinical and Translational Science Award in 2010.

Julius Kehinde With His Family After the 2011 MUSC Graduation Ceremonies.
and made a significant impact in my career.”

In addition to the faculty, Julius found many of the College’s staff, including Yolanda Long, Peggy Sires, Sabrina Green, Bernie Jansen, and Raquel Vining to be outstanding. They always went above and beyond to meet the needs of the students.

Julius also enjoyed the residency week programs and activities because he had the opportunity to meet other online PhD students and faculty in person. Feedback from faculty and others during residency helped to refine his research ideas/proposals. One of Julius’ favorite activities was the Research Interest Group (RIG) social. This event partners students and faculty with the same research interest in the evening to share ideas in a relaxed atmosphere over dinner at a faculty member’s home. He truly appreciated the constant efforts given to the residency program by Dr. Gail Gilden to make it fun as well as educational.

Julius also mentions that he enjoyed having dinner at Dean Stuart’s house and found her to be a gracious and generous host. At dinner, students and faculty interact informally so typically students seize on the opportunity to share research ideas with one other.

> Melissa Aselage joined the faculty of the Duke University School of Nursing in July 2011. Her teaching responsibilities are in the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

As the 2009-11 John A. Hartford Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Scholar (see p. 20), Melissa is a research dynamo. She is a board-certified family nurse practitioner and gerontological nurse. She received the 2011 Southern Research Nursing Society/Aging Research Interest Group’s Distinguished Dissertation Award and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington School of Nursing 2011 Faculty of the Year Award.

Commenting on her position at Duke University, Melissa says, “The PhD program at MUSC prepared me for this position by providing ample opportunities to write grants and manuscripts with my mentor, Dr. Elaine Amella. After my first residency, Dr. Amella and I began working on my John A. Hartford BAGNC grant submission and we were successful in becoming the first BAGNC Scholar from the state of South Carolina. She recommended that I attend the annual Gerontological Society of America (GSA) meeting that first fall, where she introduced me to national and international nursing leaders, as well as other interdisciplinary members of GSA.”

Melissa states the Dr. Amella helped coordinate a high-powered dissertation committee including Drs. Jane Zapka, Martina Mueller, and Cornelia Beck. Through their expertise in content, methods, statistics, and theory, Melissa felt she was guided to create a dynamic and challenging proposal that led to successful implementation.

Continued on next page
From my coursework, I published three manuscripts that sparked an international dialogue about the concept of mealtime difficulties and how this concept can be measured. Between the work produced at MUSC and the opportunities provided by the BAGNC program, I completed my PhD program in a position to be a competitive candidate for the assistant professor position at Duke University School of Nursing. I feel the program prepared me not only to be a successfully funded nurse scientist, but also an effective nurse educator online and in the classroom.

In 2009, Melissa Aselage, MSN, RN, FNP-BC was the recipient of the Hartford Foundation’s Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Pre-doctoral Scholarship. The goal of this scholarship program is to increase academic geriatric nursing capacity in the U.S. by increasing the number of well-prepared geriatric nursing faculty. Scholars are chosen because of their commitment to academic geriatric nursing and the recognition of their potential to teach and inspire nursing students, conduct practice-changing research, and become influential leaders.

Because nursing students often have preconceived notions about gerontological nursing, Melissa begins teaching her gerontology course by telling her own story. “In nursing school I was one of those students who said I don’t want to work with older adults and I’ll never work in a nursing home,” she says. Fate intervened. The first job offer Ms. Aselage received after graduation was from a nursing home. “I fell in love with it and thus began my career in geriatric nursing,” she says.

After obtaining a master’s degree, Ms. Aselage worked as nurse practitioner in the nursing home. When the University of North Carolina-Wilmington (UNCW), began offering a stand-alone gerontology course, she moved from clinical practice to teaching. “I wanted to capture students at the very beginning of their careers and get them excited about taking care of older adults and teach them best practices,” she says.

As she moved further into academic nursing (now contemplating a doctoral degree), Ms. Aselage attended a Hartford-funded national faculty development institute - the Geriatric Nursing Education Consortium offered by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. This institute provided geriatric content for nurse faculty to bring back to their academic institutions to infuse into the nursing curriculum. While struggling to accomplish this at UNCW, Ms. Aselage came up with a high-tech solution. She developed modules taken directly from the conference and created podcasts for students.

In April 2010, nine of these gero nursing podcasts were posted on the Internet at http://consultgerirn.org/resources/gnec_podcasts. They have been accessed more than 2,700 times from 16 countries.
Theresa Lawson is an assistant professor of nursing at Lander University in Greenwood, SC and also is employed part-time as a family nurse practitioner with Minute Clinic Diagnostic. Now that she has completed her PhD she plans to incorporate her role as a nurse researcher into these positions.

