The Galaxy of Nursing Education
The Accelerated BSN, MSN, DNP & PhD programs at the College of Nursing
98% Pass rate on 2008 NCLEX

42% increase in NIH funded grants

90% PhD graduation rate

77% of faculty are doctorally prepared

132 clinical faculty

40 tenure track faculty

358 students enrolled in fall 2009

3,584 student simulated learning experiences last year

100% increase in research grant submissions

350 community-based practice learning experiences

Source: The MUSC College of Nursing 2008-09
At the MUSC College of Nursing, the center of our universe is our core mission of education. In this issue of Lifelines we are using the imagery of space to capture our many exciting educational frontiers, and the heavenly ways in which we are preparing a health care workforce for the future.

Using this analogy, we view education as the sun. Our other important missions of research, clinical practice, and community engagement are our primary planets, each with their own beautiful moons. All of these planetary missions revolve around education in elegant concentric circles. Together they create the Force Field of our College that patterns all of our activities, converging, intersecting and releasing an incredible amount of energy.

We believe that there is tremendous power in education—much like the power of the moon on the tides.

As MUSC is the only university in South Carolina that is part of an academic health sciences center, we are on the cutting edge of health care practice, education and discovery. In addition, we are the only accelerated baccalaureate degree nursing program in the state, and we graduate the largest number of masters and doctoral students. Other ways in which we excel are highlighted in the stars depicted on the opposite page.

But numbers don’t tell the entire story. Yes, we are about measured outcomes, but we also are about people as rising stars, and processes that act as our gravitational pull to higher achievement. So in these pages you will read about students, faculty and alumni whose backgrounds enrich our work and inspire our lives. Most importantly we realize that for stars to cast any real light, they must be joined with others in a galaxy; otherwise, all they can do is twinkle. Thus we are focused not only on promoting individual performance, but also on creating a true MUSC College of Nursing Culture of Excellence.

Finally, we also are attending to those processes and larger forces that dominate our universe. We are exceptionally proud of our use of innovative technologies to enhance learning. While we were pioneers of online programs of study and the use of simulation, we have taken all this to new heights in a reconceptualized multimodal model of nursing education.

I can attest that this work is as breathtaking as glancing up on a clear Charleston night and envisioning the untold secrets of the heavens. And so I am very pleased to invite you to turn the page and immerse yourself in our MUSC Galaxy of Nursing Education.

Gail W. Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Distinguished University Professor
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“When Sasha – ‘our little precious pea’ – was just three months old, she was hospitalized with life-threatening meningitis. Very dangerous. The doctors did a terrific job... But frankly, it was the nurses that were there with us when she had to get a spinal tap, and all sorts of things that were just bringing me to tears. Fortunately, Sasha recovered from the meningitis with the help of her nurses.”

“I learned more about myself by being an RN than anything else I’ve ever done.”

“One of the most critical challenges facing America today is the increasing shortage of nurses. Due to the retirement of the baby boomer generation and Americans living longer, the need for quality nursing care is going to grow exponentially. Now is the time to incentivize and expand nursing faculty and create more educational opportunities for those interested in a career in nursing. The nursing profession best represents the convergence of medical science and human compassion.”
“My discovery as a patient is that the hospital is held together, glued together, enabled to function as an organism, by the nurses and nobody else. I am all for the nurses. If they want their professional status enhanced and their pay increased, if they infuriate doctors by their claims to be equal professionals, if they ask for the moon, I am on their side.”

~ Lewis Thomas, MD

“Before I became first lady, I worked in a hospital and one of my jobs was to work to develop volunteerism in the hospital and bring it out to communities. One of the most important things I learned while working in the hospital is nurses are critical to the health-care system in the United States.”

First Lady
Michelle Obama

“Nurses are very special people... I know I was raised by one.”

Darius Rucker*, Musical Artist

“The trained nurse has become one of the great blessings of humanity, taking a place beside the physician and the priest.”

~ Sir William Osler, MD

* Darius Rucker photo credit: Chuck Arlund
“Education is the acquisition of the art of utilization of knowledge.”

~ Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947)

Image Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech
This is a very exciting time for the MUSC College of Nursing.

We are the only nursing program in South Carolina that is part of an academic health sciences center, and we offer the only 16-month accelerated baccalaureate degree program in the state.

Our MSN, DNP and PhD programs of study are offered entirely online, thus providing greater access for nurses in rural, underserved parts of our state and the country to have the opportunity to advance their knowledge without having to leave their communities where they are so badly needed.

Enrollment in the College of Nursing is at an all time high. We continue to attract a diverse and academically accomplished student body. Of our 358 students, 10 percent are male, and a total of 23 percent are representative of all minority groups.

More than 70 percent of our Accelerated BSN students have a previous degree, and for many, nursing also is a second career. This exceptionally bright and dynamic group enters the program at an average age of 26, earned an overall 3.4 GPA in their prior programs of study, and scored an average of 25 on the ACT and 1170 on the SAT exams. These students come to MUSC from across the state, representing 21 different counties in South Carolina, and across the country from 11 states.

A complement of 40 accomplished, full-time faculty, 77 percent of whom are doctorally prepared, utilize innovative teaching strategies and the latest technology to engage students and guide their learning experiences. Students also have access to over 100 clinical faculty who are experts in their specialty, and provide excellent patient care on a daily basis in a variety of settings.

The College of Nursing building houses an 11,000 square foot, state-of-the-art simulation laboratory that is part of a larger statewide simulation network called Health Care Simulation South Carolina, and is under the umbrella of Health Sciences South Carolina. More than $900,000 in sophisticated simulation technology, including more than 50 advanced adult and infant simulators, is used to provide clinical training to nursing and other students at MUSC.

Associate Dean for Academics, Sally Stroud, EdD, APRN, BC stated, “The focus for all of our programs is to provide relevant, evidence-based, leading edge knowledge through effective and efficient use of innovative instructional processes, technology and simulation. The faculty is dedicated to producing future nursing leaders who will be responsible for ensuring the health and safety of a wide variety of patients, families and communities.”

“Education is the acquisition of the art of utilization of knowledge.”

~ Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947)
A Formula for Success

In 2008, the College of Nursing achieved a 98 percent overall NCLEX pass rate for first-time test takers, far exceeding the pass rate for South Carolina (87.3 percent) and the nation (86.7 percent). Nancy Duffy, MSN, RN, CEN, Director of Undergraduate Programs, attributes this success to the willingness of College of Nursing faculty to work one-on-one with students in order to ensure success. “Every student is assigned an advisor, providing an opportunity for mentoring into the professional role. The College is rich in student resources, such as the MUSC Writing Center and Center for Academic Excellence,” says Ms. Duffy.

Being part of an academic health sciences center affords students the opportunity to learn in an interprofessional environment, thus preparing them for a smooth transition into the professional work force. College of Nursing students are introduced to interprofessional education beginning in the first semester, working with College of Pharmacy students on problem-solving issues with drug administration. An Interprofessional Day is scheduled annually on campus and is attended by students from each of MUSC’s six colleges.

“Our focus is to produce not only a clinically competent new graduate, but also an effective team member and a leader at the bedside,” says Ms. Duffy. Students learn their clinical skills through the use of state-of-the-art clinical simulation from an experienced group of clinical faculty who know the curriculum and are able to maximize the learning experience. Ms. Duffy reports that while many programs use simulators to demonstrate how to perform a clinical procedure, the experience for College of Nursing students is a more involved simulation immersion.
that directly connects course content with clinical application. According to Ms. Duffy, “We are immediately able to reinforce the information students learn in the classroom by replicating that clinical experience in the simulation lab.”

Students Excel in Honors Research Practicum

Accelerated BSN students who have an interest in pursuing future graduate education have the opportunity to enroll in the Honors Research Practicum beginning their second-semester. It is designed to provide hands-on research experience.

The first semester John Welton, PhD, RN, taught the course, he had intended to give a mid-term exam that would comprise 40 percent of the course grade. The students, however, approached him to ask if he would consider holding a journal club each week so that they could focus on the articles that supported their research. “They took the reins, and it worked extremely well,” explains Dr. Welton. “The initiative they took is representative of the quality of the students and their overall ability to succeed. In fact, the class became almost a doctoral-level seminar class. I had set the bar fairly high for them, and they surpassed it.”

Another impressive course outcome directly impacted clinical practice in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Medical University Hospital Authority. BSN students, Bresney Crowell and Heather Cheek, conducted an observational study in the NICU where infection rates had recently gone up. The students spent a great deal of time on the unit—rotating across all shifts. They took notes on how they observed medical and nursing staff performing routine procedures. For example, while changing a diaper on an infant an alarm sounds. Rather than finishing the diaper change and discarding the glove, the staff turned off the alarm with the gloved hand, and resumed changing the diaper. It was discovered during these observations that minor instances such as this were causing cross contamination on the unit. The students presented their observations to the medical and nursing staff in the NICU at the end of the semester, the staff then took this data and implemented changes on the unit. Today, the NICU reports a nearly zero infection rate. The patient’s length of stay also has been reduced, thus reducing treatment costs.

This seemingly simple research project performed by undergraduate nursing students enrolled in an honors research practicum had a significant and powerful impact on the quality of care being delivered in the NICU, patient outcomes, and reducing treatment costs. “The students in this course have all been exceptional, very motivated and self-directed,” says Dr. Welton. “Quite frankly, I’m ecstatic with the way the they have performed. It speaks highly of the caliber of the students we have at the College.”

Previous Education: BS in physical education with a concentration in health and wellness; The Citadel

Previous Employment: As a student at The Citadel, Kedron was a leader in the classroom, on the basketball court, and as a cadet. Kedron was a Dean’s List student while playing Varsity Basketball for four years. He also served as a Platoon Leader. Following graduation, Kedron was offered a position at Berkeley High School as a guidance counselor. He also worked as an educator for Heritage Community Services, a non-profit organization which teaches character education for selected students. One of his references for admission to the nursing program wrote, “Kedron’s character, integrity, and work ethic is an inspiration to all who know him. He is mature and respectful—he will be a tremendous asset to health care.”

Why did you choose a career in nursing?
A volunteer experience with United Health Post-Acute Care Center in Moncks Corner, SC cemented my interest in the nursing profession and its diverse opportunities. Working with the patients at United Health Post-Acute Care was a joyful experience, particularly getting to know the patients and their families. It helped me get a better understanding of the daily responsibilities of nursing.

