Weaving Community Partnerships of Hope

Improving the community’s health care through collaboration and empowerment
In fall 2009, the MUSC College of Nursing will be admitting students to its new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. Nurses will now have two choices for their doctoral work—the DNP or the PhD.

Continuing our leadership in educational innovation, both programs are offered entirely online. The PhD students have a one week residency each summer in Charleston. The DNP students will have a weekend immersion in Charleston in each clinical course using our state-of-the-art Simulation Laboratory.

You may be wondering what are the differences between the programs and which one is right for you. If so, consider the following and visit our web site at www.musc.edu/nursing.

The best time to continue your nursing education is now and MUSC is the program of choice!

### MUSC Now Has a DNP and PhD Program

#### DNP Program
- The practice of clinical nursing at the highest level
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Analytical methods for evidence-based practice; organizational and systems leadership and management; translation of research to improve practice
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP)
- Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP)
  (all post-BSN only)
- Evidence-based, population-level practice, health, or policy improvement project
- 4-semesters post-masters degree
- 3-years post-baccalaureate degree
- Nurse practitioner, nurse administrator, nurse educator in clinical practice or professional education settings; eligibility for national certification exam

#### PhD in Nursing Program
- The conduct of research for the advancement of nursing science
- PhD in Nursing
- Theoretical, methodological, and analytic approaches to discovery, testing, application and dissemination of new knowledge
- Nurse researcher
- Four elective courses can prepare graduates as nurse educators
- Original dissertation research
- 4-years post-masters degree
- 6-years post-baccalaureate degree
- Nurse scientist in academic or research-intensive settings

**Characteristics**
- **Focus**: The conduct of research for the advancement of nursing science
- **Degree Awarded**: PhD in Nursing
- **Curriculum Content**: Theoretical, methodological, and analytic approaches to discovery, testing, application and dissemination of new knowledge
- **Curriculum Emphasis**: Nurse researcher
- **Final Scholarly Product**: Original dissertation research
- **Length of Study (Full-Time)**: 4-years post-masters degree
- **Career Roles Upon Graduation**: Nurse scientist in academic or research-intensive settings

References: AACN Comparison of DNP and PhD/DNSc/DNS Programs: http://www.aacn.nche.edu; The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice: http://www.aacn.nche.edu
Images are incredibly powerful. This issue of Lifelines focuses on weaving community partnerships, using the image of weaving sweetgrass baskets, a treasured craft in Charleston for the past 300 years.

Sweetgrass grows in our local marshes and wetlands, and is transformed into works of art that are both functional and artistic. In fact, these baskets have earned a place of honor in the Smithsonian Institution. This craft has been passed on in the Gullah tradition of African-American families from generation to generation. Not only do these baskets embrace the past, but they challenge our ideas about the future of community.

Here at the MUSC College of Nursing we believe that the future of health care lies in community empowerment. We believe that in the days ahead, the consumers of care, who include individuals, families and communities, will be the ones to transform health care. This transformation will shift us from a medical model of treating illness, to a public health model of prevention and self-care.

- **For nurses in practice**, this will mean returning to our roots and revaluing the essence of nursing care, including a renewed focus on health education, prevention and patient self-care.
- **For nurse researchers**, this will mean expanding our views of basic science research and clinical trials to include translational research and community-based participatory research.
- **For nurse educators**, this will mean bringing patients and families into the classroom and fully engaging them as formal educators of our students.
- **For all nurses**, this will mean focusing more broadly on the social determinants of health and illness and taking focused action to eliminate health disparities.

Each of the above is a transformational activity. Together, if enacted, we truly will be “Weaving Community Partnerships of Hope.”

In these pages of Lifelines you will see how our College is fully engaged in this work. We have a robust and unique Center for Community Health Partnerships and our faculty and students are activated and energized by working with communities as true partners. In that way I believe that our MUSC College of Nursing is on the “cutting edge” of truly transforming the quality of health care for those whom we serve.

Gail Stuart, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN
Dean and Distinguished University Professor
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Why weave community health partnerships?

“Every single person has capacities, abilities, and gifts. Living a good life depends on whether these capacities can be used, abilities expressed, and gifts given. If they are, the person will be valued, feel powerful and well-connected to the people around them. And the community around the person will be more powerful because of the contribution the person is making.”

~ Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993

“To empower a community, we must become a community, supporting and challenging each other as we implement culturally competent, and race-sensitive inquiry. Dancing forward; following the flow of the dance of race and privilege in community based participatory research, outside researchers must become comfortable with not always taking the lead but dancing side by side with the community and sometimes following the community’s lead.”

~ Minkler & Wallerstein, 2003

“There is increasing evidence that a disproportionate burden of health morbidity and mortality exists within communities with few economic and social resources and communities of color. These are clearly issues of social equity, and ‘health care as usual’ is no longer acceptable. We need a new, transformative conceptualization of health care that empowers individuals, families and communities. I believe that nurses can lead that charge.”

~ Gail Stuart, MUSC CON Dean
Because we hold the future of hope for health care.

Each time a person uses his or her capacity, the community is stronger and the person more powerful. That is why strong communities are basically places where the capacities of local residents are identified, valued, and used. Weak communities are those that fail, for whatever reason, to mobilize the skills, capacities and talents of their residents.

(Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993)

Research involving community health partnerships views investigation and learning as the same act, performed together by members of a team who “have one another’s back”. If you’re not from our neighborhood, substitute the idea that we (academic and community partners) are vested in one another’s success.

At this moment in history, our President, Barack Obama, crafted his victory as a former community organizer skilled at community partnerships, providing us with a shining example for community health.”

~ Charlene Pope, MUSC CON Faculty

“The in education that focuses on behavior and attitude change, people are acted upon by the system and the world that surrounds them. In education that works for social change, people act upon the system and the world that surrounds them.”

~ Werner & Bower, 1995
Weaving Community
Like the beautiful city of Charleston in which we are located, the College of Nursing has a long, rich history. A history that includes caring for our community by reaching out to vulnerable populations, gaining their trust, and working to address their health needs and eliminate health disparities. It is, quite honestly, what we do best.

Historically, academic health science centers like MUSC have not been well received in the community. There has been an undercurrent of skepticism and mistrust that is often difficult to navigate and overcome. An elderly African-American diabetes patient once said to a College of Nursing investigator, “We want to know how much you care before we care how much you know.” Residents fear that researchers from the universities are only interested in coming into their neighborhoods to gather their data and then leave. Nothing ever really changes as a result.

Through years of hard work and commitment, however, the College of Nursing has not only succeeded, but excelled at gaining the trust of the community by showing we will be there for them long term. We did this by going out into the community, attending community meetings including local church services and events. We listened to the needs of the residents, and asked community leaders to become equal partners with us in order to affect the positive changes that were needed.

And so, like Charleston’s world-renown sweetgrass basket makers, we are weaving partnerships of hope. In the pages that follow, learn how the College of Nursing’s community partnerships are making a real and significant difference in the lives of our neighbors, and truly weaving health care hope.
Center for Community Health Partnerships

To coordinate and link resources for MUSC community partnerships and to enhance the quality and sustainability of these partnerships, the MUSC Center for Community Health Partnerships (CCHP) was established.

"...we are decades ahead of other institutions who are now recognizing the importance of the products and impact from academic-community partners on individual and population-based health outcomes."

- Dr. Jeannette Andrews

Based in the College of Nursing, the CCHP is an interdisciplinary group of MUSC researchers, clinicians, educators, and community partners. “Because of our successful pioneers with more than 20 years of sustained partnerships, we are decades ahead of other institutions that are now recognizing the importance of the impact of academic-community partners on individual and population-based health outcomes."

The goals of the CCHP are to:

- Strengthen capacity for existing and potential MUSC community partnerships;
- Facilitate partnerships that ask the appropriate questions and that reach the appropriate people;
- Stimulate the discovery, translation, and dissemination of research in community settings;
- Increase the visibility, impact, and sustainability of clinical translational and community-based participatory research (CBPR);
- Establish mechanisms to sustain the progress of community-based initiatives; and

ECOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF CCHP

PUBLIC POLICY
Regional, State, and Federal Policies

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Recreation
Physical Environment
Communications

Education
Health & Social Svs.
Policies & Government

Economics
Safety & Transportation

MUSC
Structures, policies, personnel related to services, education and research

COLLEGE OF NURSING
CCHP
Cares
Leadership
Policies
Resources

OUTCOMES
PATIENT, FAMILY, SYSTEM, SOCIETY

Prepared, Proactive Community Systems
Prepared, Proactive Academic Systems
Informed, Activated, Productive Interactions
Community Engaged Scholars Program

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) has a long-standing history of community-engaged scholarship and strong leaders who recognize the importance of community engagement in addressing health issues. After a comprehensive assessment, participation in a charrette forum last spring in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and input from our two guiding advisory boards (Scientific and Community), the Center for Community Health Partnerships (CCHP) has developed an innovative plan to guide the next phases of our long-term commitment toward improving the health of all citizens in our state and the Southeastern US region.

The major goal of the Community Engaged Scholars Program (CES-P) is to increase the capacity for academic and community partners to conduct community based participatory research and scholarship. For the initial CES-P, we will recruit four teams of academic and community scholars (eight total faculty scholars) to participate in a 12-month fellowship training. The teams (each team is composed of one community and one academic scholar) will receive didactic instruction, mentoring, and pilot funding up to $15,000.

Phase I (program development) began in 2008 and includes planning to guide the specific content of the competency-based CES-P curriculum, developing the mentoring guidelines, developing a call for nominations and review process, and refining the comprehensive evaluation plan.