“My classmates were always so supportive, and continue to be even at this point. We are all each other’s cheerleaders, think tanks, sounding boards. Those bonds made this journey much more enjoyable. We hold the keys to the future of nursing research, education, and practice. We can’t let that fire that got us through our PhD programs die out. It is our duty to keep pushing forward to improve nursing in whatever way we can.”

Collette Loftin is currently teaching at West Texas A & M University in Canyon, TX where she is the associate director of undergraduate clinical education. Her immediate goals include submitting her dissertation manuscripts for publication and beginning to think about her next research project. Colleen recalls many fond memories of her time in the PhD program but is most happy about the close friendships that she made.

“I never imagined that it would be possible to make lifelong friends in an online education program.”

Elaine Amella, PhD, GNP-BC, FAAN has been recognized as an excellent mentor by many PhD students. So we asked her what are her mentoring secrets.

“I’m not sure that they are secrets, but in reflecting on what has been helpful my first thought is accessibility, particularly in our online program. I really try to respond to students quickly if they have a question or concern, and seek them out if I sense a change in our usual communication pattern to see if they’re experiencing some difficulty either in a course or personally. The other practice I learned from my own mentor is to think about what opportunities I can pass on to students, such as a grant announcement that comes across my email that I know matches their research; or if I’m asked to review a manuscript that is in a student’s area of interest I recommend them to the editors; or if I learn of a relevant conference that’s accepting abstracts or a textbook author who wants a chapter written, I suggest they submit. If we are attending the same conference, I take them around and have them meet the ‘movers and shakers’ and socialize them into the scholar’s role. I guess they’re never far from my thoughts and I try to do what I have been told…pass it on,” says Elaine.
The College of Nursing believes that a strong tree produces much fruit. This is seen in the following list of publications by the College’s current PhD students. The PhD program at the MUSC College of Nursing emphasizes scholarly productivity.


The College of Nursing continues to offer faculty and students the opportunity to interact with national nursing leaders in a one-on-one basis. Three such leaders visited campus during the Summer 2011 semester.

Promoting Diversity and Health Equity
In early June 2011, the College of Nursing hosted Visiting Professor Barbara J. Guthrie, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate professor and associate dean for academic affairs, Yale University School of Nursing. In addition to consulting with College and University leaders, Dr. Guthrie gave a campus wide presentation titled, “Promoting diversity and health equity within the context of an unequal world.”

Dr. Guthrie’s research and health activism - in combination - has afforded her the privilege of working in concert with adolescent girls from diverse ethnic, social class, and environmental contexts, to identify, research, and design ethnic and gender responsive health promotion programs. Always foregrounding the intersectional issues of ethnicity, gender, age, and class, her collaborative research efforts with adolescent females has led to her receiving funding from such agencies as The National Institute of Drug Abuse, National Cancer Institute, and National Institute for Nursing Research.

Advocacy and Policy in Health Care
For the inaugural Janelle Othersen Visiting Professorship in July 2011, the College of Nursing welcomed Bethany Hall-Long, PhD, RNC, FAAN, professor, University of Delaware School of Nursing and Delaware state senator. Dr. Hall-Long is a graduate of the College of Nursing’s Master of Science in Nursing program.

During her visit, Dr. Hall-Long presented to the accelerated BSN students enrolled in the Population Focused Nursing course, consulted with faculty teaching health policy at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and met with a group faculty to discuss strategies to attain full scope of practice for APRNs in the state. She concluded the day by giving a campus-wide presentation titled, “Advocacy and policy in health care: Making it happen.” While in Charleston, the South Carolina Hospital Association also invited Dr. Hall-Long to share her insights on advocacy with hospital chief executive officers attending a Leadership Summit in Charleston.

Regarding her visit, Dr. Hall-Long noted, “It was truly an honor to present the first Janelle Othersen Visiting Professor lecture. It was a real “win-win” for me to interact with the faculty, students, and the South Carolina Hospital Association. I am ever so proud to be a graduate of the MUSC College of Nursing.”
On a tour specially designed for students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the MUSC College of Nursing, follow in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale on a journey that breathes life into the remarkable story of this inspirational woman.

Travel from London, which formed the center of her professional life, to rural England, where her values were shaped, to the Scutari Barracks in Istanbul where she worked tending the wounded of the Crimean War. It was the shocking conditions she encountered here that spurred her on in her campaign to improve conditions in army hospitals, which continued throughout her life and helped shape modern nursing education and practice.

The tour will be led by Alex Attewell, former director of the Florence Nightingale Museum in London, who will bring alive her inspiring life story and her relevance to nursing health care in the twenty-first century.

**TOUR OPPORTUNITY:**

*In the steps of Florence Nightingale*

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**TOUR DATES**

*May 20 – 30, 2012*

FOR A BROCHURE, EMAIL: NIGHTINGALETRIP@COMCAST.NET

**PICTORIAL HISTORY OF MUSC**

The Waring Historical Library has announced the publication of a pictorial history of MUSC.