Why did you choose to pursue your BSN at MUSC?
After conducting extensive research on nursing schools and the programs they offered, I chose the MUSC College of Nursing because of the 16-month, accelerated BSN program. Having the opportunity to meet the staff in the College of Nursing also made a significant impact on my decision—their number one concern is to make sure that you are equipped to be the best nurse that you can be. The instructors in the program show that they really care and they will ensure that you learn the information that you need.

What are your plans after graduation?
I hope to continue my nursing education at the graduate level with the goal of becoming a family nurse practitioner so that I can return to my hometown of Moncks Corner and give back to my community.
Expanding the Clinical Cosmos

The DNP & MSN Programs

In 2009, the College of Nursing received full approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program beginning in the fall 2009 semester. The DNP program has two entry options: post-baccalaureate or a post-masters’ option for advanced practice nurses. It is offered entirely online. With the development of the new DNP curriculum, the existing MSN curriculum has been updated and revised. This new MSN curriculum also is offered online with on-site immersion experiences for the three clinical tracks: adult nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner and pediatric nurse practitioner. In addition, the Masters in Nursing Education and Nursing Administration continue to be offered as online programs.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has set a target date for moving the current level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice from the master’s degree to the doctorate level (DNP) by the year 2015. According to AACN’s DNP Fact Sheet, DNP curricula build on traditional master’s programs by providing education in evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and systems leadership, among other key areas. It is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice and offers an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs.

As of 2009, AACN reports that there are 158 doctoral programs in nursing offered in the United States, with 93 of these programs offering the DNP degree. Currently only 72 schools in the United States offer the BSN to doctoral degree.

A unique aspect of our DNP program is that it is offered entirely online, thus allowing students to study while continuing to work and develop advanced practice skills in their current practice site. This is a particularly valuable advantage to nurses from rural, underserved communities where their absence while seeking traditional education would cause a significant hardship in their community. The DNP students will travel to campus for three to four day clinical immersions where they will perform hands-on patient care in the simulation laboratory and other clinical experiences that are only available to them on campus. These brief visits to campus also allow for collegial interaction with faculty, DNP classmates, and other interprofessional students on campus.

The DNP curriculum is designed based on the principle of authentic learning. Utilizing this model of education, faculty no longer supply students information through lectures and traditional methods, instead faculty teach the students how to find the resources they need in order to grow independently, thus empowering them to succeed in their practice beyond the completion of this program. Students have the ability to learn their nursing specialty in their own way, based on their individual learning needs, thus customizing their own advanced practice nursing education.

Clinical Leaders of Tomorrow

The DNP program prepares graduates to use research knowledge and methods to create, implement and evaluate practice interventions, health delivery systems and clinical teaching. DNP graduates will assume key roles in establishing national practice guidelines and translating clinical practice trials. Robin Bissinger, PhD, RNC, NNP, Director of Graduate Programs, states, “The goal of the program is to assist the
DNP student to gain expertise in the practice specialty and provide them with the tools to solve practice problems and inform practice direction.”

The future for these new nursing leaders is as seemingly endless as the cosmos. The stage is set for advanced practice nurses to have a profound impact on the provision of health care to currently underserved populations in the US. Health care reform will bring new opportunities to the forefront for Nurse Practitioners who are highly trained and poised to provide high quality health care at a good value. “DNP prepared nurses will have the ability to implement innovations in clinical practice using evidence-based interventions to change health care delivery models. They are the leaders of our future health care system,” says Dr. Bissinger.

While the DNP program is just admitting the first cohort of students, faculty are continuing to refine the curriculum. Both Dr. Bissinger and Gail Gilden, ScD, RN, Director of the PhD in Nursing Program, agree that plans for the future must include finding ways for the DNP and PhD students to learn together, see each other as resources and collectively draw from their research and clinical knowledge base to effect change and improve global health.

**DNP Spotlight**

**Debbie Bryant**

Previous Education: BSN, MSN; MUSC College of Nursing

Current Position: Director, Outreach and Patient Support Services, MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. Oversees the Patient and Family Resource Center, The Looking Glass shop, pastoral care, the genetic counseling program and the volunteer program.

Professional Appointments: South Carolina Cancer Alliance, American Cancer Society, Hollings Cancer Center Disparity Advisory Board, Hollings Cancer Center Outreach Committee (Chair)

Research Support: Principal Investigator, Breast Health for Life: Annual Re-screening and Education Initiative, funded by the Susan G. Komen Foundation – Lowcountry Affiliation Award Principal Investigator, Mobile Mammography Screening for Underserved Communities, funded by the Susan G. Komen Foundation – Lowcountry Affiliation Award Principal Investigator, Increase Quit Attempts Using Proven Cessation Methods, funded by South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative – Community Partnership Grant

In Debbie's Own Words

*Why did you choose to pursue a DNP degree at MUSC?*

I plan to use the knowledge gained in this program along with my lifetime experiences and skills to extend my leadership role to improve the poor health statistics that haunt the state of South Carolina and our nation. Transforming health outcomes requires not only significant human and financial resources, but also a significant shift in health policy. Addressing healthy communities also requires comprehensive policy changes in other critical areas such as environmental issues and human rights issues. Gandhi’s words inspire me, “You must be the change you want to see in the world.”

Additionally, I am interested in educating the next generation of nurse leaders. In order to be ready to meet the needs of an ever-changing health care population, we must graduate a diverse, culturally competent work force of nurses knowledgeable in evidence-based practice. I believe this program will allow me to take advantage of unique opportunities to shape health care practices at the academic level.
The PhD Program

The PhD in Nursing program is offered entirely online and is designed to prepare nurse scientists for a lifetime of intellectual inquiry through creative scholarship and research. Our graduates enjoy careers in academic, social, governmental, and health care organizational settings. The program requires students to critically analyze and develop research, educational, policy and administrative strategies that address the needs of both individuals and communities. Our courses focus on the health care needs of vulnerable populations and the development of community partnerships in delivering health care.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing there are 112 research focused doctoral nursing programs in the US. With an enrollment of 48 students, our PhD in Nursing program is one of the largest in the country. It also boasts one of the highest graduation rates with more than 90 percent of our students completing their doctoral degree, while similar programs average around 60 percent graduation rates. Gail Gilden, ScD, RN, Director of the PhD in Nursing Program, attributes this remarkable success to the fact that our faculty is committed to ensuring the success of each student by providing one-on-one mentorship.

The success of the PhD in Nursing program has established it as one of the premier programs in the country. This national reputation, coupled with the fact that the program is offered entirely online, has attracted 70 percent of the current enrollment in the program from across the country, with students hailing from 17 different states.

Similar to our DNP program, the PhD in Nursing program offers a BSN point of entry, which is rare among PhD programs. Our PhD students enjoy the ability to be flexible in scheduling their coursework. Students can choose to complete coursework either on a full-time or a part-time basis, or change from full-time to part-time during the course of study based on life and work circumstances.

Scholarly Outcomes

In an outcome-driven world, our PhD students excel. The scholarship of our PhD students is outstanding as is evident in their publications. In addition to these publications in peer reviewed journals, during the 2008-09 academic year 18 students presented at national or regional conferences, and six students presented at local forums. Seven students received either continued or new research funding. Three students used the compendium of publications as the final dissertation format, increasing the dissemination of their findings with at least three submitted or published articles.

2008-09 PUBLICATIONS


Previous Education: BSN, MSN; University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Current Position: Faculty member at UNC Wilmington teaching courses in health and physical assessment and gerontology. Also practices clinically as a nurse practitioner in geriatric primary care/long-term care.

Academic Honors: Melissa received a highly competitive $100,000 scholarship for her research leading to improvements in the quality of care for elders. The 2-year pre-doctoral Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity scholarship, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies, is supporting her doctoral training and helping her to generate student-interest in careers in geriatric nursing. In addition, she is a North Carolina Nurse Educator of Tomorrow recipient, and MUSC’s Advanced Education Nurse Trainee recipient.

Professional Accomplishments: She attributes her receipt of these scholarships partially to the development of podcasts that assist educators with teaching students geriatric health care concepts. The podcasts help students to better understand the ideas associated with geriatrics and are listened to prior to class, while in class they discuss case studies that reinforce the concepts to which they have already been introduced. Since their release on April 1, 2009, the podcasts have received 435 visits from the US, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Portugal, and Japan, and they were recently featured in the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education’s August 2009 newsletter. Six more podcasts are in review, and once finalized, can be found at www.ConsultGeriRN.org—a huge powerhouse for dissemination.

Why did you choose to pursue your PhD in Nursing at MUSC?

I chose MUSC to work with my mentor, Dr. Elaine Amella. In addition, the online program offered the flexibility I needed when juggling full-time work, full-time school, and family responsibilities. Most of the PhD students are balancing all of these things and I did not know how close a cohort could be, even when separated by time and geographic distance. The cadre of MUSC PhD faculty are progressive, supportive, and leaders in doctoral education. I would highly recommend the program to anyone!
Light Years Ahead

Multimodal Education:
Beyond Online Learning and Simulation

Image Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech
Space! The Final Frontier. College of Nursing faculty have donned their astronaut suits and are leading MUSC’s charge to conquer space – cyber space that is. The College of Nursing was the first of MUSC’s six colleges to place programs of study (MSN, PhD, and DNP degrees) entirely online. We are also the leader in our state in using online learning technology to educate nurses.

Online education? That’s old news you say. Everybody’s doing it. Turn on your television and there is the girl telling you that you can get your degree in your PJs. But are all online programs the same? Absolutely not. What, you ask, makes the College of Nursing’s online programs different? Better than the rest? It is because our faculty think outside the box and are creative and accountable in their approach to delivering online education. On these pages you will see some examples of the innovative uses of technology and other teaching strategies that are being used to keep our students fully engaged in the learning process, excelling in their scholarly pursuits, and successfully applying their new skills in their practice.