Phase II (program implementation) begins this year and involves the implementation of the pilot CES-P projects and a minimum of 10-12 didactic sessions addressing CES competencies including definitions, principles, theories, and methods of CES; grantsmanship; evaluation methods and tools; writing for publication; and, portfolio development.

Phase III (program evaluation) will occur next year and will evaluate the program, disseminate the overall findings, and plan for the 2010-2011 new enrollees into the CES-P.
Defeating Diabetes

Dr. Carolyn Jenkins began working with largely African-American communities in 1977 to improve health. By 1994, she had obtained a small grant to work with inner-city neighborhood associations to identify health issues within the communities, identify community leaders, and provide some training for addressing the identified health issues. The top two issues that people wanted to address and had few resources to do so (based on focus groups and surveys) were hypertension and diabetes.

The Healthy South Carolina Initiative funded a program entitled HAD-ME, Hypertension and Diabetes Management and Education program, that provided weekly neighborhood based screening and education. An interprofessional team worked with neighborhood volunteers to link participants with primary care “homes,” and to improve control.

Then, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced a funding opportunity for decreasing disparities in racial and ethnic groups for six different health conditions including diabetes. The partnership was already established, therefore, Dr. Jenkins started working to obtain funding and implement activities. Interested community groups came to MUSC and asked to join the effort. Just three days before the grant application was due, Georgetown County asked to join the effort. Within two days they had collected the needed data and nearly 100 letters of support.

Many of the leaders had worked together as part of the Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina and thus, there was a history of effective relationships, some successful projects, and partners who had common interests and high levels of enthusiasm. Dr. Jenkins obtained a one-year planning grant in 1999, followed by the CDC funded Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) 2010 implementation grant (2000-2008). From this highly successful collaboration, in 2008 the CDC awarded $4.25 million to establish the Southeastern African American Center of Excellence to Eliminate Disparities (SEA-CEED).

Building on the success of the REACH 2010 Charleston and Georgetown Diabetes Coalition, SEA-CEED is working to reach 1,750,000 African-Americans, approximately 300,000 with diabetes in 121 counties in South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina with populations greater than 30% African-Americans at risk and with diagnosed diabetes. The SEA-CEED community action plan:

- Addresses a geographic area with high burden and great disparity,
- Builds on the success of previous REACH coalitions,
- Capitalizes on a broad network of academic and community partners who have worked effectively with mutual respect,
- Represents rigorous application of community based participatory action principles and evidence based guidelines, and
- Works at the local, state, and multi-state levels with the CDC.

Dr. Jenkins relates, “It truly ‘takes a village’ to change health habits and improve the quality of care. With diabetes, about 95-99% of the work is done by the person with diabetes and their support systems. The health professionals support this change through guidance to protect health, prevent complications and evaluate outcomes. We bring the science of diabetes prevention and management to the community and the community determines what, when, where, and how to apply the science. If we are to change a community’s health we also need systems and policy changes to support the individual, the family and the community and health systems. It is a true PARTNERSHIP of many forces.”

SEA-CEED is working to reach 1,750,000 African-Americans, approximately 300,000 with diabetes in 121 counties in South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina.
During her tenure in the College of Nursing, Dr. Jenkins has leveraged more than 10 million dollars to improve community health.

**REDUCED AMPUTATIONS**
An impressive program outcome was that between 1999 and 2005 lower leg amputations for African-American males in Charleston County were reduced by 63%.

**DECREASED ER VISITS**
With an unfunded group of patients participating in REACH, mean ER visits decreased from the mean of 4.3 visits per person in 1999 to less than 4 visits in 2007, while overall ER visits for people with diabetes increased in South Carolina.

**NATIONAL RECOGNITION & AWARDS**
- 2006 Community Campus Partnership for Health
- 2006 National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
- Center for Chronic Disease, CDC
- Two Capitol Hill Presentations

For more information on REACH SEA-CEED, please visit the Web site at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/reach.
South Carolina has experienced one of the fastest growing Hispanic/Latino populations in the nation. The influx of this population has been significant, particularly on the rural sea islands, such as Johns Island. This increase in the number of Spanish-speaking residents has been recent enough that the cultural norms and health beliefs of the Spanish-speaking population are not well understood by health care providers. Language barriers, poverty, and cultural differences are associated with fewer preventive services, increased use of hospital emergency rooms, and poor satisfaction with care among Hispanics.

Imagine being a young, pregnant woman living in a foreign country where you do not speak the language and you do not have your extended family and social support system available. You are not sure how or where to seek medical services, or even know what services might be available to you.

Also imagine being a nurse in a health care facility when an immigrant patient arrives seeking care. Are you able to adequately converse with them to diagnose their health concerns? These are scenarios that are occurring all too often across this country.

**Dr. Deborah Williamson** has practiced as a nurse midwife for more than 25 years. Because of this clinical expertise, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on Johns Island contacted her about providing prenatal care to immigrant women living in the community. Once the services were established, word spread quickly that prenatal care was available from Hispanic speaking health care providers and women from across the region began coming to seek these services.

As Dr. Williamson became involved in working with this group of women, she wondered who would provide primary care to the women and their families. She began forging new partnerships with other community organizations including local health clinics, schools, libraries, and law enforcement, to address this health need.

Today, the Office of Hispanic Health Initiatives in the College of Nursing, led by Dr. Williamson, has received grant funding from The Duke Endowment, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), New Morning Foundation, the National Libraries of Medicine, and other private funding sources. Bilingual health services and educational programs are now being provided to individuals and families from birth to adulthood.

### Communities in Schools: SAFE Initiative

The Communities in Schools SAFE Initiative is a community-based effort on Johns Island to address adolescent health issues including unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and dating violence. Interventions in the school, the local community health center, and in other non-profit organizations are incorporated to address the social issues revolving around the medical health problems.

One activity is the “Prom Prep.” Dresses are collected by the program staff and girls who otherwise would not be able to afford a formal dress are able to select from the donated gowns. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) also provides education on alcohol use and other safety issues during prom season in order to help the students make good decisions on their special night.

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**For more information on the Hispanic Health Initiatives, visit the web site:**

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Teen Health Advocate Leadership Program

Funded by the Center for Public Service Communication of the National Library of Medicine, the Teen Health Advocate Leadership Program is based in a Title I school (St. John’s High School located on Johns Island, South Carolina) where 95% of the students represent minority populations.

The Teen Health Leadership Project provides workshops and training to build a portfolio for higher education, critically analyze current health issues and develop leadership potential. An essential component of the workshops, provided by the MUSC Library, trains students on Internet research skills, which enables the students to design and implement outreach projects to improve the awareness and use of quality health information in their community. This program encourages students to not only be aware of the health concerns in their community, but to also be engaged in seeking solutions. Through a series of experiential opportunities and mentorships, the Teen Health Leadership Project also seeks to encourage young people of diverse backgrounds to become health professionals. The program meets once a week after school and students are awarded service-learning credit towards graduation for participation in the project.

Two St. John’s High juniors presented a poster about the program at the Third National Leadership Summit on the Elimination of Health Disparities, sponsored by the Office of Minority Health of the US Department of Health and Human Services and held in Washington, DC. The students captivated the audience with their energy, enthusiasm and dedication to finding solutions to the health problems in their community.

“After my experience presenting the poster at a national conference, hearing all of the speakers and learning about how so many people across the nation are working to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health - I will never forget this trip to Washington, DC,” said student Desiree Buggs. “While in Washington, DC we were engaged in so many activities at the conference. We were the only students, and when others applauded us, realizing we were from St. John’s High School, I felt very important,” remarked Dorshinia Heyward.

Carolina Conversations: A Multiethnic Digital Library of Speech for Older Persons

This research project is funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine and led by Drs. Charlene Pope and Boyd Davis. To address health disparities related to communication with older people, the Carolinas Conversations serves as a digital data collection with Web access for researchers interested in the recordings of older people (65 years and older) of diverse social identities (gender, race, ethnicity, language, and socioeconomic status) throughout the Carolinas, historically underrepresented in health communication research.

This interactive archive will collect, prepare, and enable management of digital audio and video data, ensuring consistent quality and compilation. A team of medical librarians, informatics specialists and health and social science faculty will deliver data to generate hypotheses for testing regarding disparities in decision making, compliance, therapy, and cultural effectiveness in health care.
Reducing Violence within Our Community: A Template for the Country

Funded by the Duke Endowment, this program is designed to reduce interpersonal violence through the work of a network of community partners using primary prevention and early intervention approaches in school and primary care settings. The project builds capacity in communities through GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping of information for:

- Participatory decision-making,
- Skill building for parents, students and teachers to improve academic performance including skills for teachers in classroom strategies to reduce peer aggression and disruptive behaviors,
- Training and quality assurance measures for primary care providers for effective screening and referral for victims of interpersonal violence.

The ecological approach unites health care providers, teachers, and community members to address a significant public health concern in the context of a neighborhood.

One example of this effort to reduce violence is the Incredible Years program that is being implemented in a local elementary school. In the first year of the program, Ms. Dianna Inman, Instructor and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, has already witnessed the positive impact that the Incredible Years program has had on the students and teachers at Burns Elementary School in North Charleston. Four mornings a week Ms. Inman spends 20-30 minutes each in nine classrooms (four kindergarten, five first grade) along with her puppets, Dina Dinosaur, Molly Manners, and Detective Wally, teaching the children about school rules, feelings, problem solving, anger management, and manners. The program also provides teachers techniques on classroom management.