Drawing on the rich collections of MUSC’s Waring Historical Library and University Archives, authors Susan Hoffius, curator, and Brooke Fox, university archivist, have compiled a fascinating selection of photographs that tell the story of not just the University but also the people who have improved the health of South Carolinians for nearly two centuries.

Arcadia Publishing’s Campus History Series: *Medical University of South Carolina* provides a visual journey through the history of each of the six colleges to be enjoyed by alumni, students, and anyone interested in the history of South Carolina health care.

Books can be purchased for $23.86 each (includes tax) at the Waring Historical Library or the MUSC University Archives.

For more information, please contact Susan Hoffius at (843) 792-2288 or Brooke Fox at (843) 792-6477.
Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN has been selected to participate as a member of the newly established Measure Applications Partnership (MAP). MAP is a public-private partnership convened by the National Quality Forum (NQF) for the explicit purpose of providing input to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the selection of performance measures for public reporting and performance-based payment programs, as required in The Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Stuart was chosen by the NQF’s Board of Directors to serve as a voting expert member of the Dual Eligible Beneficiaries Workgroup of the Measure Applications Partnership. The National Quality Forum, a private-sector, consensus-based, standard-setting organization whose efforts center on the evaluation and endorsement of standardized performance measurement, formalized its agreement with HHS to convene the multi-stakeholder groups established for MAP in late March. “This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to changing the impact of health care on some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society. I am honored to be a part of this working group,” noted Stuart.

Through MAP activities, the private sector and a wide variety of stakeholders will be able to provide input into HHS’s selection of performance measures for public reporting and payment reform programs, which will allow for greater coordination of performance measures across programs, settings, and payers.

MAP’s balance of interests—representing consumers, businesses and purchasers, labor, health plans, clinicians and providers, communities and states, and suppliers—ensures that HHS will receive well-rounded input on performance measure selection. MAP activities, including comment periods and meetings, will be made open to the public via the NQF website.

MAP measure selections will be made within the framework of the newly released National Quality Strategy, with the intention of selecting measures that address our national healthcare priorities and goals, such as making care safer and ensuring that each person and family are engaged as partners in their care.

The MAP Coordinating Committee and its four workgroups span more than 60 organizations and include 40 subject matter experts and nine federal agencies. Government agencies are ex-officio members and will not vote on items before the coordinating committee.

“The choice of measures for gauging and rewarding progress is so important that no one perspective is adequate to inform the task,” said Janet Corrigan, PhD, MBA, president and CEO of the National Quality Forum. “MAP’s diverse composition—representing the full spectrum of healthcare stakeholders—and NQF’s strong background as a neutral convener will be instrumental in ensuring that well-rounded, evidence-based input makes its way to the HHSS Secretary for her consideration on which measures to use for public reporting and performance-based payment programs.”

The MAP Coordinating Committee will begin providing input to HHS in fall 2011, and HHS will begin utilizing this input in the calendar year 2012.
EMBRACING OUR HISTORY: Learning from a nursing pioneer

Each New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) scholar, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is expected to identify a leadership or service project that interests them. A second semester student, Janice McFaddin, was presented with the idea of organizing an event for NCIN students to meet the first African-American graduate of the MUSC College of Nursing, Rosslee T. Douglas, BSN, RN.

Ms. Douglas served as an administrator for the Franklin Fetter Family Health Center, where she established the first regulations to license home health care agencies in South Carolina. She was the first African-American to serve on the South Carolina Industrial Commission, and later served as the Director of Minority Economic Impact, US Department of Energy. The late President Reagan selected her to serve in his cabinet as the first African-American female appointee, where she was responsible for the implementation of Executive Order 12320, titled Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which provided financial aid for students at these institutions. Ms. Douglas was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from MUSC in 1985 for her lifetime achievements.

In July, in addition to McFaddin, NCIN students Ashleigh McCall, Altonya McMillan, and Veronica Ramos, as well as Dr. Sally Stroud, NCIN project director and Dr. Ida Spruill, director of diversity for the College of Nursing, traveled to meet with Ms. Douglas, her daughter, and granddaughter. Ms. Douglas was presented with a wooden replica of the College building, and an assortment of books. The students spent two hours visiting with Ms. Douglas, and she and her family members were taken to lunch for further dialogue with the nursing students. In the words of one of the students: “It was an inspirational meeting. Really getting to know such an incredible nurse will remain with us as will her words, ‘I had a goal and I didn’t let anything get in my way.’”
A true call to action for students in our program!

MEET CON’S NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The College of Nursing is pleased to welcome Laurie K. Scott as our new director of development. She brings with her 19 years of experience in strategic fundraising and communications with expertise in planned giving, major gifts, and charitable/corporate foundations and trusts.