Ensuring Quality Online Education

The College of Nursing reaffirmed its commitment to delivering the highest quality online nursing education in 2009 by hiring Sally Kennedy, PhD, RN, FNP-C, as the Director of Online Education. Even though many schools boast that their programs are offered online, very few have dedicated faculty positions that oversee and ensure the success of those programs. The College of Nursing once again stands out in this arena with the creation of this faculty role. “The position of Director of Online Education for the College of Nursing is a dream come true for me. The position combines my 40 years of clinical nursing experience with my passion for authentic learning strategies, such as problem-based learning, and online education,” remarked Dr. Kennedy. She further stated that, “it is my intent to support an experienced and dedicated faculty in implementing learner-centered, evidence-based online nursing programs. Online education will explode over the next few years as new technologies are developed and more schools recognize the value of this teaching method. As this happens, it is my goal to assure that MUSC is a major player in this rapidly changing field and that when others look for programs to emulate, they look to MUSC as the leader in innovative online education.”

In addition to this oversight position, the College of Nursing employs three full time technology experts in the Nursing Technology Center who provide support to both faculty and students. The College also has the added support of a centralized university technology department.

Problem Based Learning

PBL is a learner-centered educational method. In PBL learners are progressively given more and more responsibility for their own education and become increasingly independent of the teacher for their education. PBL produces independent learners who can continue to learn on their own in life and in their chosen careers. The responsibility of the teacher in PBL is to provide the educational materials and guidance that facilitate learning.

In PBL learning is based on problems encountered in the real world as a stimulus for learning and for integrating and organizing learned information in ways that will ensure its recall and application to future problems. The problems in PBL are also designed to challenge learners to develop effective problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Source: PBLI.org/Howard Barrows

“Online education will explode over the next few years as new technologies are developed and more schools recognize the value of this teaching method.”

~ Dr. Sally Kennedy

(PBL), a type of authentic learning, as the method by which the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) online courses will be delivered.

In order to achieve true problem based learning, Dr. Sally Kennedy is introducing the concept of authentic learning to the faculty. Designing a course for authentic learning means designing the course backwards for most faculty. In traditional education,
faculty are accustomed to using a linear method when preparing courses – starting with a course description and objectives, selecting a text, and then making course assignments accordingly. Authentic learning requires faculty to look at what the authentic use of the knowledge is going to be, thus looking at outcomes first. Students find that this method of learning makes the information real for them and answers the critically important question, “so what?” in their minds.

**Multimodal Education**

iPods. You Tube. That’s how you listen to your favorite music, or watch a funny video on the Internet, right? True – but these modes of communication, among many others, are great educational tools as well.

Online education is often thought of as static and one dimensional, but it doesn’t have to be that way. College of Nursing faculty are finding new and innovative ways to utilize the latest technology to deliver course content such that is interesting and intuitive to the student. You Tube videos, podcasts, voiced over Power Point presentations, videoconferencing, and clinical immersions using simulation are all ways in which faculty are dispersing course content to students.

With over 30 years of clinical practice, Carole Bennett, PhD, APRN, BC, is not a career academician. In fact, she has spent the past nine years in a successful private practice taking care of the mental health needs of her patients. When she accepted the offer to join the faculty in the College of Nursing, Dr. Bennett was given the book *The Art of Changing the Brain* by James E. Zull as a gift from the Dean. From this book she learned that by utilizing different modalities we are able to engage the entire brain of the student. For instance, a typical classroom lecture only stimulates the prefrontal cortex of the brain. But when other modalities are also employed to deliver content, the entire brain can be engaged and the likelihood of retention of the material increases significantly.

Dr. Bennett felt that nursing education was particularly adaptable to this multimodal concept and thus designed her undergraduate psychiatric nursing course with this idea in mind. She starts with introducing a subject to the students. For instance, she asks if anyone has ever known someone who is depressed, or if they themselves have felt sad. This opens a file in the student’s brain where they recall that memory of the depressed person. Dr. Bennett then adds information to that already existing file about a clinical diagnosis of depression. When the student gets to their clinical site and encounters a patient with depression, the student already has an experience that they can associate with that illness. The student then interacts with the patient, integrates the information they gain from this interaction, and theorizes about this information to explain the patient’s illness. Dr. Bennett describes this as a “wrap around” learning experience. The student is learning a great deal often without realizing that they are learning new things.

Students in Dr. Bennett’s psychiatric nursing class are asked to access a web site that is designed to accompany their textbook, *Principles and Practice of Psychiatric Nursing* (Stuart, 2009), and view a video of a patient describing their mental illness. The students then engage in dialogue among themselves on the class discussion board to confer about possible diagnoses and treatment options for the patient. In another assignment, Dr. Bennett might post a You Tube video of a mentally ill patient for the students to view.

By utilizing this multimodal approach, Dr. Bennett is preparing the students for their careers, not just giving them facts to memorize for the test. In her teaching methods, the cases come alive for the students. Traditionally illnesses have been taught by systems, but people don’t come that way – they are real human beings with complex lives and often have multiple comorbidities.

Dr. Bennett reports that her first semester utilizing this multimodal approach was a great success. When the students get into the clinical arena, they are much more comfortable with patient interactions and the stigma of mental illness has been greatly reduced.

**Clinical Simulation**

The state-of-the-art MUSC Healthcare Simulation Center is located on the first floor of the College of Nursing building. This facility occupies 11,000 square feet of space with 14 training
rooms, a large classroom, and a full staff that includes a part-time director, two simulation specialists and two administrative staff. While other nursing programs use simulation to teach clinical content, the College of Nursing directly connects the simulation module with the course content the student is learning at the time. The patients that the students are caring for in the lab are the same patients they are talking about in the classroom, thus immediately reinforcing the didactic course content.

Nancy Duffy, MSN, RN, CEN, Director of Undergraduate Programs and Director of Simulation Learning states, “The Simulation Lab is the ideal environment to challenge students to problem solve and think on their feet. Contrary to the hospital setting, it doesn’t matter if the drug is administered too fast, or if the blood sugar is 38 and a change in mental status isn’t detected. So what if the simulator takes a turn for the worse? We can view the video during the debriefing and reflect on the ‘why’ of what went wrong. It is much safer to care for an acutely ill simulator prior to the experience with a live patient. And last but not least, this is fun and generally there is always something said or done in the simulation that elicits laughter.”

Students agree that simulation is a great way to hone their clinical skills. Michael Bachmeyer, third semester BSN Student says, “Simulation is a great opportunity for student nurses to fine tune their skills and gain valuable experience, which will help prepare them for a career in nursing.” Similarly, Catherine Caldwell, fourth semester BSN Student explains, “Simulation takes the anxiety out of learning new skills. It’s much less intimidating to learn invasive procedures on Sim Man than on a real person.”

Nancy Duffy, MSN, RN, CEN

Sim Lab
Facts

College of Nursing students participated in 3,584 simulation activities during the 2008-09 academic year.

Seven undergraduate clinical courses utilized simulation modules this past year.

Thirty-five adult and pediatric undergraduate simulation modules have been developed by College of Nursing faculty.

Four full-time College of Nursing faculty, three part-time clinical faculty, and two VA Nursing Academy clinical faculty have been trained to use high fidelity simulation activities.

The MUSC Healthcare Simulation Center received the “Laerdal Centers of Educational Excellence” (LCOEE) endorsement in April 2009. The purpose of the LCOEE membership is to establish a network of centers to support mutual efforts and to break new ground in the field of simulation education.

The MUSC Healthcare Simulation Center received the “American College of Surgeons” (ACS) Level I Accredited Education Institute award in June 2009 to enhance the patient safety and education of our constituents.
America – the land of opportunity. Never has that statement been more true in our nation’s history than now. For example, Barack Obama made history by becoming the first African American to be elected President. Charleston native, Darius Rucker is enjoying phenomenal success on the country music chart—only the second African American, and the first in more than two decades, to do so in the genre.

These are two great examples of minority trail-blazers of our time. But, what groups do you think of when you think of minorities? Would you consider men a minority? If you were discussing the nursing profession, then yes, men are definitely a minority. According to the 2004 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN), men still comprise a very small percentage (5.8 percent) of the total RN population although their numbers have continued to grow. Of the estimated 2.9 million registered nurses in the US, 168,181 are men. This represents a 14.5 percent increase over the 2000 NSSRN estimate and 273.2 percent increase over 1980, when the number of men in the RN population was estimated at only 45,060.

Progress is being made to recruit more men into nursing. Locally in Charleston, 8 percent of the nursing staff at the Medical University Hospital Authority (MUHA) is male, while at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, male RNs total 15 percent. In the College of Nursing, males comprise 10 percent of the total enrollment.

How can we attract more men into nursing as a profession? We asked several of the men in the College that question to get their perspective. The overwhelming response was that there aren’t enough male nursing role models in the public eye.

According to Daniel Gracie, MSN student and informatics nurse at MUHA, “I think that occupation gender stereotypes are still prevalent. In nursing school I participated in a program that allowed us to speak about the nursing profession to many grade school children. Almost all of them and their teachers just assumed that I was a doctor. It was really shocking to see how many children still believe that.”

DNP student Randy Beckett relates, “Nursing is just not on men’s radar. You don’t see men in nursing roles. Except for the movie “Meet the Parents,” I’ve seen few men in nursing in the media. We have many examples of both men and women in the media as police officers, physicians, lawyers and teachers, but for some reason not nurses.”

Brian Conner, Lander University nursing instructor and PhD student says, “Men don’t realize how many opportunities there are in nursing—so much more so than other health professions. Nursing offers lots of “action” roles that men love. It is not just bed pans and giving shots. You can specialize in critical care, anesthesia, flight nursing, or if you are interested in a military career, you can enter the service as an officer when you complete your nursing degree.”

All three agree that having a male faculty member to mentor them is important. “Male role models are important for the overall socialization of men into nursing. The male students enrolled in the College of Nursing tend to gravitate to me and we are able to talk on a different level,” says John Welton, PhD, RN, Associate Professor in the College of Nursing.

The trend of attracting more men into nursing is rising, but seemingly at an incredibly slow pace. We asked our men in nursing how we can recruit more effectively. They all agreed nursing needs to be introduced to men as a career option at an early age. Mr. Gracie suggested, “Start in the elementary schools with outreach programs and possibly shadowing in middle and high school.” Mr. Beckett agrees, “Make men more visible by having a male representative at career days and fairs. Even if the representative is not a nurse, men will feel more comfortable coming forward.”
Why did you become a nurse?
As long as I can remember, I have wanted to be in healthcare. My mother actually had framed pictures I had drawn from kindergarten of me giving a shot to a patient. Initially I had thought about a career in medicine, but wanted something more portable and on the front line of providing healthcare. In college I took classes thinking that I wanted to become a physician assistant, but realized that it might not be a good fit after shadowing a few. I went that day and signed up for nursing school, which happened to be the last day for admissions. That was one of the best decisions I have ever made!