Ms. Inman reports research has shown that children with oppositional defiant disorder often develop conduct disorder, which can later lead to juvenile delinquency. By teaching children the proper social skills that they need early in life, this progression can be avoided. Recently, Ms. Inman encountered a classroom where a child had acted out his aggression and the entire room was left in disarray. The child was crying and the teacher was clearly upset. Ms. Inman calmly wrapped her arms around the child and asked, “What would Wally do?” Remembering what he had learned, the child took three deep breaths, calmed down and stopped crying. The teacher in this case had been somewhat skeptical of the program, but after this illustration of it in operation, she too was now on board.

During circle time, students are asked if they had practiced their “calm down” skills at home over the weekend. A young girl eagerly replied that she had indeed practiced her new skills. Her mother had become very upset, so she asked her mother to take three deep breaths in order to help her calm down. Proudly, the child reported that the technique had worked.

“The beauty of the program is that it addresses the needs of both the teacher and the children,” said Ms. Inman. Plans are underway to include parents in the near future.

The Incredible Years program is an evidence-based program that is recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as an “exemplary, best practice” program.
**Partnerships with Title I Schools to Reduce Health Disparities**

*Dr. Marilyn Laken*, Professor, leads this program that is funded by the Duke Endowment. The program aims to identify barriers to implementing physical activity in public school districts along the Interstate 95 (I-95) corridor. The intent is to learn from the people at the schools which program would work best in their setting.

Currently, 10 South Carolina school districts are enrolled. The program is in its second year and to date focus groups have identified barriers, conducted a training session for representatives from elementary schools in the districts, and awarded $1,000 to one school to implement an evidence-based program. Further training and funding is planned for additional elementary schools.

**A Partnership to Promote Physical Activity and Healthy Eating in AME Churches**

This program, led by *Dr. Marilyn Laken*, is a subcontract of an RO1 awarded from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Three universities (University of South Carolina, Medical University of South Carolina, and Clemson University) work in partnership with the Palmetto Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church to help members of AME congregations become more physically active and eat a diet that is high in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and low in saturated fat and sodium. Volunteers in the churches are trained in how to run programs that promote healthy eating and fitness activities.

**Youth Assessment and Intervention in Mood Study (Youth AIMS)**

*Ms. Georgette Smith*, Assistant Professor, works in collaboration with *Dr. Janelle Wagner* from the MUSC Department of Pediatrics on this program funded by the Epilepsy Foundation.

Children with epilepsy have an increased risk for psychopathology compared to healthy peers and children with chronic illnesses not involving the central nervous system. Children with epilepsy also have higher rates of suicidal ideation than their healthy peers. However, studies have shown that, at best, only about one-third of children with epilepsy who have significant psychopathology receive mental health care.

The Youth Assessment and Intervention in Mood Study (Youth AIMS) program is addressing the need for mental health screening in youth with epilepsy by modifying and validating an adult evidence-based depression screening tool for this population, facilitating access to mental health care providers, and assessing barriers to utilization of mental health care.

During data collection, a 14-year-old who had previously been hospitalized for depression, reported that she was participating in the project so that others could receive the proper treatment for their depression before their situation required hospitalization.
WATCHDOG: Disabled group photographs parking obstacles

BY RON MENCHACA
The Post and Courier

Excerpts from the original newspaper article:

For the past year, a group of area residents with spinal cord injuries has canvassed sidewalks, streets and parking lots across the Lowcountry to photograph the types of obstacles that disabled people encounter. They’ve documented a variety of problems such as wheelchair access issues and handicapped parking violations, said Susan Newman, a nursing student at the Medical University of South Carolina who created the project as part of her doctoral dissertation.

For the project, called Photo-voice, Newman teamed with the Disability Resource Center in North Charleston and distributed digital cameras to 10 participants.

“The purpose of the project was for them to document with pictures, barriers and supports to their ability to participate in the community,” Newman said.

“It quickly became apparent that parking was a huge issue.”

Newman hopes to organize a public exhibition of some of the photographs to help educate people about how they may unintentionally create obstacles for the disabled. For now, the project has achieved one of its goals: empowerment.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

Dr Susan Newman received her PhD in Nursing in December 2008. She is an Instructor in the College and a fervent advocate for eliminating obstacles that disabled individuals encounter in the community.

Parking advocate presses case in Columbia

BY RON MENCHACA
The Post and Courier

Excerpts from the original newspaper article:

Susan Newman and Ruth Jones traveled to Columbia Wednesday to urge state senators to pass a bill that would tighten rules for the issuance and enforcement of handicapped parking license plates and placards. The bill cleared the Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday.

The Post and Courier Watchdog recently placed a spotlight on the problem in its “Parking Cheaters” series.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society also backs the bill. Angela Jacildone, the group’s South Carolina advocacy manager, said.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009
**Program aims to blunt violence**

*Duke Endowment grant funds project started by three nursing professionals*

**BY JILL COLEY**
*The Post and Courier*

Excerpts from the original newspaper article:

Principal Dina the dinosaur, Felicia Feelings and Wallie the detective soon will enter classrooms at Burns Elementary School to teach children how to better understand and control their emotions. The Incredible Years program, which uses the puppets, is one part of MUSC’s violence intervention program.

Three nursing professionals from the Medical University of South Carolina have embarked upon an ambitious project to tackle violence. And their multi-pronged solution is about as complex as the problem.

The concert grew organically, said Deborah Williamson, associate dean of practice at MUSC’s College of Nursing. About a year ago, Williamson began urging doctors to consider domestic violence a health issue after surveys revealed many in the profession considered the issue a legal problem.

Dianna Inman, a pediatric nurse practitioner, who evaluates children in the school-based clinic at Edmund A. Burns Elementary School, understands well the impact that violence has on children.

And geographer Lisa Vandemark appreciates the importance of place, or how a zip code can shape people’s lives, from income to health outcomes.

The project, titled “Reducing Violence: A Template for the State,” has three strategies.

First, a layered map will be built using crime statistics from North Charleston police and existing community resources, such as transportation, mental health services and substance abuse treatment programs.

Second, a program called “The Incredible Years” that involves students, teachers and parents will begin at Burns Elementary, where Inman already has established a working relationship.

The third piece is a patient navigation program through the Franklin C. Fetter community health center that is the medical home for families who live in the targeted North Charleston neighborhood. Training will be offered to staff for screening of victims of violence.

**Monday, September 1, 2008**

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**Playground wish fulfills dream for disabled boy**

**BY KRISTEN HANKLA**
*The Post and Courier*

Excerpts from the original newspaper article:

When Frederica Joyner learned the Make-A-Wish Foundation of South Carolina would grant a wish for her 9-year-old son, she thought a long time about what it should be.

She didn’t want a family trip to Disney, the most popular wish granted by the nonprofit. “I needed to find a wish that suited Jonathan’s life,” she said.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation plans to create a playground in the Red Top community in honor of Jonathan Joyner.

Jonathan was born with cerebral palsy. For months after he was born, he would constantly cry, a high-pitched screaming cry.

After one of his many doctor’s appointments, Joyner came home exhausted. She looked up at her living-room ceiling and prayed, “God, just let my baby feel some joy, some happiness.”

And then her baby smiled for the first time in his 4-month life. “Right then, I knew his life had a purpose,” she said. “And what his purpose has been is to make other people happy.... Jonathan smiles and everyone around him smiles.”

The wish Joyner selected for her nonverbal son is smile-inducing, just like he is: a public playground. It will be the first in the Red Top community.

**Thursday, January 17, 2008**
In a world where great emphasis is placed on quality, MUSC is stepping up to the plate.

Cell phones. Blackberries. Text messaging. iPods. Does anyone communicate face to face anymore? It seems that everywhere you look these days someone is absorbed in his or her own personal high-tech gadget and seemingly unaware of the world around them.

As you walk down the street, or even down the hallway in your workplace, do you acknowledge the person who is walking towards you? Do you say “hello,” or offer a smile? That seems like such a simple thing to do. Just good manners, like your mother taught you, right? Well, in today’s fast-paced world, maybe it isn’t as automatic as it should be. Yet, you might be surprised at the impact this simple gesture can make.

Ponder this. When was the last time you sent a personal thank you note or card to an employee, or received one from your boss acknowledging your hard work? Didn’t it feel good to know that someone appreciated what you do? Everyone likes to receive positive affirmation that our efforts are making a difference. Yet, many of us don’t take the time to pause and simply say “thank you” for a job well done.

These are just a few examples of the little things that can help to change the culture of an organization and create an atmosphere that is conducive to everyone performing at their best. Sometimes we just need a gentle reminder to do them.

The MUSC Excellence program, initially launched by the Medical University Hospital Authority a few years back, is being implemented campuswide in an effort to attain excellence in everything we do. We want to make MUSC the best place to receive a high quality education, obtain cutting-edge health care, and a place that employees truly want to come to work everyday because they are excited about the opportunity to participate in the life changing work that defines us.

To that end, the university established five Pillar Goals that serve as the overarching model for the MUSC Excellence Program. Each of MUSC’s six colleges are in the process of defining their individual pillar goals, collecting baseline data, and developing tools to measure their successful implementation.

**UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE PILLAR GOALS**

- **PEOPLE**: Create an environment that is conducive to high morale and productivity – reinforcing that MUSC is the right place to be!
- **SERVICE**: Provide high quality services to students, alumni, patients, families, each other and our community with compassion, respect, dignity and pride.
- **QUALITY**: Achieve the highest standards of excellence in education, research, and clinical and community service.
- **GROWTH**: Create new and expanding opportunities, emphasizing collaborative partnerships internally and externally, that benefit our research, educational and clinical enterprises.
- **FINANCE**: Maintain fiscally sound practices that will sustain our ability to operate and grow in all areas of our strategic mission.
On January 29 – 30, the MUSC College of Nursing hosted one of nursing’s true “Living Legends.” Angela Barron McBride, PhD, RN, FAAN graciously shared her knowledge and wisdom of mentorship, leadership and the role of women in healthcare with interprofessional groups across campus.