Ms. Scott comes to the College of Nursing from the University of Auckland in New Zealand where she worked as the development manager since 2007. During her tenure there she managed a portfolio of 125 prospects while developing long term plans for a sustainable planned giving program, including the establishment of a Legacy Society. From 2003-2007, she served as the manager for bequests, major gifts and charitable trusts for IHC New Zealand, Inc. also in Auckland. In this role, she was responsible at a national level for developing and overseeing all planned giving, major gift and charitable trust activity within IHC (the largest charity in New Zealand). Originally from Nebraska, Ms. Scott moved to New Zealand in 2003. Now married with a small child, Ms. Scott and her husband decided to move back to the United States to be closer to her family who also lives in the southeast.
Gayenell Magwood, PhD, RN, associate professor, was selected to attend both the Robert Wood Johnson New Connections Research and Coaching Clinic and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) 2011 Translational Health Disparities Course: Integrating Principles of Science, Practice and Policy in Health Disparities Research.

The New Connections Research and Coaching Clinic was held last fall in Denver, CO to bring together diverse, early- and mid-career professionals and senior scholars and researchers for training and mentoring opportunities to enhance their skill sets and facilitate career development at their individual institutions. Attendees participated in writing and communication strategy workshops.

Dr. Magwood was one of 55 scholars from across the country selected to attend NIMHD’s Translational Health Disparities Course that was held in June 2011. The overall objective of this intensive two-week course was to provide focused instruction in the principles and applications of health disparities research, with an overall goal of integrating the science, practice and policy of eliminating health disparities.

Susan D. Newman, PhD, RN, CRRN, assistant professor, was one of 36 scholars selected to attend the 11th Annual Summer Institute on Design and Conduct of Randomized Clinical Trials Involving Behavioral Interventions that was held in July in Warrenton, VA.

Sponsored by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health in collaboration with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the purpose of the institute was to provide a thorough grounding in the conduct of randomized clinical trials to researchers and health professionals interested in developing competence in the planning, design, and execution of randomized clinical trials involving behavioral interventions.

Charlene Pope, PhD, RN, MPH, CNM, associate professor and associate nurse executive of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, was one of 30 investigators selected from 300 applicants nationwide for the first annual Training Institute on Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health. The Training Institute was organized by the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), with co-sponsorship by the National Cancer Institute of NIH and the Veterans Health Administration.

Dissemination and implementation (D&I) research draws from across the disciplines to study the factors and processes that affect the implementation of tested interventions as well as the natural experiments of required programs and policies in patient care and health services. The agenda addressed issues of designing D&I studies along with issues of relevant and rigorous measurement and evaluation, balancing fidelity and implementation, use of participatory approaches, health disparities, how to scale up and sustain interventions, issues of cost effectiveness, and exemplars of D&I research.

The 9th Annual Disparities in Health in the Global Context Summer Workshop, held in June at the University of Texas, was a six day workshop sponsored by the MD Anderson Center for Research on Minority Health. College of Nursing Instructor Tiffany Williams, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC was one of 21 Intercultural Cancer Council scholars awarded a full scholarship to attend the workshop.

The intensive six-day workshop was designed to encourage research on the causal factors of racial/ethnic differences in cancer incidence, mortality, and response to treatment; as well as an understanding of the cultural influences, attitudes and behaviors that affect the general health status, cancer diagnoses, health care treatment, and clinical trial participation of ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations.
In 1996, MUSC initiated an annual award as a tribute to the late Dr. Earl B. Hig-
gins, former Director of Affirmative Action and Minority Affairs at MUSC. During
his tenure, Dr. Higgins promoted a harmonious learning and work environment for
all and built bridges between the university and the community it serves. In 2011,
the University selected College of Nursing Professor Carolyn H. Jenkins, DrPH, RD,
CDE, APRN-BC-ADM, FAAN as the recipient of the Earl B. Higgins Achievement in
Diversity Award.

Dr. Jenkins’ early work primarily focused on helping students enrolled in commu-
nity health nursing learn how to provide effective culturally competent care in
diverse populations. She worked with community role models who introduced
students to the community, and she continuously sought feedback and improved
care based on her learning. In recent years, much of her work has focused on
improving outcomes in African-Americans with a major focus on those at a high
risk for diabetes. She has done this through the development and support of com-

munity coalitions throughout the southeastern United States. Through her work, she
has brought together students, community members, and an impressive group of
representatives for grassroots African-American communities and agencies to work
on addressing health disparities at the individual, systems, and community levels.