What are your plans for the future?
In the future, I would love to continue my work with Nursing Informatics. I have always had a knack for computers and technology, so I hope to continue to excel and continue my professional growth in my two favorite fields.

Why did you become a nurse?
As a chiropractor I volunteered at a homeless shelter medical clinic and worked with two excellent nurse practitioners. After a health issue I had to reevaluate my career in health care and I remembered these two women and their skills. Becoming a nurse practitioner made perfect sense and the MUSC accelerated program was the perfect match.

What are your plans for the future?
What I learn about policy and systems in the DNP program will be very helpful in both practices. Secondly I look forward to using my clinical hours to learn advanced clinical skills. As a student I can access clinicians who otherwise would be unavailable to me. I’m also enjoying precepting nursing students and some day would enjoy a more active role in nursing education.

“Male role models are important for the overall socialization of men into nursing.”
~ Dr. John Welton

“At MUSC, I have really enjoyed having a male faculty member to chat with and discuss situations that I have found myself in. In my undergraduate program, I did not have that and I found that difficult at times.”
~ Mr. Daniel Gracie
CCHP BEGINS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Center for Community Health Partnerships (CCHP) launched the Community Engaged Scholars Program in August 2009. This program is providing training, pilot funding, and mentorship for teams consisting of an academic and community partner(s) who have an interest in community based participatory research (CBPR). The goal of this program is to increase the capacity of academic community partnerships to conduct research with mutual ownership of the processes and products, and ultimately, improve the health of our communities in South Carolina and beyond.

Six teams were selected to participate in the inaugural year of the program. These teams represent academic disciplines from across MUSC’s campus and partners from various community sectors. Listed below are the teams and their topics.

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<th>TEAM 1</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Unmet Health Needs of Individuals with Disabilities in the Tri-County Area</td>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Importance of Vitamin D as it Relates to Health Status and Disease</td>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Periodontal Disease Prevention in the Gullah Community</td>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Improving Quality of Life for Children with Severe Disabilities in the Low Country</td>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Cancer Prevention and Wellness in the Faith-based African-American Community</td>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Youth and Community Suicide Prevention</td>
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<td><strong>PARTNERS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Academic:</strong> Susan Newman, College of Nursing</td>
<td><strong>Academic:</strong> Carol Wagner, Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine</td>
<td><strong>Academic:</strong> Renata Leite, College of Medicine</td>
<td><strong>Academic:</strong> Holly Wise, College of Health Professions</td>
<td><strong>Academic:</strong> Kristin Wallace and Katherine Sterba, Dept. of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics &amp; Epidemiology, and Debbie Bryant, Hollings Cancer Center</td>
<td><strong>Academic:</strong> Janet Grossman, College of Nursing</td>
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<td><strong>Community:</strong> Gwen Gillenwater, Disability Resource Center</td>
<td><strong>Community:</strong> Joyce Winkler, Gloria Warner and Carolina Rodriguez Cook, Eau Claire Community Health Center Cooperative</td>
<td><strong>Community:</strong> Angela Brown, Red Top Improvement Association</td>
<td><strong>Community:</strong> Cindy Dodds, Pattison’s Academy</td>
<td><strong>Community:</strong> Reverend Remus Harper, Mt. Carmel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Reverend Jeannette Jordan, The Christian Disciples of Christ Church</td>
<td><strong>Community:</strong> Charlotte Anderson, Trident United Way 211 Hotline</td>
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Community Engaged Scholars Program Participants
The College of Nursing continues to offer faculty and students the opportunity to interact with national nursing leaders in a one-on-one basis. Two such leaders visited campus during the Spring and Summer 2009 semesters.

NURSE LEADERS SHARE THEIR EXPERTISE

NURSE ENTREPRENEUR

In May 2009, Debra Toney, PhD, RN, nurse entrepreneur and president of the National Black Nurses Association consulted with College of Nursing faculty and students on leadership initiatives and presented a campus-wide forum entitled, “Successful Leadership During Chaotic Times.”

In addition to serving as the current president of the National Black Nurses Association, Dr. Toney is the founding president of the Southern Nevada Black Nurses Association, a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow and founder of her own home health care business. She is published and a nationally recognized speaker on leadership, entrepreneurship, business development, women in business and women’s issues.

This visit was co-sponsored by the College of Nursing’s Center for Community Health Partnerships, the MUSC Office of Diversity, and the Tri-County Black Nurses Association.

NINR DIRECTOR

On July 13 and 14, 2009, Patricia A. Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), spent two days interacting with faculty and PhD students related to the College of Nursing’s growing research agenda and our ambitious plans for future research development and growth. Dr. Grady’s visit coincided with the PhD Residency Week when all of the College of Nursing’s online PhD students are on campus for a week-long immersion in the program. She also gave a campus wide presentation entitled, “Promoting Evidence-Based Practice.”

Dr. Grady lectures and speaks on a wide range of topics, including future directions in nursing research, developments in the neurological sciences, and Federal research opportunities. She has been recognized with several prestigious honors and awards for her leadership and scientific accomplishments. In 2005, Dr. Grady received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from MUSC.

VA NURSING ACADEMY

Enrollment is at an all time high for the College of Nursing. In 2004, the College doubled its baccalaureate enrollment from 50 students admitted once a year, to 50 students admitted in both the fall and spring semesters, thus doubling the total baccalaureate admission to 100 annually. Then in 2008, 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, MUSC is one of only 15 universities nationwide participating in this program. This partnership enabled the College to increase enrollment in the accelerated BSN program from 100 applicants admitted each year to 120.

“Our relationship with the MUSC College of Nursing has always been a strong one, but our being a recipient of one of the VANA grants has provided us 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 has also provided a greatly enhanced clinical experience for the students at the Ralph H. Johnson VAMC. These positive experiences have improved the students’ knowledge base, impacted enrollment at the CON and have been an extremely valuable recruiting tool for our facility—a true win-win situation for everyone involved,” notes Mary Fraggos, Associate Director for Nursing and Patient Care Services, Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center.
Elaine J. Amella, PhD, GNP-BC, FAAN was promoted to the rank of Professor with tenure in the College of Nursing on July 1, 2009. Dr. Amella also is a full member of the faculty of the College of Graduate Studies at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Dr. Amella joined the faculty of the College of Nursing in 1999. Presently, she teaches across all program levels with a focus on geriatric nursing, theory-based practice and issues related to vulnerable populations. Focusing on the nursing care of the older adult, Dr. Amella’s research and practice are dedicated to the care of persons with moderate to severe cognitive impairments and facilitating the quality of their care, especially through mealtime and feeding interventions for formal and informal caregivers. She has been funded in the area of end-of-life care by intramural, state and national (NIH-NINR) agencies. Additionally, Dr. Amella has been reviewer, consultant, project manager, and recipient of HRSA/BrPH training grants to prepare undergraduate, masters and doctoral nursing students.

Dr. Amella is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as both a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and the Gerontological Society of America. She is a member of the National Academies of Practice and was named the Merck Scholar and John A. Hartford Foundation for Geriatric Nursing Fellow in 2001. She received national recognition for her research through the Springer - Gerontological Society of America Gerontological Nurse Research Award. Dr. Amella is the Assistant Editor for North America for the Journal of Clinical Nursing and serves on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging, the Journal of Gerontological Nursing and Geriatric Nursing. She is also the current President of the Southern Nursing Research Society.

Charlene Pope, PhD, MPH, CNM, RN was promoted to Associate Professor on July 1, 2009. Dr. Pope holds a joint appointment in the College of Health Professions, an associate member of the College of Graduate Studies, and is an Associate Nurse Executive for Research at the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Dr. Pope joined the faculty of the College of Nursing in 2003. She has more than 20 years of clinical experience and teaching as a nurse-midwife in urban and rural settings in the United States, refugee camps in Cambodia and Somalia, and in consultancies and clinical experience in Mali, Ivory Coast, Bangladesh, and the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Pope has three areas of research interest that include provider-patient communication, preventive medicine, and racial/ethnic variations and disparities in health services. In support of these interests, she received an NIH National Center for Minority Health Disparities Scholar Award for racial/ethnic disparities research from 2001-06.

Ida Johnson-Spruill, PhD, RN, joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor on September 1, 2009. Dr. Spruill received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Tennessee State University, a Masters of Science in Nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina, a PhD in Nursing from Hampton University, and recently completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Clinical Genetics at the University of Iowa.

Prior to pursuing her doctoral education, Dr. Spruill developed an interest in genetics when she served as the nurse manager for a community-based genetics research study at MUSC entitled Project SuGar. The project studied the genes responsible for the expression of diabetes and obesity among rural African-American families in South Carolina.

Dr. Spruill’s research interests include community-based participatory research (CBPR) and chronic diseases among rural African-Americans. Specifically her program of research includes the impact of culture/genetics on the management of chronic disease among under-served populations.

The College’s Associate Dean for Research, Jeannette Andrews, PhD, APRN-BC, FNP, states, “We are delighted that we have recruited a stellar scholar who has local community roots to assist our efforts in improving health and reducing disparities in our state and Southeastern region.”
EDLUND RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

A faculty member since 1980, Barbara Edlund, PhD, RN, ANP, was honored for her numerous contributions to MUSC during the Fall Faculty Convocation ceremony when she was awarded the 2009 MUSC Foundation Distinguished Faculty Service Award. This award was enacted by the Board of Trustees to recognize and honor faculty members who, over a substantial portion of their careers, have provided exceptional and sustained service and contributions in teaching, research, health care, and/or public service to the University and the citizens of South Carolina.

During her tenure at MUSC, Dr. Edlund has taught in the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral nursing programs and in professional programs crossing colleges and clinical centers of excellence at MUSC. An outstanding teacher and superb role model for students and trainees, students consistently give her high praise for her ability to translate clinical knowledge in a focused and compassionate manner. She fully invests in the success of each and every student, and always stands ready to “go the extra mile” to help them achieve success. In recognition of this, she has twice received the College of Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award, as well as the Golden Lamp Award.