“When you think of nursing mentorship you immediately think of Dr. McBride—a true role model of the best of nursing leadership,” said Dr. Gail Stuart, Dean of the College of Nursing.

The two-day visit was co-sponsored by the College of Nursing, College of Health Professions and MUSC’s Women’s Scholars group. Dr. McBride met with the deans and leadership teams in the Colleges of Nursing and Health Professions to provide consultation regarding building infrastructure, mentoring students and junior faculty, and providing strong leadership while managing the impact of the current economic crisis. She received a warm welcome from faculty as she presented “Beyond Gendered Health Professions” in the MUSC Women’s Scholar Lecture series. College of Nursing students were inspired by her engaging session on “Leadership and Mentoring,” presented in the college’s Distinguished Leader in Nursing Lecture Series, from someone who is a true role model for the profession.

Dr. McBride is Distinguished Professor and University Dean Emerita at Indiana University School of Nursing. She is a prolific, award-winning writer whose credits include The Growth and Development of Mothers that was recognized as one of the best books of 1973 by both The New York Times and the American Journal of Nursing. She has written or contributed to more than forty other books, and has published numerous articles in both professional journals and popular magazines (e.g., Glamour, Ms., Women’s Day).

Dr. McBride was honored with a Distinguished Alumna Award from both Yale and Purdue Universities. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, a Distinguished Practitioner in the National Academies of Practice, and was chosen as a National Kellogg Fellow. In 2006, the American Academy of Nursing recognized her as a “Living Legend.”

Concerted efforts are being made to promote interprofessional activity among our faculty and students and other disciplines on campus. The Center for Community Health Partnerships was established to coordinate and expand our community outreach. The College also has created a number of efficiencies that have allowed us to more wisely use our resources so that we may continue to fulfill our mission while maintaining quality in spite of the significant reductions to our state budget appropriations.

Lynn Shull, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration and Co-Leader of the MUSC Excellence Measurement Team stated, “MUSC Excellence comes at a perfect time for the College of Nursing. This initiative focuses on employee and student satisfaction, quality, service and accountability for performance and financial goals. What more could we need at a time of tremendous budget reductions? MUSC Excellence also focuses on metrics – as co-chair of the Measurements Team, it is evident that the College of Nursing excels in having reliable measurement tools, as well as having made tremendous progress towards the University’s Excellence Goals.”

A “LIVING LEGEND” VISITS CON

College of Nursing faculty and staff began attending MUSC Excellence training sessions last fall and the program is currently being incorporated into our daily routines. What this training has taught us is that we are already doing many of the things that we should be doing in order to attain excellence.

Our baseline data shows that:
• The vast majority of faculty, staff and students feel that they made the right choice in selecting the College of Nursing for their employment or education.
• Our students are leading the state in passing their licensure exams (98% NCLEX pass rate for 2008),
• Our graduation rate remains above 95%.

Lynn Shull
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Bonnie Dumas, PhD joined the faculty of the College of Nursing as an Assistant Professor in November 2008. She was also granted a joint appointment as an associate member of the faculty of the College of Graduate Studies. Dr. Dumas received her Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science in Biostatistics from MUSC, and her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of South Carolina. She collaborates with faculty and mentors students in the areas of research study design and the application of statistical methodology in nursing research. Dr. Dumas teaches statistics and research practice at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels.

Dr. Dumas comes to the College of Nursing from private industry, where she collaborated with science researchers in the development and outcomes assessment of multidisciplinary research studies utilizing statistical thinking/statistical methods. She is interested in the implementation of health care quality initiatives in hospitals and other health care facilities, capitalizing on nurses’ unique role for successful outcomes. She holds Black Belt certification in Six Sigma, a program based on a business management strategy of using quality management methods and incorporating statistical procedures.

Serving as chair of the Consulting Statisticians Electronic Listserve Establishment Committee of the American Statistical Association, Dr. Dumas is actively involved in her profession. The goal of this initiative is to facilitate/enhance online communication among statisticians engaged in statistical consulting throughout the US and other countries to heighten the collective learning. She is past president of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Statistical Association and received a National Chapter Service Recognition Award for exemplary service to her state chapter.

Laura Cousineau, MLS, the MUSC Library’s Assistant Director for Program Development and Resource Integration, and a Reference Librarian, was granted a joint appointment in the College of Nursing as an Associate Professor in December 2008.

Ms. Cousineau serves as the MUSC Library’s liaison to the College of Nursing, teaches in the PhD program, and provides classes and reference services for the College. Ms. Cousineau stated, “A highlight of our collaborations has been working with the PhD program. Teaching one of the Doctoral Toolkit classes has helped me to understand the depth and breath of the nursing knowledge base, as well as the dynamics of conducting a distance education course.”

Ms. Cousineau received her Masters of Library Science degree from North Carolina Central University, and her Bachelor degree from North Carolina State University. Before coming to MUSC, Ms. Cousineau was the head of the Lilly Library at Duke University where she developed information resources curriculum for all incoming students, and was an advisory board member of the Center for Instructional Technology. She is an evidence-based medicine specialist, and has been both a participant and a presenter at the Duke University Teaching and Leading EBM Workshop.

Ms. Cousineau also serves as Co-Director of the Evidence Based Medicine program for residents in the Department of Pediatrics, and works with residents in the Departments of Psychiatry, Dermatology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Otolaryngology, and Emergency Medicine.

Ms. Cousineau is a National Library of Medicine/American Health Science Library Leadership Fellow. She received the 2008 Academic Librarian of the Year Award from the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association, and her work was recognized for Outstanding Poster by a Medical Educator from the AAMC Southern Group on Education Affairs.
On March 1, 2009, Sally Kennedy, PhD, RN, FNP-C was named the College of Nursing’s Director of Online Education. Dr. Kennedy will work part-time in this role from Arizona while she completes her teaching commitments there. She will move to Charleston full time on July 1.

Dr. Kennedy has taught at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels. She has extensive online teaching experience. In her most recent position, she taught in a new online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program where she was instrumental in curriculum development and providing instructional design guidance. This experience made her the perfect candidate for the Director of Online Education position as we launch our own online DNP Program in the fall.

“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 for 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 we are 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.”

Dr. Kennedy received her diploma from Evanston Hospital School of Nursing and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Arizona State University. She earned a Master of Science degree in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing from Arizona State University at which time she also completed the Family Nurse Practitioner program. Her PhD is from Capella University with a specialization in online instructional design. She also holds a Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University and a certificate as a Problem-based Learning Tutor from Southern Illinois University Medical School. She is Board Certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners as a Family Nurse Practitioner, and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

In 2008, Susan Benedict, DSN, RN, CRNA, FAAN, retired from her active faculty role in the College of Nursing and was named Professor Emeritus. But Dr. Benedict is anything but retired. In fact, she is currently working in Botswana, South Africa, where she is a Professor of Nursing at the University of Botswana. Recently, the College of Nursing received the following correspondence from Dr. Benedict:

Greetings from Botswana! I have now been here for two months and I’m getting acclimated. Botswana is a beautiful country in southern Africa, very close to the South African border. This is a country that has never been to war, has no national debt, and has a reserve in the treasury. Unfortunately, it also has the second highest incidence of HIV infection in the world, next only to Swaziland, also in southern Africa. Because the government is financially strong, free treatment is provided to all. Botswana has the world’s largest supply of diamonds – but all are mined in a “fair trade” way.

It is summer here and it is the “rainy season” – which means it can rain but usually doesn’t. Just north of the capitol city, Gaborone, where I live, the Kalahari Desert begins. There are beautiful wildlife reserves within 30 minutes of here. I think it is amazing that lions, cheetahs, elephants, and giraffes [plus many more species] live so close.

I am teaching at the University of Botswana in their MNS program. The School of Nursing is a WHO Collaborating Center with community home-based care (resulting from AIDS) as its focus. They are very research-oriented. If anyone wants to do an international study, just let me know and I’ll link you with someone here.

Best regards to all!

Susan Benedict

SALL Y KENNED Y

BENEDICT RETIRES, GOES TO AFRICA
FACULTY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

How do you judge a school? One way is by the quality and accomplishments of the faculty. At MUSC our College of Nursing faculty have national prominence for their roles as leaders of national organizations and their representation on a wide variety of journal editorial boards.