"Dr. Jenkins’ successful interventions in partnership with African-
American communities, and her
contributions in improving health for the underserved will have a
lasting impact in our communities.”
- Dean Gail Stuart

The Palmetto Gold Nurse Recognition
Program was initiated in 2001 when a
group of nursing leaders representing
various nursing organizations met to de-
velop plans for a program to recognize
excellence in nursing practice in SC. In
April 2011, the program celebrated its
10th anniversary. College of Nursing
faculty who were recognized this year
included: Jane Anderson, MSN, APRN-
BC; Carole Bennett, PhD, APRN, BC,
PMH, CNS; Annemarie Donato, MSN,
FNP; Carol McDougall, MSN, RN; and
Peggy Spain, MSN, RN, FNP.
Nine faculty (24 percent) were promoted in rank effective July 1, 2011 marking a record number of faculty promotions for the College of Nursing in a single year. Those receiving promotions include:

- **Jeannette Andrews, PhD, RN, FNP, FAAN**
- **Nancy Duffy, DNP, RN, CEN, CNE**
- **Gayenell Magwood, PhD, RN**
- **Martina Mueller, PhD**
- **Sheila Smith, PhD, RN**
- **Deborah Williamson, DHA, RN, CNM**
- **Ruth Conner, PhD, RN**
- **Annemarie Donato, MSN, FNP**
- **Sally Kennedy, PhD, APRN, FNP-C, CNE**

Donna Gill, DNP, FNP-C, AFN, joined the faculty of the College of Nursing in July 2011 as an instructor. Dr. Gill is a Board Certified family nurse practitioner and advanced forensic nurse. Her major areas of research and practice are child abuse with expertise in abusive head trauma and injury/violence prevention.

Prior to moving to Charleston, Dr. Gill opened Foothills Family Health Care in Forest City, NC with a mission to provide care to lower income patients. In 2002, Dr. Gill co-founded St. Gabriel’s Wellness Clinic in Rutherfordton, NC, which provided free care to indigent patients.

While in North Carolina, Dr. Gill served as a medical consultant to the Child Fatality Task Force and Community Child Protection Team. She was appointed as one of three medical examiners for Rutherford County, being the only female non-physician appointee in the county’s history.

Dr. Gill has received numerous awards in her career including the North Carolina Nurse Practitioner of the Year. She is an active member of the American Academy of Forensic Science, the American Academy of Forensic Examiners, International Association of Forensic Nursing, and currently provides consultation services to the Charleston County Coroners’ Office. Dr. Gill also provides expert witness testimony regarding child abuse and issues related to the welfare of children.

Dr. Gill received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Florida International University; a Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) degree from Case Western Reserve University and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.

Joanna Gill, DNP, FNP-C, AFN, joined the faculty of the College of Nursing in July 2011 as an instructor. Dr. Gill is a Board Certified family nurse practitioner and advanced forensic nurse. Her major areas of research and practice are child abuse with expertise in abusive head trauma and injury/violence prevention.

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College of Nursing Department Chair, **Teresa Kelechi, PhD, GCNS-BC, WCCH** sees this faculty accomplishment as a reflection of the success of the College’s development and mentorship plan.

“One of our objectives for organizational culture in the College is to promote the mentorship, scholarship and leadership activities of faculty. Our comprehensive faculty development plan guides the potential of individual faculty in their multifaceted role—teacher, scholar, professional, public servant—through orientation, mentoring, ongoing development, and shared faculty governance. This year, distinct activities were implemented for multiple facets of faculty life with an emphasis on developing the leadership and scholarship capacity of faculty,” says Dr. Kelechi.
In the summer 2011, the College of Nursing said goodbye to two of its senior faculty, Drs. Phyllis Bonham and Mary Martin, as they announced their retirements.

**Phyllis Bonham, PhD, RN, CWOCN, DPNAP, FAAN** began her tenure on faculty in the College of Nursing in 1981. Dr. Bonham was the Administrator of the Sea Island (1983-85) and Doctor’s Home Health Agencies (1985-87). Board certified in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing (CWOCN), Dr. Bonham has maintained an independent practice since 1984 as a WOC nurse specialist providing direct care, education, and consultation services to several hospitals and home health care agencies in Charleston. In 1994, she developed and implemented the Wound Care Education Program in the College of Nursing, which is accredited by the WOCN to prepare post-baccalaureate nurses for specialty practice in wound care nursing.

Presently, Dr. Bonham is the past-president of the WOCN Society, a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, a distinguished practitioner in the National Academies of Practice, a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, and a member of the American Nurses Association.

Throughout her career, Dr. Bonham has received numerous awards including the 1999 Southeast Region WOCN ET Nurse of the Year. In 2007, she was the scholarship honoree for the Southeast WOCN Region. She also received the 2001 and 2007 *Journal of Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing* (JWOCN) publishers’ manuscript award, and was selected for the Palmetto Gold Top 100 Nurses Award for Nursing Excellence in South Carolina for 2007. She was recently named an outstanding MUSC College of Nursing alumnus for 2010.