Scholarship is another notable area of contribution from Dr. Edlund. She has received funding from HRSA to further her work in developing geriatric, nurse practitioner, and palliative care competencies for our students. She is a remarkable collaborator with other faculty across campus, and is highly sought after by others for a wide variety of projects. Her publications are numerous and include journal articles, chapters and books, all of which were produced while here at MUSC. These are complemented by her many international, national and regional presentations, which attest to her commitment to not only sharing her knowledge and expertise with others, but also her desire to represent the excellence of MUSC. She has served on many national journal review boards and professional associations, and is known for her clinical expertise and the highest standards of quality care.

Dean Gail Stuart remarked, “As with any distinguished faculty member, Dr. Edlund has significantly participated in university life and activities. Her service to MUSC extends from membership on the University Tenure Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Faculty Senate, among others. In this participation she can always be looked to as someone who will carefully explore relevant issues, obtain data needed to further the discussion and help a group or team to move to consensus. These traits truly do set her apart as someone worthy of this high honor.”

BISSINGER HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

At its annual meeting in September in Austin, TX, the National Association of Neonatal Nurses presented Robin Bissinger, PhD, RNC, NNP with the 2009 Distinguished Service Award, acknowledging her dedication to excellence in neonatal nursing. A board certified Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Dr. Bissinger’s contributions to the specialty of neonatal nursing have been considerable. Most noteworthy, she is the Past President of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, Past President and current Executive Director of the Carolina’s Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, current Chair of the National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, Secretary/Treasurer of the National Certification Corporation (NCC), and will be the President of NCC beginning January of 2010. She also led the first neonatal nursing delegation to China. Dr. Bissinger is the Director of Graduate Programs and an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing.
LEADING BY EXAMPLE

KELECHI NAMED DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Teresa J. Kelechi, PhD, GCNS-BC, CWOCN, Associate Professor, assumed the role of Department Chair in the College of Nursing effective November 1, 2009.

Employed at MUSC for 22 years, Dr. Kelechi joined the faculty of the College of Nursing in 2001. She is a board certified gerontological clinical nurse specialist and a certified wound care nurse. Her work has received numerous accolades including the MUSC Excellence in Action Award, Outstanding College of Nursing PhD Faculty Award, Sigma Theta Tau Gamma Omicron Chapter New Investigator Award, South Carolina Nurses Foundation Ruth A. Nicholson Research Award, the South Carolina Nurses Association Excellence in Practice Award, and the Wound Ostomy Continence Society Nurse of the Year Award.

Dr. Kelechi’s research interests include the use of infrared thermometry to detect the potential for stasis ulcer development in individuals with chronic venous disorders. She also is pursuing a clinical intervention for the prevention of leg ulcers related to chronic venous disorders. Clinically, she developed a DVD series related to foot care, and is a frequent national lecturer on topics related to venous disorders and foot care. She is the recipient of grant funding from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research, and the American Nurses Foundation.

BONHAM ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Bonham, PhD, RN, CWOCN, Associate Professor and Director of the Wound Care Education Program at the College of Nursing, is serving as President of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN). WOCN is a professional, international nursing society of more than 4,200 health care professionals who are experts in the care of patients with wound, ostomy and incontinence.

Since 1984, Dr. Bonham 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. She developed and implemented the accredited Wound Care Education Program at the College of Nursing in 1994, to prepare nurses for specialty practice in wound care nursing.

Dr. Bonham was named Nurse of the Year by the Southeast Region of WOCN and was the honoree for the 2007 Scholarship award for the Southeast WOCN Region. Dr. Bonham received the 2001 Research Manuscript Award and the 2007 Clinical Practice Manuscript Award from the Journal of Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing (JWOCN).

Committed to evidence-based practice, Dr. Bonham served as Co-chair of the Diabetic Review Committee (1998-99), which was a collaborative work of WOCN and the Wound Healing Society (WHS) for the development of provisional guidelines for chronic wounds: arterial, diabetic, pressure, and venous wounds. She served on the WOCN Guidelines Committee (1999-04, 2006-08) that developed evidence-based guidelines for management of pressure wounds, and lower-extremity arterial, venous, and neuropathic disease, which were accepted by the National Guideline Clearinghouse. Dr. Bonham was one of two primary authors of the Guideline for Management of Wounds in Patients with Lower Extremity Arterial Disease that was published in 2002 and recently updated for publication in 2008. She also is a consulting editor for the JWOCN.

SENATORS’ PANEL ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

In September, Dean Stuart was invited to a small panel discussion focused on health care reform with Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham. During the exchange she highlighted two nursing issues: 1) the untapped capacity of nurse practitioners to fill the growing need for primary health care if regulations and restrictions on their practice were removed; and 2) the need for additional faculty positions to accept more applicants to nursing programs and stem the US nursing shortage, rather than recruiting foreign trained nurses. Dr. Carolyn Jenkins also represented the College of Nursing at the meeting.
ERKEL RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS DESIGNATION

Elizabeth A. Erkel, PhD, RN, Professor and Department Chair, plans to retire from the College of Nursing on December 31, 2009. In recognition of her distinguished service to the Medical University of South Carolina she will receive the designation of Professor Emeritus upon her retirement.

Joining the faculty of the College of Nursing in 1989, Dr. Erkel served as coordinator of the graduate community health nursing specialty. In 1994 she initiated the Family Nurse Practitioner Program, remaining its director through 2001. In 2006 she was named Chair of the Department of Nursing. During her tenure in the College of Nursing, Dr. Erkel has been an integral part of the growth and success of the College. Her most recent contributions include preparing the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education application for approval of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree Program (2008), developing an integrated Faculty Development Plan (2008) and a comprehensive College of Nursing Evaluation Plan (2009), and chairing the CCNE Accreditation Self-Study Committee (2008-09). Students honored her dedication to facilitating their educational goals and her skills as a master teacher by voting her the Outstanding Graduate Faculty in 1997 and the Outstanding MSN Faculty Member in 2007.

Dr. Erkel has worked closely with the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium to improve accessibility of health care for rural, medically underserved residents in South Carolina through a community-academic partnership. She served on the Hampton County community task force that saw a need for a primary care clinic and, subsequently served on the initial board of directors for Harrison Peeples Health Care Center in Varville. Dr. Erkel served on the Lowcountry Area Health Education Center Board of Directors for 10 years, completing her service as chair of the Board in 2004. While serving as the health policy board member for the Coastal Nurses Association and League of Women Voters of the Charleston area, Dr. Erkel activated the electronic action alert networks for health-related legislative issues at the state and national level.

In 1993, Dr. Erkel was instrumental in developing and implementing the curriculum for the nationally acclaimed, federally-funded, South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT)—a joint venture between MUSC, South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium, and numerous rural health providers. This statewide, interdisciplinary educational program prepares health professions students to be culturally sensitive health professionals who can function within an interdisciplinary team to deliver care in rural settings in an intensive 5-week summer residency. Since the program transition from federal to state funding in 2007, Dr. Erkel has continued with SCRIPT as its curriculum consultant and online instructor for the community health nursing students. Dr. Erkel’s keen interest in rural health extended into her research program, which focused on community interventions to improve maternal-child health.

Dr. Erkel has been honored for her contributions in research and education by receiving the 1995 Health Sciences Foundation Developing Scholar Award, 2000 South Carolina Rural Health Association Excellence in Education Award, 2002 South Carolina League for Nursing Award for Excellence, and 2005 South Carolina Nurses Foundation Palmetto Gold Top 100 Nurses Award.

Along with husband Charles Brown, Dr. Erkel plans to retire in Texas to live near their children and 2-year-old twin grandchildren. In addition to continuing with SCRIPT, Dr. Erkel anticipates increased involvement in the League of Women Voters, volunteer activities with neighborhood grade school children, and learning Photoshop. She looks forward to unlimited knitting, intense monitoring of numerous fictional mysteries, and joining a Mah Jongg club. She plans to attend live theater productions, film and storytelling festivals, and travel the Texas barbeque trail and hill country while blue bonnets are in bloom.
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to all of our faculty who were published this year. The College had a record year with 42 published submissions from 2008-09.

BOOKS


CHAPTERS


JOURNALS


STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

J’Yonne Hunter, Devon Licari, Amy Painter, and Bonnie Shepherd have been selected as the College of Nursing representatives for the prestigious MUSC Presidential Scholars Program. These students were selected from a competitive applicant pool from each of the six colleges at MUSC. The mission of the Presidential Scholars is to explore the complex social, political, and human issues that shape the delivery of health care services in SC.

Prior to enrolling in the College of Nursing, Ms. Hunter earned dual bachelor degrees in Biology and Spanish from North Carolina State University. During her undergraduate studies, she spent a semester abroad in Costa Rica, interned in Mexico, worked extensively with the bilingual community and has a passion for people. Her interest in health care comes from her humanitarian interests and ethical perspective on access to health care.

Ms. Licari received a previous bachelor’s degree from Wofford College, where she graduated summa cum laude. She studied abroad in Cuba and completed a capstone project on Cuban culture. With 13 years of Spanish studies, she has worked as a translator in various environments. She has also been involved with the College’s Hispanic Initiative Scholars program.

Ms. Painter is enrolled in the Master’s program, with dual specializations in the Family Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator areas. She has been selected to receive a stipend from the South Carolina Nurses Foundation for her commitment to teach following graduation. Before starting her nursing career, Ms. Painter earned a BS in Family Youth and Community Science at the University of Florida. She also earned a BS in Nursing from the University of Central Florida. Ms. Painter hopes to teach and participate in practice and research following graduation.

Ms. Shepherd earned a bachelor’s degree from Presbyterian College with a major in English and minors in International Studies and History. Her academic honors included membership in Omicron Delta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Alpha, and Sigma Tau Delta. She was one of two graduates awarded the American Legion Award for Honor, Courage, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. She studied abroad, and was one of two students selected to represent Presbyterian and promote its exchange program arranged by Fulbright Professorships in Finland.

EARL B. HIGGINS SCHOLARSHIP

Aisha Choudry is the recipient of the Earl B. Higgins Scholarship. Ms. Choudry is completing her final semester of coursework in the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. During her course of study in the College, she has exemplified academic excellence and established herself as a natural leader among her peers. Her scholarly achievements earned her a place on the Dean’s List each semester and she was selected to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Scholars Program and the Hispanic Health Initiative Scholars Program. She also serves as a member of the College of Nursing Honor Council, and as the Community Director for the Student Nurse’s Association. Outside of the classroom, Ms. Choudry is a 2-1-1 Crisis Hotline volunteer and leads an interest group for students considering nurse anesthesia as a career path.