**ELAINE J. AMELLA, PhD, GNP-BC, FAAN**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
- President & Governing Board, Southern Nursing Research Society

**JEANNETTE O. ANDREWS, PhD, APRN, BC, FNP**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
- Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow
- Co-Chair, Nurses for Tobacco Control

**ROBIN L. BISSINGER, PhD, RNC, NNPN**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
- Board of Directors, Neonatal Nurse Practitioners: National Certification Corporation (NCC)
- Council Chair, National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (NANNP)

**PHYLLIS A. BONHAM, PhD, RN, CWOCN**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
- President-Elect and Board of Directors, National Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society

**NANCY D. DUFFY, MSN, RN, CEN**
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
- Nursing Education Advisory Council, Elsevier

**BARBARA J. EDLUND, PhD, RN, ANP**
PROFESSOR
- Chair, Education Committee, Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

**GAIL W. STUART, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN**
DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
- President, Board of Directors, Annapolis Coalition for Behavioral Health Work Force
- Board of Directors, Mental Health America
- Special Advisory Board, Freedom From Fear
AMELLA UPDATES NATIONAL MEALTIME GUIDELINES

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) disseminates national guidelines that represent the best practices in clinical areas based on the strength of the evidence (research). Recognized as an international expert in this area, Dr. Elaine Amella, Associate Professor, recently updated the guidelines she previously authored, Mealtime Difficulties for Older Adults. This guideline represents the best science to-date on a problem that affects older adults with functional and/or cognitive problems that affect their ability to independently eat. Older adults are at higher risk for malnutrition because of increased rates of chronic illness including dementia and problems with oral health. As such, clinicians need to assess, manage, and teach older adults and their caregivers ways to handle mealtime difficulties. Strategies contained in the revised guidelines include the latest and best findings concerning: altering the environment including the food itself; the caregiver behaviors in assisting with meals; and promoting independence and dignity in the older adult as long as possible. Mealtimes are very culturally driven and an important social event in most older people’s lives; the guidelines emphasize attention to the entire phenomenon of meals, rather than just the ability to eat enough food.
LEADING BY EXAMPLE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR NURSING RESEARCH

Dean Gail Stuart has been invited to serve on the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health, for a term that began on February 1, 2009 and will end January 31, 2013.

The council consists of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and six non-voting, ex-officio members: the Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH); the Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); the Chief Nursing Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs; the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; and the Director of the Division of Nursing of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Of the 15 appointed members, two-thirds are selected from among the leading representatives of the health and scientific disciplines (including public health and the behavioral health or social sciences) relevant to the activities of the Institute. At least seven of these appointed members are professional nurses who are recognized experts in the area of clinical practice, education or research.

The Council provides the second level of review of grant applications, and recommends to the Institute Director which applications should be approved and considered for funding. In addition, the Council reviews the Institute’s extramural programs and also makes recommendations about its intramural research activities.

NINTH EDITION OF DEAN’S AWARD WINNING TEXT RELEASED

Since its initial publication in 1979, generations of nurses have been educated using Dean Gail Stuart’s award-winning textbook, *Principles and Practice of Psychiatric Nursing*. Nearly 30 years later, publisher Mosby Elsevier released the ninth edition in fall 2008. Previous editions received the *American Journal of Nursing*’s prestigious Book of the Year Award, and the text has also been translated into six languages.

The ninth edition continues the book’s legacy of excellence and presents current guidelines for the practice of psychiatric nursing, along with the latest clinical research and the most up-to-date psychiatric drug information.

Most innovatively, this edition has a fully developed Web site for student learning that includes chapter podcasts summarizing important information and video interviews of patients speaking “In Their Own Words.”

“It is a very good resource and I particularly enjoyed the excellent clinical examples used and the clear definition of terms and processes,” said Professor Debra Creedy, Head of the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies at the National University of Singapore.

Professor Kevin Gournay from the United Kingdom stated, “The text displays a breadth and depth which I have never seen before in any psychiatric nursing textbook, and I particularly found your ‘Stuart Stress Adaptation Model of Psychiatric Nursing Care’ to be truly encompassing of all of the key issues of practice.”

The ninth edition of *Principles and Practice of Psychiatric Nursing* is available at www.us.elsevierhealth.com.
Jeannette Andrews, PhD, APRN, BC, FNP, Associate Professor, was named Associate Dean for Research and Evaluation on December 1, 2008. In this role she provides leadership in managing all aspects of research grants, from idea formulation, scientific review, grant submission and post-award activities. Dr. Andrews also serves as the Director of the Center for Community Health Partnerships, a mission that engages and mobilizes academic and community partnerships that promote health and reduce the risks of chronic illnesses.

“It is an exciting time to be at the College of Nursing. Our research enterprise has grown tremendously and our NIH and other federal funding portfolio continues to expand and diversify each year. It is truly my honor to work with nurse scientists, educators, clinicians, and community partners who have a relentless passion to seek to understand and eliminate health disparities and to improve patient, system, and community health outcomes,” said Dr. Andrews.

A Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow, Dr. Andrews is co-founder of the national coalition Nurses for Tobacco Control, and past president of Sigma Theta Tau’s Beta Omicron Chapter. She has received numerous awards including the NPACE National Nurse Practitioner Award, Veterans Affairs National Professional Nurse Award, Georgia Nurses Association Nurse of the Year, among others.

Her research interests are community-based participatory research and cardiovascular risk reduction, with a special emphasis on smoking cessation and obesity interventions in African-American women. She has over 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including Ethnicity & Disease, Nursing Research, Preventive Medicine, and Research in Nursing & Health. She has received funding from National Institute of Nursing Research, National Cancer Institute, National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute, Georgia Cancer Coalition, American Cancer Society, and the American Legacy Foundation.

Robin Bissinger, PhD, RNC, NNPC, Associate Professor, has been named to lead the College of Nursing’s new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and its Master Degree programs.

First appointed to the faculty in 1994, Dr. Bissinger is Board Certified by the National Certification Corporation as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, past president of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, past president and current executive director of the Carolina’s Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners. She is currently Chair of the National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, secretary/treasurer of the National Certification Corporation, and Liaison to the Perinatal Executive board for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Jeannette Andrews, Associate Dean for Research and Evaluation and Director of the Center for Community Health Partnerships (CCHP) was funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health for her research project grant (RO1) entitled, “A Social Ecological Based Smoking Cessation Intervention for Women in Public Housing Neighborhoods.”

The broad, long-term objectives of this research are to optimize smoking cessation outcomes and to reduce associated health disparities in African-American women who live in Southeastern US public housing neighborhoods. Using a participatory and social ecological approach, the academic investigators, advisory board, and public housing residents have developed a bundled, multi-level intervention (a.k.a. Sister to Sister) that has demonstrated feasibility and potential effectiveness in increasing short-term cessation outcomes. The primary aim of this study is to test the effectiveness of this bundled, multi-level intervention on long-term (six and 12-month) cessation outcomes in women in public housing neighborhoods.
ENDOWED CHAIR RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE MINORITY HEALTH

Carolyn M. Jenkins, DrPH, RD, CDE, APRN-BC-ADM, FAAN, the Ann Darlington Edwards Endowed Chair in Nursing, received the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) 2009 Award for Research in Minority Health. The award was presented during SNRS’s annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland in February 2009.

The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of an individual or group conducting and/or promoting research that has significance for improving the health care of minorities and other under-represented groups in the Southern region.

Dr. Jenkins’ 25-year career has been devoted to working with communities throughout South Carolina to improve health outcomes related to diabetes and its complications, especially for the state’s underserved black community. The focus of her work is on reducing racial disparities, and creating effective academic community partnerships. She has leveraged more than 10 million dollars to improve community health. In collaboration with others, she has co-led negotiations for annual funding of the Diabetes Initiative by the South Carolina State Legislature and has influenced the passage of a statewide bill that establishes a minimal level of care for persons with diabetes and provides reimbursement for diabetes education.

Gail Stuart, Dean of the College of Nursing stated, “Quite simply, Dr. Jenkins’ is a stellar role model and mentor of other health care professionals in teaching, research and clinical activities and always goes the extra mile whether it is activating a community or supporting her professional colleagues.”

“Dr. Jenkins’ is a stellar role model and mentor of other health care professionals in teaching, research and clinical activities and always goes the extra mile.”

~ Dean Gail Stuart

STUART NAMED DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

The title of Distinguished University Professor is reserved for those faculty who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and have achieved national and/or international recognition for their accomplishments. In August 2008, the MUSC Board of Trustees agreed that College of Nursing Dean Gail Stuart met this standard. This highest academic title is conferred on Dean Stuart for life.

Dr. John Raymond, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, noted that Dean Stuart is only the second faculty member outside of the College of Medicine at MUSC, and the first faculty member in the College of Nursing, to receive this honor.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PhD STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SNRS CONFERENCE

College of Nursing PhD students were well represented at the Southern Nursing Research Society’s (SNRS) 2009 Annual Conference entitled Interdisciplinary Research: A Road More or Less Traveled that was held February 11-14, 2009, in Baltimore, Maryland.

“SNRS has a long tradition of grooming the next generation of nurse researchers.”

SNRS President and College of Nursing faculty member, Dr. Elaine Amella stated, “SNRS has a long tradition of grooming the next generation of nurse researchers by offering them a forum to disseminate formative work, as well as receive mentoring by more senior scientists. The MUSC College of Nursing PhD students who attended this year’s meeting exemplified the best of the future by actively participating in and receiving awards for their research proposals and presentation of burgeoning research. As President, I was so proud to hear their names announced and knew it was the continuation of a great tradition!”

SNRS PhD STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS
“Screening for Depression During Pregnancy” by Jodi Protokowicz
(this poster received 2nd place for the Friday session)

“A Dimensional Analysis of Marginalization” by Lucinda Meggison

“The Concept of Nursing Workload: A Dimensional Analysis” by Heather Craven

“Gender, Deployment Length and Combat-Related PTSD” by Lisa Marie Sternke and Sheila Smith, College of Nursing faculty member

“Health Literacy Expectation of Weight Loss Materials” by Catherine Ling

SNRS PhD STUDENT PAPERS
“Maternal Voice, Family Visitation and Discharge Timing in Preterm Infants” by Jillian Cimino, Christa Cook, Andi Petito, Leslie Parker, and Charlene Krueger

“Effect of Breast Milk on Cost of Care in Very Low Birth Weight Infants” by Christina Stewart, Lisa Frier, Justine Harris, and Leslie Parker

“The 6 C’s of Online Learning: Perspectives from a Doctoral Cohort” by Leslie Parker, Catherine Ling, Theresa Lawson, Janet Primrose, Lynette Duley, and Suzanne DeVandry

(Names in bold denote MUSC College of Nursing students.)