As for her retirement, Dr. Bonham says, “I will continue to be an advocate for nursing, the College of Nursing and MUSC. To a limited extent, I will provide some consulting services and have plans to write a book. I also hope to do some traveling to see family and friends. Finally, I look forward to a change in pace and discovering other opportunities to be of service to nursing and the community.”

In recognition of her distinguished service to MUSC, she served as a colonel for 8 years as the director of the Medical Liaison Office, Office of the Chief, Air Force Reserve, The Pentagon, Washington, DC. Her principal responsibilities were to propose medical and health policy, analyze health policies and respond to congressional, White House and internal inquiries regarding health benefit issues of Air Force Reservists and their families. Dr. Martin has served as a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Military Medicine* and *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care*. She was a research assistant on a major grant to study the impact of military service on women.

Dr. Martin is a Virginia Henderson Fellow with Sigma Theta Tau International, and is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Nurses Association, and the Association of Military Surgeons of the US and will continue to participate with those organizations, as well as continue to serve as a peer reviewer for a number of journals, both nursing and inter-professional. She is also the CEO of ECHO Consulting Group, and continues to be a member of the Board of Advisers for American Defense International, a lobbying group in Washington, DC. Dr. Martin will continue to participate as a member of the College of Nursing research team studying lateral violence and disruptive behavior.

**Mary Martin, PhD, RN** joined the College of Nursing faculty in January 2005. She has served as the content expert for nursing administration and the health policy courses. Prior to her appointment at MUSC, she served as a colonel for 8 years as the director of the Medical Liaison Office, Office of the Chief, Air Force Reserve, The Pentagon, Washington, DC. Her principal responsibilities were to propose medical and health policy, analyze health policies and respond to congressional, White House and internal inquiries regarding health benefit issues of Air Force Reservists and their families. Dr. Martin has served as a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Military Medicine* and *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care*. She was a research assistant on a major grant to study the impact of military service on women.

Dr. Martin is a Virginia Henderson Fellow with Sigma Theta Tau International, and is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Nurses Association, and the Association of Military Surgeons of the US and will continue to participate with those organizations, as well as continue to serve as a peer reviewer for a number of journals, both nursing and inter-professional. She is also the CEO of ECHO Consulting Group, and continues to be a member of the Board of Advisers for American Defense International, a lobbying group in Washington, DC. Dr. Martin will continue to participate as a member of the College of Nursing research team studying lateral violence and disruptive behavior.
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to all of our faculty who published this year. Sixty percent of faculty published one or more articles in a peer-reviewed journal.

>> Chapters


Journals


Egan, B. & Laken, M. (2011). Is blood pressure control to less than 140/less than 90 mmHg in 50% of all hypertensive patients as good as we can do in the USA: or is this as good as it gets? Current Opinion in Cardiology, 26(4), 300-307.


ELAINE AMELLA, PhD, GNP-BC, FAAN
- The Journal of Clinical Nursing (U.K.), Regional Editor for North America
- The Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging (France), Editorial Board
- Geriatric Nursing, Editorial Board
- Journal of Gerontological Nursing, Editorial Board

SHARON BOND, PhD, APRN, BC, CNM
- Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health, Associate Editor

PHYLLIS BONHAM, PhD, RN, CWOCN
- ADVANCE for Nurses, Editorial Advisory Board and Reviewer
- Journal Wound, Ostomy Continence Nurses Society, Consultant Editor

BARBARA EDLUND, PhD, RN, ANP
- Journal of Gerontological Nursing, Geropharmacology Section Editor

TERESA KELECHI, PhD, GCNS-BC, CWCN
- Journal of Vascular Nursing, Editorial Board
- Online Journal of Nursing, Editorial Board

SUSAN NEWMAN, PhD, RN
- Journal of Nursing Scholarship, Editorial Board - Progress in Community Health Partnerships

GAIL STUART, PhD, RN, FAAN
- The Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice (U.K.) Editorial Board
- Indian Journal of Psychiatric Nursing (India), Editorial Board
- The Scientific World JOURNAL, Editorial Board
CONVOCATION

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**SCHOLARSHIPS NEWS**

**MUSC MEDICAL CENTER SCHOLARSHIP**

Elizabeth Kelly, a first semester student enrolled in the BSN degree program, was selected to receive the $25,000 MUSC Medical Center Scholarship based on her grades from prerequisite coursework. Ms. Kelly is a stellar student and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

**ROPER-ST. FRANCIS PATRON SCHOLARSHIP**

Kristen Green is the recipient of a $25,000 Roper-St. Francis Patron Scholarship. Ms. Green completed her associate’s degree from Trident Technical College with a perfect 4.0 GPA, and is a first semester student in the BSN degree program.