MUHA PATRON SCHOLARSHIP

Accelerated BSN student, Margaret Dunning is the recipient of the MUHA Patron Scholarship. This scholarship is generously donated by the Medical University Hospital Authority and offers the student $25,000 toward their baccalaureate education.

Ms. Dunning was selected for this scholarship because of her outstanding academic credentials and leadership potential. She is a 2008 graduate of The Citadel where she served as the golf team co-captain, mock trial team captain, and recruiting sergeant for her company. She experienced two study abroad programs as the University of London Royal Holloway Study Abroad Scholar and as The Citadel Summer in London Program Scholar. Following graduation, Ms. Dunning plans to pursue a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.
**AMERICAN INDIAN NURSE SCHOLARSHIP**

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, an organization that actively promotes our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service, and educational projects, presented **Stacy Sanders** with the American Indian Nurse Scholarship for the fall 2009 semester. Ms. Sanders, a first semester accelerated BSN student, qualified for this scholarship award because she is a member of the Natchez Tribe of South Carolina.

Ms. Sanders is a graduate of Wofford College where she majored in Biology and completed her studies with a 3.7 GPA, graduating magna cum laude.

Ms. Sanders’ commitment to nursing developed when her father passed away from lung cancer. She shares that he gave her great advice—to always follow her heart. She says it was the nurses who provided support and comfort for her family and her during this difficult time, and she would like to be the person who can provide that for others as a nurse.

**PROVOST’S SCHOLARSHIP**

Cari Mitchell and Tiffany Hunter have been selected to receive the Provost’s Scholarships for the fall 2009 semester. Both students are strong role models for their peers and the future of the nursing profession.

Ms. Mitchell is a BSN student who will graduate in December 2009. Prior to her enrollment in the College of Nursing, she earned BA and MBA from Florida Gulf Coast University. She is Dean’s List student and is a leader among her peers, having served on the MUSC Student Government Association since her first semester. She is currently the president of the College of Nursing Student Government Association.

Ms. Hunter earned a prior degree from Winthrop University, and will also complete the accelerated BSN program in December 2009. A Dean’s List student, Ms. Hunter developed an interest in health care during an internship with Lowcountry AHEC during the summer of 2002. She further developed this interest during an undergraduate research program at MUSC the following summer. Ms. Hunter is part of the Robert Wood Johnson New Careers in Nursing Program, and has been a leader in the Student Nurse’s Association. She recently participated in a mission trip to Uganda.

**CONL DONATES $1,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

The Charleston Organization of Nurse Leaders (CONL) awarded **Katie Caldwell** a $1,000 scholarship during their fall meeting. Ms. Caldwell was selected for this scholarship based on her outstanding academic achievements and leadership in college activities. She is currently an officer in the Student Nurse’s Association, and has served as student representative on college task forces to improve specific processes such as student advisement. Currently she is volunteering on a research project entitled, “Building capacity for place-based research in the Center for Community Health Partnerships: Defining deprivation, identifying health disparities, and building partnerships” that is led by Lisa Vandemark, PhD, RN.

Prior to Ms. Caldwell’s enrollment, she completed her BA in Psychology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and her Master of Arts in Psychology: Clinical Counseling at The Citadel. She has been a study coordinator in the MUSC Department of Rheumatology and has extensive experience in clinical trials and various study projects.

**BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FELLOWS**

PhD students **Teresa Lawson**, **Georgette Smith**, **Lisa Sternke**, along with MSN students **Cathy Mulloy** and **Megan Askea**, received funding from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation graduate-level nursing scholarship program. PhD students **Brian Conner** and **Shannon Hudson**, along with MSN student **Amy Painter**, were awarded funding from the South Carolina Nursing Capacity Initiative, created by the South Carolina State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) and administered through the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

Both of these scholarship programs are available to in-state or out-of-state students accepted to or already enrolled in nursing graduate programs at the University of South Carolina, Clemson University and the Medical University of South Carolina. Scholarship recipients are required to sign a contract that commits them to teach in a South Carolina state-approved nursing program for at least three years.
VA VALOR PROGRAM

The Nursing Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunity Residency (VALOR) Scholarship Program is designed for outstanding students who have completed the final semester of the junior year in a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited baccalaureate program. VALOR students develop clinical competencies in a nursing specialty area, under the guidance of VA registered nurse preceptors. Time worked as a VALOR student will also be creditable federal service for future career options. Three College of Nursing students, Jonathan Edwards, Aindrea Maddray, and Rachal Thorne, have been selected for the VA Valor Program.

In addition to the VALOR program, Mr. Edwards was selected for the College of Nursing’s prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Scholars Program and is also a member of the College of Nursing Honor Council. He has a bachelor’s degree from Furman University where he also excelled academically and lived one year in the Chinese Language House. He studied abroad in Shanghai, China and improved his fluency in Mandarin. He has committed himself to a variety of volunteer programs in mental health, feeding the hungry, and assisting young students with homework.

Ms. Maddray’s background is a bit more extensive than most students. At age 17 she joined the US Army, serving as a medical specialist for the Army and the Oregon Army National Guard. She also has worked as a paramedic. Prior to enrolling in the College, she received a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Charleston and a Master of Arts degree from The Citadel, where she has worked as an adjunct faculty member in the Biology Department.

Ms. Thorne has a bachelor’s degree in Biology from Northwestern State University of Louisiana. While completing her degree, she volunteered at Natchitoches Regional Medical Center and was a member of Mu Epsilon Delta, a pre-professional Allied Health Fraternity. Her clinical Instructors have identified Ms. Thorne as being intelligent, analytical, and caring. She is eager to take on additional responsibilities and complex patients.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

CON STUDENT SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS CAMPUS GROUP

The MUSC Student Leadership Society was established in 2007 to recognize students who have made notable contributions to the university through their character, service and commitment to enhancing the university environment. Students selected for the society personify the ideals of the university as being caring, compassionate, ethical, proficient and creative individuals who have demonstrated the qualities needed to be effective leaders and members of interprofessional teams. Master’s student Cathy Mulloy is the first College of Nursing student to be selected for this prestigious campus group.

Ms. Mulloy has been a stellar student in the College, already having completed the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Her spirit of giving is evidenced by her volunteer activities at both Hospice of Charleston and East Cooper Hospital. Her compassion for older adults and their families is extraordinary, as is her interest in promoting their quality of life. In 2007 and 2008 Ms. Mulloy was selected to receive the “Volunteer of the Year Award” from the MUSC Gives Back program representing the College of Nursing. She has also been inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the International Nursing Honor Society.
NEW CAREERS IN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

During the 2008-09 academic year, the College of Nursing received an award of $200,000 from the New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program sponsored jointly by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. This ground-breaking national initiative was established to help alleviate the nation’s nursing shortage by dramatically expanding the pipeline of students in accelerated nursing programs.

The College of Nursing granted $10,000 scholarships to 20 entry-level Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing students who had a previously earned degree in another area and were from underrepresented populations in nursing, including men. The first 10 students to receive the scholarships enrolled in August 2008 and included Jared Carter, Aisha Choudry, Jonathan Edwards, Christopher Hock, J’Vonne Hunter, Tiffany Hunter, Derek Martindale, Nicholas Porter, Christopher Santos, and Jennifer White. The second group of 10 students entered the program in January 2009 and included Michael Bachmeyer, Cori Bowker, Devyn Feil, Journey Henderson, Ting Ting Hsieh Kinser, Paul James Nunes, Mildred Pochet, Michael Reilley, Amir Sadri, and Timothy Smith.

Several special projects were implemented throughout the academic year to nurture these new leaders in nursing. One event included a dinner program with invited nurse leaders to inspire the students as they shared their career paths in nursing. The students likewise shared their stories and goals for their personal careers in nursing.

STUDENTS ATTEND GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

BSN students Jared Carter and Emily Mayer attended the 36th Annual Global Health Conference that was held May 26 – 30 in Washington, DC. Mr. Carter and Ms. Mayer shared their experiences during a brown bag lunch presentation in June.

Katherine (Hall) Reich, BSN Class of 2007, was the first College of Nursing student who was sponsored to attend this international event. The experience was so powerful for her that she has donated $500 so that future BSN students will continue to have the opportunity to attend.

POINTS OF PRIDE

Jared Carter and Emily Mayer
Class of 2009

congratulations!
MUSC graduation speaker, Stephen Colbert with Dean Gail Stuart
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

HEALTH CARE CHAMPION

Donna Isgett (’90), Vice President of Quality and Safety at McLeod Health in Florence, SC, received a 2009 Lewis Blackman Patient Safety Champion Healthcare Executive Award. She also serves as co-chair of the Quality Operations Committee, and is a member of the McLeod Health Community Board and the Quality and Safety Advisory Council of the South Carolina Hospital Association.

Ms. Isgett also was named a member of the Liberty Fellowship Class of 2011. Liberty Fellowship seeks to promote outstanding leadership in South Carolina, empowering the state and its future leaders to realize their full potential. The mission of the Liberty Fellowship is to offer South Carolina’s next generation of leaders the opportunity to explore the values that sustain them; cultivate respect for both the ideas and beliefs of others; and become significant contributors to our state, and to society at large.

PALMETTO GOLD RECIPIENT

Grace Laird (’09) was recognized at the annual Palmetto Gold Gala on April 25 in Columbia, SC. The Palmetto Gold Scholarship Program is the single largest scholarship award program for undergraduate student nurses in the state. A $1,000 scholarship is awarded each year to recipients from each of South Carolina’s 23 approved registered nurse programs.

Ranked in the top five of her class, Ms. Laird was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. During her course of study, she worked as a student technician at the MUSC in the Neuroscience Step-down ICU unit where she was hired post graduation as a registered nurse. At Convocation, she was awarded the prestigious Josephine A. Fogle Award. She was nominated by her peers and selected by the faculty for her compassion, concern for patients, and outstanding academic and clinical abilities.

Ms. Laird is motivated by philanthropy and has a long history of community service and leadership. She volunteered at a medical clinic as part of a Katrina Relief Team, served on the Executive Committee for Relay For Life, and works as a blood pressure clinic volunteer at Laing Middle School.