Pictured left to right: Heather Craven, Catherine Ling, Leslie Parker, Melissa Aselage, Jodi Protokowicz, and Lisa Marie Sternke.
Ms. Erica Gunnells is the recipient of the Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones Scholarship. Ms. Gunnells is a graduate of the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program and is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing degree program. She will complete the Family Nurse Practitioner curriculum this May, earning a remarkable 3.93 GPA in her graduate studies. Additionally, she has served on college committees to evaluate our effectiveness and provide input for improvement.

Prior to her enrollment in the College of Nursing, Ms. Gunnells completed a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education-Athletic Training at the College of Charleston. She became a certified athletic trainer and worked at James Island Physical Therapy for two years.

Ms. Devon Licari is the recipient of the Irene Dixon Scholarship. This wife and mother of two, is a second semester student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. Ms. Licari completed her first semester of coursework with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She has a previous bachelor’s degree from Wofford College, where she graduated summa cum laude. She earned a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and completed a capstone project on Cuban culture. She studied abroad in Cuba. With 13 years of Spanish studies, she has worked as a translator in various environments. She is currently part of the College of Nursing Hispanic Health Initiative Scholars program.

Ms. Licari is role model for her peers who will be proud to give back to her family and communities by working as a nurse.

Ms. Molly Lussier is the recipient of the Elizabeth Mills Scholarship. She will complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in May and is concurrently enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing degree program where she has taken graduate level coursework in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing track for the past two semesters. Her accomplishments include being the first College of Nursing student to participate in MUSC’s interprofessional Clarion Competition. She served as a student facilitator for the series, leading discussion for students, faculty and staff from various departments and programs at MUSC.

Ms. Lussier is a “real go-getter” and is passionate about nursing, specifically psychiatric mental health nursing. Prior to her enrollment in the College of Nursing, Molly earned a degree from Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu.

Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones was a 1964 graduate of the College of Nursing and native of Allendale, South Carolina. She was one of the first two American military women and one of ten nurses to be killed during the Vietnam War. Her family and friends began this scholarship in her honor and asked that it be presented to a student with outstanding academic qualifications and need.

Miss Irene Dixon, Class of 1922, had a profound impact on nursing in the Charleston area as a nursing supervisor and public relations officer at Roper Hospital for more than 25 years. Miss Dixon was well-known for her empathetic approach to nursing and her care and concern for all patients. One of the goals of this scholarship is to assist a nursing student who is likely to manifest this type of concern for patients in their nursing career.

This scholarship honors a previous dean who served the College of Nursing from 1965 to 1969. A soft-spoken, philosophical administrator and dedicated teacher, Dean Mills moved forward plans begun by her predecessor, Dean Ruth Chamberlin, and the first students graduated with baccalaureate degrees from the College of Nursing.
Ms. Bonnie Shepherd is the recipient of the Gail Stuart Scholarship. She is a first semester student in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program.

Ms. Shepherd is an academic star, having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Presbyterian College with a major in English and minors in International Studies and History. She studied abroad, and was one of two students selected to represent Presbyterian College and promote its exchange program arranged by Fulbright Professorships in Finland. She served as Editor-in-Chief of the college’s nationally distributed literacy magazine, Figs and Thistles.

Following graduation, Ms. Shepherd worked for Innoverx-McNeil Consumer and Specialty Pharmaceuticals and Novaquest-Eli Lilly and Company Pharmaceuticals as a sales representative. She also worked for Bon Secours-St. Francis Health System as a physician liaison and community educator and has participated in international and domestic missions.

Ms. Lee Horton is the recipient of the Ruth Chamberlin Scholarship. Ms. Horton is not only a student in the PhD program but she is also an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. She is a certified nurse midwife who practices in the MUSC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Student Health Services providing women’s health care.

Ms. Horton received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and her Master of Science degree from Columbia University in New York. She is certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives and by the Council of Childbirth Education Specialists of Greater New York. She is a member of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, and the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.

As a PhD student, her research interest is planned behavioral change and the influence it may have regarding breastfeeding among indigent African-American women.

The Alumni Association wanted to recognize current College of Nursing dean, Gail Stuart, for her representation of nursing throughout the United States and internationally by presenting this award in her honor. Dr. Stuart is appreciated for her energy, interprofessional approach, and creative spirit. She has a progressive vision of the future of nursing and an optimistic belief in the capacities of teaching institutions to effect positive change.

Ruth Chamberlin was the first person to hold the titles of Dean and Professor within the College of Nursing. She inspired admiration, awe, and great respect among nursing graduates from 1937 to 1966. In addition to her leadership, she helped establish standards of nursing care for all South Carolinians. She left a great legacy that helped prepare the College of Nursing to move forward to meet the educational needs of a changing health care environment.

SEED MONEY BEARS FRUIT

Help deserving students reach their full potential at MUSC College of Nursing.

Consider giving to the College of Nursing Alumni Scholarship funds.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!
Contact: Denise Ciccarelli
Office of Development
MUSC College of Nursing
Phone: (843) 792-8421
E-mail: ciccarel@musc.edu
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

PANNA SCHOLARSHIP
Accelerated BSN student Mr. Jared Carter was surprised during his Adult Health I class when Ms. Caroline Counts, MSN, RN, CNN, Classes of ‘68, ‘82, and ‘88 and Ms. Deborah Brooks, MSN, APRN, BC, CNN-NP, Classes of ‘76 and ‘01 presented him with a $500 scholarship from the Palmetto Chapter of the American Nephrology Nurse’s Association.

Mr. Carter was selected for the scholarship based on feedback from faculty regarding his academic and classroom leadership.

SUNSET ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
The Sunset Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island, SC awarded a $2,500 scholarship to Ms. Rachel Fuller, Accelerated BSN student.

Prior to enrolling in the College of Nursing, Ms. Fuller lived in Western China and studied Mandarin Chinese. She taught English as a second language, participated in a cultural exchange program in Uzbekistan, and participated in a variety of mission trips. After graduation she plans to use her nursing knowledge to improve the health of impoverished populations.

CHARLESTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP
Charleston County Medical Society Alliance awarded the Sally Thompson Seignious Scholarship to Ms. Ashley Charlebois, Accelerated BSN student.

The Alliance awards $1,000 each to a College of Nursing and a College of Medicine student who is a native of Charleston County.

Ms. Charlebois has extensive volunteer experience at the Medical University Hospital Authority and Roper-St. Francis Healthcare. Through family and personal experiences, she developed a deep respect for the nursing profession and the value it puts on helping others and making a difference for individuals and communities.

WACHOVIA SCHOLARSHIPS
Accelerated BSN students, Ms. J’Vonne Hunter and Ms. Tiffany Hunter, were each selected to receive a $5,000 scholarships from Wachovia through Roper-St. Francis Healthcare.

J’Vonne comes to the College of Nursing having already earned dual Bachelor of Science in Biology and Bachelors of Arts in Spanish degrees from North Carolina State University. Before returning to school to pursue a nursing degree,

J’Vonne worked for Duke Pathology Genome Trials Support Facility in Durham, NC, and served as a Spanish interpreter and eligibility screener for Urban Ministries Open Door Clinic in Raleigh. She has 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.

Tiffany developed an interest in health care careers during a summer internship with Low country AHEC during the summer of 2002. The next summer, she participated in an undergraduate research program at MUSC where she worked closely with three physicians performing analysis. She further developed her research experience as a Research Fellow at Winthrop University. Tiffany has been involved in the Bethlehem United Methodist Women and Habitat for Humanity. She is active with mentoring young women and actively participating in local, regional, and national initiatives to support their growth and education. She previously earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Winthrop University.

Both J’Vonne and Tiffany will complete the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program in December 2009.
MUHA PATRON SCHOLARSHIP

From the time Ms. Amy Marialke took her first ballet class at age 4, she knew she wanted to be a ballerina. By age 17, she had earned a position with the Eugene Ballet in Oregon. During her time with the company, Ms. Marialke said she acquired a knack to work with and understand many types of people. There were people from across the United States, as well as Canada, Colombia, Korea, Venezuela, and Germany.

Ms. Marialke felt connected with people, especially children, but felt she needed more. Inspired by friends who were nurses, she decided to become a certified nursing assistant. The time she spent with patients confirmed nursing would also be a passion to follow.

Ms. Marialke wrote, “A few of the skills I learned on stage were an eye for detail, a quick memory, and an unremitting drive for perfection. I know how to commit to a goal.”

She begins her academic program at the College with a 3.9 GPA from previous colleges where she completed her prerequisite course work.

MINORITY NURSE FACULTY SCHOLAR

Mr. Julius Kehinde, online PhD student, won one of eleven national scholarships awarded by the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing’s Future - American Association of Colleges of Nursing Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars Program. Launched to address the shortage of nurse faculty and enhance diversity within the population of nurse educators, the program provides financial support and professional development to graduate students who agree to teach in a school of nursing after graduation.

In his second year of PhD coursework, Mr. Kehinde is focusing his research on examining factors that prevent falls in long-term care facilities and residential communities. “He is highly regarded by faculty and students alike for his thoughtful inquiry, focused conscientiousness and boundless enthusiasm,” said Dean Gail Stuart.

Mr. Kehinde resides in California where he works as a charge nurse at Loma Linda University Medical Center. He received a bachelor’s degree from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria and a Masters of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Phoenix.

BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FELLOWS

Six out of 16 students who were selected as the first recipients in the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation’s $1.5 million graduate-level nursing scholarship program are PhD and master’s degree students from the College of Nursing. From the PhD in Nursing program Ms. Sharon Bond, Ms. Theresa Lawson, Ms. Pamela Murphy, and Ms. Lisa Marie Sternke received funding. Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) students included Ms. Meaghan Askea and Ms. Cathy Mulloy.

Established through the South Carolina Nurses Foundation, Inc., and distributed over three years, the $1.5 million is enabling financial support for nursing students who will eventually become faculty in nursing education programs across the state. The scholarships 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, with each university receiving equal amount scholarship funds. 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.

“It’s imperative to the health of the people in our state to have a sufficient number of working nurses. I congratulate these students for stepping forward with the intent of eventually teaching others,” said Foundation Executive Director Mr. Harvey Galloway.
2008 - A YEAR TO REMEMBER

We commemorated our 125th Anniversary, opened the state-of-the-art MUSC Healthcare Simulation Laboratory, and received approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education to open the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. As this extraordinary year drew to a close, a new generation of nurses emerged from the doors of St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 6 as 50 BSN, 30 RN-BSN, 28 MSN, three Post-MSN, and two PhD graduates were officially recognized during Convocation ceremonies.
Ms. Emma Forkner, MA, RN, College of Nursing alumnus and Director, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, provided the Convocation remarks. Not only is Ms. Forkner a distinguished alumnus, she is also MSN graduate Ms. Lauren Brodie’s mom. When asked how she felt about her daughter following in her footsteps Ms. Forkner replied, “I am so proud of Lauren and her nursing career. She’s always enjoyed helping others and working in fast-paced challenging situations. She is the Assistant Nurse Manager in a busy CCU at a heart hospital. The online MSN program allowed her the opportunity to integrate learning with the real life situations she encountered at work and I particularly enjoyed watching her leadership mature during the program. I am even more pleased she obtained her degree from MUSC as it is my alma mater!” Similarly when asked what inspired her to follow in her mother’s footsteps, Ms. Brodie replied, “I am proud to follow in my mother’s footsteps as a nurse with an advance practice degree. Growing up, I watched my mom become a leader in nursing. I see how her decisions affect so many people. We have a unique opportunity in nursing to serve our community in a meaningful way and touch so many people’s lives. It is truly an honor to be a nurse and work in a profession so dedicated to helping others.”
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Three Outstanding Alumnus Awards were presented during Homecoming festivities on March 28, 2009.

Ms. Caroline Counts, MSN, RN, CNN is a three-time graduate of the College of Nursing earning her Diploma in 1962, Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1982, and Master of Science in Nursing in 1987. She is also a lifetime member of the College of Nursing Alumni Association.

Ms. Counts is a leader in the clinical area of nephrology and is a lifetime member of the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association where she has served as President of the organization. She has mentored nurses throughout the United States, authored a textbook, published in professional journals, and participated in research activities and programs. In recognition of her professional contributions and service to the specialty, The Palmetto Chapter of the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association annually presents a scholarship to a College of Nursing student that is named in Caroline’s honor.

Close friend and classmate, Ms. Laurann Litchfield, describes Ms. Counts as “one of the kindest, most giving individuals I have ever known. She has worn many hats during her lifetime including nurse, daughter, mother, wife, and friend.” Ms. Litchfield, along with Ms. Dena Glenn Clair, nominated Ms. Counts for this award.

A graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (1972) degree program, Ms. Emma Forkner, MS, RN is the Director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Ms. Forkner has held a number of leadership roles in her 35-year nursing career. Prior to her appointment at the DHHS, she rose to the rank of Colonel in the United States Air Force and served as Chief Nursing Officer during a number of postings. She also served as the Director of Telemedicine at Alaska’s Elmendorf Air Force Base. After her military retirement, she served as a Senior Policy Analyst in the area of Health Quality Research at Altarum Institute, a non-profit health care research institute in San Antonio, Texas.

Ms. Forkner also earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration and her published research spans a variety of important health care topics including the relative clinical and financial effectiveness of disease management and the use of data to optimize care delivery systems. One of her top priorities at DHHS is to improve outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries through enhanced care coordination.

Ms. Forkner’s daughter, Ms. Lauren Brodie, completed her Master of Science in Nursing degree in Nursing Administration in December 2008 (see photo on page 33).

Ms. Cathy Landis, MSN, RN, CNAA, BC is a graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (1974) degree program. She also has a Master of Science in Nursing in Administration.

Currently, Ms. Landis is the Service Line Director for Heart and Vascular Services in the Roper-St. Francis Health System. She is an energetic, innovative professional with a strong track record of spearheading efforts to attain streamlined, cost-effective services, excellence in patient care, and a professional environment that fosters growth. She has been effective in developing strategic initiatives to meet the needs of the organization and health care need in the community.

Ms. Landis’ supervisor wrote, “Throughout most of her career, most of which I have been privileged to witness, Cathy has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her work and the profession. No one, in my 30 years as a health care CEO has better exemplified the professional nurse executive as Cathy Landis.”
Dear Gamma Omicron at-large Chapter,

It has been a special year for Gamma Omicron at-large as we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of our chapter and the 5th Anniversary of our at-large Chapter. We inducted 74 new members into our chapter in November and enjoyed a wonderful reception honoring our anniversary. Congratulations to Catherine Coker, undergraduate student, who received the Paula Thielan Award and Erica Damico Gunnells, graduate student, who received the Founders Award.

Highlights for this Spring include:
• Awarding our annual research grants and awards
• Election of our 2009-2010 Board of Directors
• Launching a new member mentoring program
• Participating in the annual March of Dimes Walk on April 26
• Annual membership meeting on May 12

I encourage you to go to our Web site at www.musc.edu/nursing/departments/sigma for all of our chapter information. Here you will find contact information for the Board of Directors, a calendar of upcoming meetings and events, our chapter goals for the year, meeting minutes, and other information. The 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, click Membership, then click My Membership, and enter your member number to update your information.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like information about how to become a member of Sigma Theta Tau, International. I can be reached via e-mail at tanyalott@homesc.com. I look forward to seeing you at a Sigma event soon!

Sincerely,
Tanya Lott, MSN, RN-BC
President, Gamma Omicron

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is a pleasure to extend greetings to you as I begin my final term as President of the Nursing Alumni Association. The Alumni Board has been busy working on programs and fundraising projects to benefit the College of Nursing and its students.

In December 2008, members networked and shared plans and activities during a collective meeting of Alumni Board members from all of MUSC’s six colleges. During Convocation on December 6th, I was proud to present the Alumni Association Outstanding Student Awards recognizing the superior academic performances for a graduating BSN, RSN-BSN and MSN student.

In January 2009, Board members attended the Stethoscope Ceremony honoring the College of Nursing’s Class of May 2010 (BSN). Each new student was given a rose from the Nursing Alumni Association, with a note that read, “Congratulations! We support students and our future colleagues.”

On March 28th, we hosted our annual Nursing Alumni Association Homecoming Weekend. The evening included a fabulous Silent Auction organized by the Board members that raised money for College of Nursing Student Scholarships. Five scholarship awards of $2,000 each were presented to current students.

Keep the CONnection! I encourage all graduates to become dues-paying members of your Nursing Alumni Association. Your membership not only broadens your network, but it makes our program stronger. Annual dues are just $20, and Lifetime memberships are $300. These dues facilitate our ability to sustain gifts, scholarships and awards for College of Nursing students.

Lastly, it has been an honor to provide leadership during such an important and exciting time in our College. My sincere thanks to the Board for all their contributions this year.

Sincerely,
Nancy Finch, PhD, RN
President, MUSC Nursing Alumni Association
The College of Nursing celebrated its annual homecoming on March 28, 2009. More than 40 alumni attended the open house in the College of Nursing on Saturday morning and were treated to a personal tour of the state-of-the-art simulation laboratory.

Members of the Class of 1964 got together for dinner on March 27, to celebrate their 45th reunion. The Class of 1974 gathered for lunch on Saturday afternoon in celebration of their 35th reunion.

In addition to the great fun, fellowship and delicious Lowcountry fare, Saturday evening’s festivities included another successful silent auction to raise money for scholarships. One of the most popular auction items was a beautiful hand-blown glass vase made by Mr. Robbie Clair, son of Ms. Dena Clair, Class of 1968. Ms. Clair donated the vase in honor of her class and in recognition of classmate, Ms. Caroline Counts, who also was honored as one of the Outstanding Alumnus of the evening. In addition to Ms. Counts, Ms. Emma Forkner and Ms. Cathy Landis also received Outstanding Alumnus Awards. (See page 34 for details.)

Five $2,000 scholarships were awarded to College of Nursing students during the evening program. (See pages 28 - 29.)
Class of 1964 2009 Alumni Scholarship Award recipients: Devon Licari, Bonnie Shepherd, Lee Horton, Erica Grunnells, and Molly Lussier.

Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient, Caroline Counts and Florence Simmons (Alumni Association Board)

Accelerated BSN students, Brittney Lewis and Amir Sadir

Class of 1977 Debbie Lomax-Franklin and Nancy Lee-Gilmore

2009 Alumni Scholarship Award recipients: Devon Licari, Bonnie Shepherd, Lee Horton, Erica Grunnells, and Molly Lussier

Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient, Emma Forkner converses with Jeannette Andrews (faculty)

Students Tiffany Hunter and Devon Licari with Jane Anderson (faculty)

Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient, Emma Forkner converses with Jeannette Andrews (faculty)

Accelerated BSN student, Hannah French and friend, Daniel Bartlett

Accelerated BSN students, Britney Lewis and Amir Sadir
Class Notes received after January 31, 2009 will appear in the next issue.