**PROVOST’S SCHOLARSHIPS**

Anna Calhoun and Kathleen Giarla were selected to receive a $3,000 Provost’s Scholarship. Ms. Calhoun is a third semester student in the BSN program. She has a previous degree from the University of South Carolina, where she graduated magna cum laude.

Ms. Giarla is a PhD student and distinguished herself through various leadership roles throughout her tenure in the College’s BSN program.

**CECILIA PENG SCHOLARSHIP**

Devyn Fiel, MSN student, has been selected to receive the Cecilia Peng Scholarship that is awarded to an operating room nurse who is continuing their education. Mr. Fiel is currently employed by the Medical University Hospital in the main operating room.

**EARL B. HIGGINS SCHOLARSHIP**

Bridgette Copeland Burch is the recipient of the Earl B. Higgins Scholarship and a third semester BSN student. She previously earned a bachelors degree from Charleston Southern University where she was a scholar-athlete and named to the Big-South All Conference Team.

**MUSC STUDENT LEADERSHIP SOCIETY**

Debbie Bryant was selected for the MUSC Student Leadership Society. Dr. Bryant graduated from the College with an MSN degree and was among the first graduates of the DNP program. As the assistant director of cancer prevention, control, and outreach for Hollings Cancer Center, she is responsible for safe and effective cancer prevention, screening, and follow-up care ensuring that practice standards are met.

**MARIANNE T. CHITTY SCHOLARSHIP**

First semester BSN student, Sylvia Panos received the Marianne T. Chitty Scholarship. Ms. Panos completed her prerequisite coursework at Florence-Darlington Technical College.

**SARA PIECHNIK SCHOLARSHIP**

Susan Cheek-Williams has received the Sarah Piechnik Scholarship. Ms. Cheek-Williams graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a MSN and is currently enrolled in the post-MSN DNP degree program with an anticipated graduation date of May 2012.

**GILBERT INDUCTED INTO NGNA**

For her outstanding leadership in gerontological nursing and distinguished contributions to the field, Sarah Gilbert (PhD 2008 cohort) was inducted as a Fellow in the National Gerontological Nursing Association in October 2011. Ms. Gilbert teaches at Radford University School of Nursing where she is the lead faculty for gerontological nursing.

**RUTH JACQUI SKUDLAREK SCHOLARSHIP**

Altonya McMillan has been selected to receive the Ruth Jaqui Skudlarek Scholarship. Ms. McMillan is pursuing her BSN degree. She previously graduated from Georgetown University and also earned an International MBA degree from the University of South Carolina.
Six Doctor of Nursing Practice students have been selected to receive HRSA funding for the 2011-12 academic year. Selected students are Frank Akpati, Sonia Campbell, Journey Henderson, J’Vonne Hunter, Njideka Osuala, and Grace King. The overall goal of this program is to produce primary care advanced practice nurses for rural and underserved areas in South Carolina and the nation.

In the third funding cycle of the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) New Careers in Nursing program, five incoming BSN students have been selected to receive a one-time $10,000 scholarship. Selected students are Shaniqua Alston, Janette Figueroa, Aminah Fraser-Khan, Nadia Marie Hall, and Jonathan Hardy. Five additional students will be selected from the January 2012 cohort.

The RWJ Foundation joined with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to create this program to help alleviate the nursing shortage and increase the diversity of nursing professionals. The program provides funding to college graduates without nursing degrees who have been admitted into an accelerated baccalaureate program. Qualified recipients are from underrepresented groups in nursing or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Heather Anderson, a PhD student, and Jennifer Sedlak and My Uong, both BSN students, were selected by the MUSC Women’s Club to receive scholarships. This organization supports MUSC through volunteerism and by awarding scholarships to selected students in the six colleges.

Ms. Anderson has been teaching for several years and works part-time as a family nurse practitioner in Concord, NC. Ms. Sedlak is a second degree student who holds a BA from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Ms. Uong was born in Saigon, Vietnam but grew up in San Jose, CA. She has a passion for nursing, particularly in the community and public health settings.

Kris Elmore and Ashleigh McCall, both second semester BSN students, have been selected to receive scholarships from the Tri-County Black Nurses Association.

Community-minded, Ms. Elmore spent one semester abroad in Granada, Spain and has extensive volunteer experience. She also was chosen for the MUSC Presidential Scholars program.

Ms. McCall has a previous baccalaureate degree from South Carolina State University, and a MHA from MUSC. She hopes to earn a DNP following the completion of her BSN degree.

Congratulations to Anna Calhoun, Kris Elmore, and Mary Gosselin from the BSN degree program, and Toni Coaxum and Michelle Crumbley, DNP students, for receiving a South Carolina Nurses Care Scholarship. MUSC was well represented, receiving three of the thirteen undergraduate scholarships and two of the five graduate scholarships.

MUSC WOMEN’S CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

WHY JOIN?