NATIONAL HONOR

Caroline Counts, MSN, RN, CNN (’62, ’82, ’87) received the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) Award for Outstanding Contributions to ANNA. This is the ANNA’s most prestigious honor and recognizes one nurse who has made outstanding contributions to the goals of ANNA. The award was presented to Ms. Counts at the national ANNA meeting in San Diego, CA on April 28, 2009.

Ms. Counts has been a member of ANNA since 1970 and was a founding member of the local Palmetto chapter, one of the oldest chapters in the association. She has served in numerous leadership roles, locally, regionally, and nationally including as the national ANNA president in 2002-03.

Under Ms. Counts’ leadership, ANNA became a founding member of Kidney Care Partners, instituted CapWiz (a legislative link for members to reach their federal legislators), participated in the Nurse Competence in Aging initiative, and reviewed the conditions of coverage for Organ Procurement, Transplant and Dialysis. She authored ANNA’s application to the American Nurses Association for recognition of nephrology nursing as a specialty as well as ANNA’s Standards of Practice. She has also been a reviewer of the Nephrology Nursing Journal and on their editorial board. Last year she served as editor of the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing, 5th Edition. Currently she is the President of the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC), the body responsible for national certification of both nephrology nurses and technicians.

In all of her many contributions to ANNA, she has exhibited commitment, energy, thoughtfulness, tenacity, humility, and humor. Currently, Ms. Counts is the Research Coordinator for Clinical Trials for the Division of Nephrology at MUSC.

Ms. Caroline Counts (center) with her family after she accepted a College of Nursing alumnus award in 2008.
Dear Gamma Omicron at-large Chapter,

The 2009-10 Board of Directors had their Annual Planning Retreat in August and we are excited about the plans we have for this year. The plans include an increase in chapter programming to promote more active participation of our members throughout the year.

For all of our chapter information, visit our web site at [www.musc.edu/nursing/departments/sigma](http://www.musc.edu/nursing/departments/sigma). Here you will find contact information for the Board of Directors, a calendar of meetings and events, our chapter goals for the year, meeting minutes, and other information. Our primary way of communicating with our membership is via e-mail. If you are an active member and do not receive e-mails from our chapter, please be sure that Sigma Theta Tau has your current information. Go to [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org), click Membership, then click My Membership, and enter your member number to update.

### 2010 ACTIVITIES

- **January 19** • 5:30 p.m. • Location to be determined
  Board of Directors/ Membership Meeting
  Educational session: “International”

- **February 16** • 5:30 p.m. • Fairfield Park
  Board of Directors/ Membership Meeting

- **March 16** • 5:30 p.m. • Sunfire Grill, West Ashley
  Board of Directors/ Membership Meeting
  Educational session: “Career Development”/ New Member Welcome

- **April 20** • 5:30 p.m. • Fairfield Park
  Board of Directors/ Membership Meeting

- **May 18** • 5:30 p.m. • Peninsula Grill, Downtown
  Annual Chapter Education and Business Meeting
  Educational session: “Nursing research”

Includes presentation of new Board of Directors and Research Awards

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like details about becoming a Sigma Theta Tau International member. I can be reached via e-mail at tanyalott@homesc.com.

Sincerely,

Tanya Lott, MSN, RN-BC
President,
Gamma Omicron at-Large Chapter

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is my pleasure to serve as the 2009-10 MUSC College of Nursing Alumni Board President and MUSC Joint Alumni Board President. The Joint Alumni Board President position rotates among the six MUSC Alumni groups each year, along with the Joint Board Scholarship.

In May, I spoke at the annual Golden Grads Luncheon and gave a welcoming speech for new alumni at the close of the commencement ceremonies the following day. It was such an honor to meet so many wonderful alumni and hear stories about their time spent here as students!

The College of Nursing Alumni Board is currently *taking nominations for the 2010 Outstanding Alumnus Award*. You can find more information on nominating someone for this deserving award by calling the alumni office at (843) 792-7979.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 10, 2010**, and plan to attend the annual MUSC Nursing Alumni Homecoming and Silent Auction. This event provides an opportunity for the Alumni Board annually to award scholarships to current College of Nursing students. If you have items you would like to donate for the silent auction or would like more information on homecoming, please contact the alumni office.

Sincerely,

Karlayne Tool, MSN, RN, CPNP
President,
MUSC Nursing Alumni Association
Homecoming 2010 and Silent Auction

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010
Altman Center, The Citadel

Watch for mailings or call the Alumni Office at (843) 792-7979 or (888) 202-9306 for more information.

To nominate a colleague for the College of Nursing Outstanding Alumnus Award, contact Shari Wise at (888) 202-9306 or wises@musc.edu. Your input is greatly appreciated, so please think of your colleagues, friends, instructors or other nursing alumni who have made a significant contribution to nursing. Nominations will be accepted through November 30, 2009.
Jeannie Grooms has been named Interim Executive Director of Alumni Affairs. In her new role, she provides guidance and leadership for alumni programs of all six colleges and serves as executive director of the Alumni Association.

Ms. Grooms has been employed with MUSC for 14 years, was previously Director of Alumni Development Relations for the College of Medicine, and most recently, the director of Medical Alumni and Associate Director of Alumni Affairs. She may be contacted at groomsj@musc.edu or by calling (843) 792-3433.

Dear College of Nursing Alumni,

When you were a student at MUSC, you became part of our close-knit family. As an alumnus, you may no longer be on campus, but you are still a valued part of that family. That is why we are expanding our alumni program and providing new opportunities to keep you connected.

Exciting things are happening on campus and we want to share them with you! Please check out http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/alumni - our new Alumni Affairs web site. This new benefit for all members of the alumni association will allow you to access and/or update information, pay dues, register for events, among other things. The site launched in August 2009 and it will continue to be refined and perfected to meet all of our member’s needs.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the annual Alumni Homecoming that will be held on April 10, 2010. The attendance last year was the largest in many years and the silent auction was a huge success raising funds that will be used to provide five alumni scholarships to deserving College of Nursing students.

As an alumnus, you are always welcome on campus and there are plenty of reasons to visit and numerous ways for you to get involved. Even if you are unable to get back to campus, please write to let us know what you are doing these days and we will share your story with your fellow alumni. Also, make sure you send us your new mailing and e-mail addresses along with your new telephone number when you relocate.

Our MUSC alumni—more than 27,000 strong—mean the world to us. You are our advocates and ambassadors, our loyal supporters and our lifelong friends. Most of all, you are living proof of how an MUSC education sets people onto a path of success.

Thank you, MUSC alumni. You make us proud!

Sincerely,
Jeannie Grooms,
Interim Executive Director
CLASS NOTES

1974
In 2002, Janice Edith Hawkins retired from the VA Health Care System after 20 years of service and is currently employed as nurse manager with Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, FL. She also retired from the US Air Force Reserve as a Colonel after 25 years of military service.

1978
Amie Vallotton Izaguirre is employed as staff nurse (medical/surgical) at Northside Hospital Cherokee in Canton, GA.

Caron Anne Taylor-Kuffel worked six years in the Neonatal Intensive Care Nurseries at various hospitals including MUSC, Albert Einstein Medical Center, and Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters. She worked for one year in the normal newborn nursery at Mary Immaculate Hospital and has worked six years for New Hanover County Schools, shadowing handicapped children. She is currently employed at Carolina Beach Elementary School, Carolina Beach, NC.

1984
Patricia P. Smith has been working as a certified nurse midwife for Drs. Williamson and Gillespie in Orangeburg, SC, for 20 years, doing full scope practice. She resides in St. Matthews.

1986
Laura Vandiver Marshall is currently employed with Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital as a staff nurse in Columbia, SC. She resides in Camden.

1988
Karen DiLorenzo-Thames received the 2009 Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence presented by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

1990
Sandra LuJean Brunken is currently employed with the US Army at Fort Detrick, MD.

Catherine Speers Hudak is employed with Dr. Susan Hudak Boss in Seminole, FL.

1993
Ginny Ledbetter received the 2009 Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence presented by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

1994, 2003
Weatherly Rogers Brice and husband, Miller, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Robert Miller “Mills” Brice, IV on December 31, 2008.

1995
Raquel “Kelly” Walker received the 2009 Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence presented by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

1996
Jeanine Swails, MSCN CNRN, RN is the first recipient of the endowed Rosalee C. Yeaworth Outstanding Teaching Award, presented annually by the University of Cincinnati.

1997
Karen DiLorenzo-Thames received the 2009 Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence presented by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

2001
Deborah Brooks received the 2009 Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence presented by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

2001, 2004
Amy Elizabeth Funderburk and William Henry Grayson, Jr., both of Charleston, SC, were married on April 18, 2009, at the South Carolina Aquarium where a reception followed. She is employed by MUSC.

2002
Kelly M. Russell has returned to school at Radford University to complete her MSN degree and will graduate from the Nurse Practitioner Program in May 2011. She currently resides in Hillsville, VA.

2003
Tanya Lott received the 2009 Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence presented by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

2005
Cathleen Brannigan received the 2009 Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence presented by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.
2006
Donna Pallassino Evans is employed as a nurse practitioner at Coastal Kidney Center, PA, in Conway, SC. She resides in Surfside Beach.

James Lawrence is an assistant professor of medicine in the Family Medicine Department for Geriatric and Palliative Care at Mercer University in Macon, GA. Dr. Lawrence will be teaching fourth year residents and fellows in Geriatrics and Palliative Care as well as doing hospital, long-term care, and outpatient clinic responsibilities. Dr. Lawrence reports that he is very eager and humbled to be the School of Medicine’s first Nurse Practitioner faculty member. He was also elected to the national Board of Directors of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

2007
Jennifer Marie Bussey works in the Pediatric ICU at MUSC and recently returned from doing medical missions in Uganda. She is also a medical transporter for the Children’s Heart Project, an organization that brings children in need of heart surgery from other countries back to the states.

Kim Sharpe Gardner writes that she, her husband, “Billy,” and three children reside in Juneau, AK. She is employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Valley Medical Care.

2008
Raquel “Kelly” Walker received the 2009 Palmetto Gold Award for Nursing Excellence presented by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation.