Did you know a strong alumni network enhances the value of your MUSC degree? Many MUSC College of Nursing alumni have already discovered that the best way to stay connected and show their pride to MUSC and the nursing profession is to join the Alumni Association. Join your fellow alumni and become a member today!

The MUSC College of Nursing Alumni Association membership is only $20 per year. Persons over the age of 60 are eligible for a reduced rate of $10 per year. Life memberships are available for $400.

Join or renew online at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/alumni/, or join by calling (843) 792-7979 or (888) 202-9306.
DEMONBREUN SELECTED FOR PAUL AMBROSE SCHOLARSHIP

This past June against a backdrop of national and world politics, and with healthcare reform at the forefront of many American’s agendas, DNP student Kahlil Demonbreun was privileged to be one of six nurses selected nationally to participate in the 10th Paul Ambrose Scholars Symposium held in Washington, DC. This year the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) along with the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), brought 46 talented scholars of nursing, pharmacy, allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, and physician assistant schools to the nation’s capital to provide the participants with non-traditional interactive public health and health promotion training. Within a framework focused primarily on prevention and population healthcare, for four days participants engaged in lectures, group discussions and an array of networking activities aimed at enhancing an inter-collaborative disciplinary model for addressing some of healthcare’s most challenging public health issues to include disparities, nutrition, population focused change and the social determinants of health. A requirement of participation is the expectation that scholars develop and implement a health promotion or disease prevention project at their institutions or in their communities for which they will receive a $200 reimbursable micro-grant.

Speaking about his experience Mr. Demonbreun reports, “I was honored to represent the profession and the College of Nursing and I experienced numerous highlights worthy of discussion. Aside from the invaluable information gained from the presentations, the three events of greatest impact were meeting Dr. Ambrose’s parents (whose mother is a nurse), and meeting and sharing healthcare dialogue with Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA, the current U.S. Surgeon General, and Leslie C. Cooper, PhD, MPH, BSN, RN, FAAN, Extramural Program Official and Senior Nurse Advisor with the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. Beyond the mere pleasure of sharing lunch with Dr. Cooper, a greater delight was discovering that our nursing careers began at the same diploma nursing program. Collectively, these experiences served as subtle reminders that relationships, networking and mentoring are essential features as our academic and professional careers evolve toward nursing practice leadership.”

The symposium is posthumously named for Paul W. Ambrose, MD, MPH, a rising star in the field of prevention and public health who tragically lost his life on September 11, 2001. At the time of his death, Dr. Ambrose worked for the APTR and the DHHS, serving as the seventh Luther Terry Fellow. During his fellowship, Dr. Ambrose was the point person for multi-agency collaborations addressing public health issues such as obesity, healthy lifestyles, medical school curricula and health disparities. Committed to caring for the underserved and promoting public health, he pursued these goals with extraordinary talent, resourcefulness and energy. His vision laid the original groundwork to create a comprehensive student leadership symposium to prepare health professions students to address impending public health challenges. Today, the symposium embodies his ideas and the path he chose guides future health professionals to careers in prevention and public health.
Many thanks to the alumni, parents, friends, students, faculty, and staff whose gifts have generated much needed funds for some of the College of Nursing’s most critical needs: scholarships and financial aid, building renovation, new technology, and much, much more. Your contributions go right to work to make a difference in the lives of our students and future nurse leaders. The College of Nursing would like to thank everyone listed below for their generous gifts given between June 30, 2010 and July 1, 2011.

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THINK LIKE A TREE by Karen I. Shragg

Soak up the sun
Affirm life’s magic
Be graceful in the wind
Stand tall after a storm
Feel refreshed after it rains
Grow strong without notice
Be prepared for each season
Provide shelter to strangers
Hang tough through a cold spell
Emerge renewed at the first signs of spring
Stay deeply rooted while reaching for the sky
Be still long enough to hear your own leaves rustling.
IRA Rollover Gifts
The 2010 extension of the IRA Rollover provision allows donors over the age of 70 ½ to tap their Individual Retirement Accounts in order to make tax favored gifts of up to $100,000 per year to qualified charities without federal tax impact. Better yet, the gift will qualify for your required IRA distribution, thereby lowering your taxable income.

This provision is extended only to gifts completed prior to or during 2011 and applies only to gifts from Individual Retirement Accounts—NOT from 401(k) plans or other tax-favored retirement planning vehicles.

With only a few weeks until the end of the year, now is the time to give a gift that will benefit the mission of the MUSC College of Nursing and the nursing profession. This gift also will provide you with a tax deduction.

Making a gift from your IRA requires special instructions. For details, contact Laurie Scott, director of development, at (843) 792-8421 or (800) 810-6872.

To learn more about IRA rollover gifts, visit www.muscgiving.org.
Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.

The MUSC College of Nursing is educating nurses to change lives by offering a range of academic programs including:

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