IN MEMORIAM
Sarah-English P. Albrecht, 1950
Ida Nancy U. Almers-Spann, 1946
S. LaVelle Avant, 1965
Sophia A. Barnes, 1949
M. Azalee P. Blitch, 1934
Julianne Gerstbrein, 1988
Jean Heinsohn, 1959, 1975
Ruth C. Hogg, 1942
Mary Grayce H. Holladay, 1965
Ann L. King, 1962
Mary W. Pherigo, 1936
Norma W. Roe, 1949
Dorothy F. Smith, 1943

A LEGACY OF CARING
To support the MUSC College of Nursing and provided for her children, Mrs. Azalee Blitch (’34) established a gift annuity for each of her children. These gift annuities provide income for her children for the rest of their lives. After they pass away, the value of the annuity is then given directly to the College of Nursing. Dean Gail Stuart notes, “We are most appreciative of Mrs. Blitch’s generosity to the MUSC College of Nursing.”

Azalee Pritchcr Blitch was born on January 14, 1914, in Holly Hill, SC, daughter of the late Owen W. Pritchcr and Stella Ott Pritchcr. Azalee was the wife of the late Herbert M. Blitch, Sr. She was a Golden Graduate of the MUSC College of Nursing, Class of 1934. She worked as a Registered Nurse at the Medical College of South Carolina and later for Drs. Fingar and Wilson.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!
Keeping up with your classmates can be difficult, so share your news with Lifelines and we’ll help spread the word. Send us your good news—whether it be a new job, promotion, accomplishment, award or even a new family member. Please include your name, class year and share your good news!

Please send news and photos to:
Alumni Association
268 Calhoun Street
MSC 182
Charleston, SC 29425

- or -
visit our web site at:
www.alumni.musc.edu/online/update.htm.

KEEPING UP WITH YOUR CLASSMATES

KEEPING UP WITH YOUR CLASSMATES
SECOND ENDOWED CHAIR FOR CON

The MUSC College of Nursing is delighted to announce that we have received an anonymous pledge of $1 million that will allow us to establish our second Endowed Chair in Nursing.

This Endowed Chair will be named the David R. Clare and Margaret C. Clare Endowed Chair in Nursing and it is anticipated that it will be fully endowed by 2013. At that time, the College of Nursing will launch a national search for an established nursing leader to assume this important faculty position.

Endowed Chairs hold tremendous prestige in the academic community. To be named to an endowed chair means that one has achieved national or international recognition for excellence in their field. Endowed chairs are also a major recruiting tool used by universities to secure senior level leaders with national reputations.

“I am proud that MUSC has had the first Endowed Chair in Nursing in the state and we will now be adding a second one to our College. Endowed Chairs in nursing bring not only a wealth of knowledge in research and practice, but they also play a critical role in mentoring and guiding junior faculty. This gift will allow our College to continue to lead the state and region as innovators, knowledge brokers and community partners,” said Dr. Gail Stuart, Dean of the College of Nursing.

2ND ANNUAL BARBEQUE BENEFIT

The College of Nursing’s Hilton Head Island Dean’s Advisory Board invites you to join them on Sunday, November 8 for the Second Annual Barbeque Benefit for Nursing Scholarships. The event will be held at Honey Horn Plantation on Hilton Head Island from noon to 3 p.m. Back by popular demand, the Broken Arrow Barbeque Team will prepare a scrumptious feast while the Islanders Band will fill the air with the music. Tickets are $50 ($10 for children over the age of 10 and free for children under 10).

Last year's event raised over $8,000 for nursing scholarships. The Advisory Board needs your help to surpass that mark with this year’s event. So, mark your calendars and plan to join us for a relaxed Sunday afternoon in the beautiful South Carolina Low Country. For information on how you can purchase your tickets, please contact Ruthie Edwards at (843) 671-4441.

If you are unable to join us for this festive event, you can still help us reach our fund raising goal by making a donation to the College of Nursing scholarship fund. For further information on making a tax-deductible contribution, contact Denise Ciccarelli, Director of Development, by calling (843) 792-8421, or via e-mail at ciccarel@musc.edu.

“This gift will allow our College to continue to lead the state and region as innovators, knowledge brokers and community partners.”

~ Dean Gail Stuart
CON RECEIVES NEW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

The College of Nursing is pleased to announce that several friends of the College have endowed nursing scholarships. These donations are a significant asset to enriching the lives of our nursing students, as well as allowing us to attract the best and brightest students to pursue their education with us here at MUSC. A special note of thanks is extended for these precious gifts.

Clearly, the generosity and support of these individuals is essential to our success and the faculty and students of the College are grateful for this tangible expression of it. These gifts will benefit the lives of many nurses and the patients for whom they will provide care.

If you would like to establish a nursing scholarship or make a donation to any one of our existing scholarships, contact Denise Ciccarelli, Director of Development at (843) 792-8421 or ciccarel@musc.edu.

MARIANNE T. CHITTY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Chitty have endowed the Marianne T. Chitty Nursing Scholarship in honor of his mother. Although not a nurse herself, Mrs. Chitty’s only daughter, only niece, and one of her two daughters-in-law were all nurses. She saw first-hand the challenges encountered by her daughter as she pursued her nursing education in mid-life. Mr. Chitty remarked, “My mother’s values and those of the nursing profession are very similar; compassion and caring for others were central to her life. Kay and I, and our children, loved and respected her very much. We hope and believe that she would be pleased and proud to be remembered by us through this scholarship.”

DOROTHY JOHNSON CREWS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Mrs. Dorothy Crews entered nurses training with only a uniform, a white apron, one pair of black stockings and shoes, a matchbox, one needle and one syringe. Six months later she was given a kerchief and nursing cap. After three years of training, Mrs. Crews embarked on a 43 year nursing career, holding nursing positions at various hospitals in Columbia, SC all while raising four children. In addition to annual donations, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Crews have bequeathed $500,000 in their estate to endow the Dorothy Johnson Crews Nursing Scholarship. “I decided to endow a nursing scholarship to honor my wife Dorothy because she has been my right arm all my life and she deserves this recognition,” says Dr. Crews.

ELSIE MORGAN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. and Mrs. David Ritter, of St. Petersburg, FL and Gilbert, SC, have endowed the Elsie Morgan Nursing Scholarship in honor of Mr. Ritter’s mother, a 1939 graduate of the MUSC College of Nursing.
Following her graduation, Elsie Morgan enlisted in the US Army Air Corps as a surgical nurse. She attained the rank of Captain and traveled extensively throughout the US setting up operating rooms at various military installations. She returned to SC in 1951 and began working at the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Columbia. Her career as a surgical nurse at the VA spanned 25 years where she was considered one of the most professional and caring nurses on staff. After her retirement, Mr. Ritter spoke with several of the doctors that she worked with and he reports that they all praised her efforts. He further states, “Elsie Morgan’s life and career were defined by sacrifice and service to her profession. This scholarship represents her legacy and the opportunity for these students to perpetuate these attributes.”

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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. As you know, 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, 2008 and July 1, 2009.

$25,000 and above
Ascom US, Inc.
Mr. Charles Chitty and Dr. Kay Chitty
Mr. and Mrs. David R. Clare
Communities In Schools of Charleston
The Duke Endowment
Hill-Rom Company, Inc.
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. David Ritter
Dr. John Schaefer, III and Dr. Carol Simmons
Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, Inc.

$10,000 and above
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Barter, III
Heritage Classic Foundation
Ms. Aline M. Smith

$1,000 and above
Ms. Jeanne S. Allyn
Dr. Elaine J. Amella
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Nurses Foundation, Inc.
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
Mrs. Jean O. Cashion
Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Crews
The Hon. and Mrs. James B. Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. Berry Edwards
Dr. David R. Garr and Dr. Deborah C. Williamson
Mr. William F. Ladson, Sr.
Dr. Mary P. Mauldin
Ms. Gale S. Messerman
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest W. Pace, Sr.
Mr. Michael C. Pace
Peptagen, Inc.
Ms. Mary V. Propes
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Steinberg
Dr. Sally D. Stroud
Dr. Gail W. Stuart
Sunset Rotary Club of Hilton Head
Tenet
Mr. Weston C. Wilhelm

$500 and above
Dr. Cynthia L. Allen
American College of Nurse-Midwives Region 3, Chapter 2
Mrs. Denise Batchelor
Dr. and Mrs. Walter M. Bonner, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Bristow
Mr. and Mrs. John Ciccarelli
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Clair, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Decker
Mr. Ed Dowaschinski
Dr. Janet A. Grossman
Mr. and Mrs. Norman P. Harberger
Dr. and Mrs. Marshall N. Kalinsky
Mrs. Betty C. Kelchner
Mr. James R. Kelechi and Dr. Teresa J. Kelechi
Col. Debbie J. Lomax-Franklin
Ms. Maureen K. Maguire
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mottel
Mr. and Mrs. Keith B. Nothstein
Palmetto Chapter of ANNA
Trident United Way
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Zimmerman

$250 and above
Dr. Elizabeth M. Bear
Mr. James Blain and Dr. Sharon Bond
Mr. and Mrs. William Bosley
Mrs. Margie M. Dick
Mr. Kevin Duffy and Ms. Nancy Duffy
Ms. Theresa J. Edwards
Dr. Preston B. Fitzgerald, Sr.
Ms. Jeanine Gage
Ms. Paula P. Hart
Mr. and Mrs. Lauren D. Thomas
Dr. and Mrs. Julian E. Keil
Mrs. Saranel M. Niver
Dr. and Mrs. John R. Raymond, Sr.
Mr. Stephen D. Schaer
Dr. and Mrs. Michael R. Shaffer
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Sires
South Carolina Nurses Association
Dr. and Mrs. Broadus F. Sowell
Ms. Karen M. Stanley
State Farm Companies Foundation
Mr. Michael R. Sudzina and Dr. Mary R. Sudzina

$100 and above
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Adeimy
Mrs. Rita G. Ahearn
Ms. Jean E. Alexander
Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Allen
Mrs. Valerie H. Assey
Ms. Winkie Atkinson
Captain Robert A. Atkinson and Captain Nancy J. Atkinson
Dr. and Mrs. Paul F. Atkinson
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Barnette, III
Ms. Amanda M. Baxley
Mr. and Mrs. James Belissary
Ms. Catherine E. Bennett
Ms. Heather N. Blanton
Mr. Carl N. Bonham and
Dr. Phyllis A. Bonham
Mr. Karl Loos and Mrs. Olivia Brennan
Mr. and Mrs. Tim E. Broadbent
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