1952
Betty Faris Howell and her husband, Roy A Howell, Jr., M.D., live in Charleston and have four children and 12 grandchildren.

1956
Lucy Hoffmeyer Rhame lives in Raleigh, NC and has three children, Melissa, Stephanie, and Durban.

1959
Ophelia “Fee” Funderburk of Charleston is looking forward to the 50th reunion of her class.

Ann “Boo” Sample Griffin and her husband, Dr. Thomas Griffin, live in Wilson, NC.

1959
Dorothy Varn Still of Columbia died July 7, 2008 after a prolonged illness (Leukemia). Her family wished to let classmates know that she had fond memories of her days with them at the College of Nursing.

1960
Dorothy Hyatt Lack Hartley continues to volunteer at Colleton Medical Center. She has four children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Carie Whetsell Rust retired as Nurse Manager from the Department of Mental Health in 2004.

1961
Deana Elderidge Watson lives in Beckley, WV.

1962
Miriam McMillan Hunter of Charleston has become active as a volunteer parish nurse at her church. Her three grandchildren are the highlight of her life.

1964
Patricia Smoak Cordova writes that she still works in oncology (chemotherapy) after 35 years! She lives in Banning, CA, with husband, Harry.

1968
Emily Golden Vaughan of Meggett retired from Parkwood Pediatrics in February 2007. She also had two knee-replacement surgeries in 2007.

1970
Cathy Melfi Curtis of Sullivan’s Island has co-authored a book for F. A. Davis entitled, Psychiatric Mental Health Success: A Course Review Applying Critical Thinking to Test Taking. The book reviews classroom content in the context of NCLEX application questions. She teaches nursing at Trident Technical College.

1972
Barbara Goranson Scott retired March 31, 2008 from the Department of Veterans Affairs as nurse manager of the VAOPC in Ft. Myers, FL, and the CBOCS in Naples, Port Charlotte and Sebring, FL.

1974
Cathy Odom Landis recently joined the staff at Roper-St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston, moving from the Bon Secours Richmond Healthcare System after serving five years as VP/CNE and two years as VP, Clinical Transformation.
1975
Patricia McVay Harvin is a nurse manager for dialysis at the VA Medical Center in Charleston and is a certified nephrology nurse. She was honored in 2007 by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation in their Palmetto Gold Nurse Recognition and Scholarship Program.

Dana Hutchison is living in the beautiful mountains of Penrose, NC and is riding horses for a living! She invites her classmates to visit her Web site: www.ultimateridecampground.com.

Becky Peters is owner/CEO of Lifespan Care Management Agency in Santa Cruz, CA.

1977
Nedra Strauss Campbell is a case manager at East Cooper Regional Hospital in Mt. Pleasant.

1978
Amie Vallotton Izaguirre completed a refresher course after a 14-year hiatus from the field. She is currently working on a medical/surgical unit at Northside Hospital in Cherokee and loves it.

1979
Theresa Edwards of Denton, TX writes: “Looking forward to our 30-year reunion.”

1981
Colleen Neal Bible of Beaufort is on the nursing faculty at the Technical College of the Low Country teaching child health/pediatrics in the ADN program.

Pat Brame and husband Stephen Groves, an attorney, have five children. She works with Hospice of Charleston.

Anne Robertson Johnson of Urbana, OH, still works PRN with pre- and post-operative patients in an outpatient surgery center. She is also learning to circulate in the endoscopy suite. She writes that her only child is entering high school in the fall, making his mom feel very old!

1984
Melanie Cason now has her MSN from Drexel University and is teaching full-time at Trident Technical College in Charleston.

Martha Kalb DeHart retired from the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs with 29 years of service as a nurse manager at the Saleeby Center on May 31, 2008.

1985
Phyllis J. Thomas Floyd of Osprey, FL was named as a Palmetto Gold Member in 2002, received an MBA from The Citadel in 2005, and is certified by ANCC in Nursing Administration.

1986
Jean Stocks Crow of Shreveport, LA is now a grandmother to three very wonderful boys. She attended the birth of her third grandson on April 20, 2008.

Julie Morgan Steadley and husband, Scott, along with their kids, Katie (9) and Ben (7) live in Burke, VA, outside of DC. She is currently homeschooling her children and plans to return to nursing in the future.

Candace Buckles Morton writes “It’s been a busy year! I remarried in October and started a new position within the Herma Heart Center at Children’s...”
Hospital of Wisconsin as the PNP for the Pediatric Electrophysiology program. I am looking forward to the new challenges as well as learning the nuances of the EP world more in-depth.”

Suzanne Prevost, previously Professor and National Chair of Healthcare Excellence at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN is now Associate Dean for the College of Nursing at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

1987
Jose Ubalde is President and CEO of Orion Medical Services, in Winston-Salem, NC.

1988
J. Michael Boggs is a law partner in the Charlotte, NC office of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP. His practice includes patent preparation and prosecuting both in the United States and internationally, and intellectual property counseling, contracts, and licensing.

1989

Stephanie Kiser married George J. Naumann on September 20, 2008. She is employed at Roper-St. Francis Home Health as a telehealth coordinator.

1991
Candace Buckles Morton writes “It’s been a busy year! I remarried in October and started a new position within the Herma Heart Center at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin as the PNP for the Pediatric Electrophysiology program. I am looking forward to the new challenges as well as learning the nuances of the EP world more in-depth.”

1993
Donna Compagnone-Dulaney is working in Tomball, TX at Tomball Hospital in the cauterization lab. She has one son, Wyatt, who is 15-months-old.

1996
Natalie Cannata and her family now live in Hohenfels, Germany.

Jennifer Foster Smoak of Anderson writes: “Thank you for a great education. I am working with women and children at Greenville Memorial Hospital.”

1996-1997
Helen Seal, ’97, and husband, Lieutenant Commander Mitchell Seal, ’96, are still enjoying the Navy life in Southern California.

1998
Katherine Miller married Dr. Jeffrey Loveland, Director of the Occupational Therapy Program at James Madison University, in March 2007. The couple lives in Woodstock, VA.

1999
Helena Walo received her MSN degree from the College of Nursing in December 2008. She is a nurse manager with MUSC.

2000
Mary Clay McBride continues to work as a CNM in a full scope midwifery practice in Wilmington, NC. She is starting a centering pregnancy program.

Vondalyn Simmons is a captain in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and works as an operating room nurse, CNOR.

Roy Smith, who completed a doctoral degree in nursing at USC in 2007, works full-time in the emergency room in Hartsville and part-time at a pediatric office.

2001
Elizabeth Sibal Sevey is now working at Tacoma General Hospital in Washington as an operating room nurse. Her husband, Franklin, is an Air Force pilot. She writes that they have no children as yet but have two toy poodles.

Jamie Sicard married Adrianne Sprove-ro, DVM, at the ruins of the Old Sheldon Church on April 3, 2008. He and his wife live on Johns Island. Jamie currently holds four certifications from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses: CCRN (Critical Care), PCCN (Progressive Care), CMC (Cardiac Medicine Certification) and CSC (Cardiac Surgery Certification).
2002
Kristen Arflin Hall is married with two children, Jackson (4) and Sarah Olivia (2). Kristen works as a family nurse practitioner at Carolina Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine in Anderson.

2003
LTC Frankie Evans is a senior case manager for the Warrior Transition Clinic in Fort Bragg, NC.

2004
Jennifer Henry Gray is employed with Williamsburg Regional Hospital as night-shift nursing supervisor. She is also a CNA clinical instructor for Florence-Darlington Technical College, Lake City Satellite, as well as an LPN instructor for Williamsburg Technical College. She has three beautiful girls, Bailey Elizabeth (8), Kennedy Elise (2) and Carly Elexis (9 months).

Colleen Mayo has recently moved to Maine and is working for the Veteran’s Administration there.

2005
Mary Kate Skinner received the South Carolina Wound Care Scholarship and completed the Wound Care Program at MUSC in August. She is currently working as a Certified Wound Care nurse at Roper Hospital. She married Josh Skinner in October.

2006
Alan Phillips recently received his commission as an officer in the Marine Corps after completing Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, VA.

Erica Richards, who received her MSN degree in December 2008, is a certified nurse midwife and works in Labor and Delivery at MUSC.

2007
Millicent Cohen married Darien Whaley on September 20, 2008.

Angela Landis is teaching at Lander University.

2008
Ricki Larson and Erin Marie Wood were married on January 17, 2009, at St. Luke's Chapel at MUSC. He is working at St. Francis Hospital.

Erica Richards, who received her MSN degree in December 2008, is a certified nurse midwife and works in Labor and Delivery at MUSC.

Nicole Woodberry is working at Trident Medical Center. She and her husband, Tyler, live in Goose Creek.

In Memoriam
Dorothy Elliott Brengle, ’43
Evelyn Boiter Duncan, ’61
Doris Stout Ferrer, ’50
Donna Self Graham, ’48
Ada Lynn Hartley, ’87, ’97
Frances Sutler Haynie, ’45
Jayne Ann Howell, ’95, ’03
Sharon Gilmer Martin, ’60
Dolores Schrage Stelljes, ’49
Dorothy Varn Still, ’59
Carol V. Tracy, ’60

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 your good news.

Please send news and photos to:
Alumni Association
268 Calhoun St.
MSC 182
Charleston, SC 29425
- or -
visit our web site at:
www.alumni.musc.edu/online/update.htm.

Why always wait for snail mail? Send us your e-mail address for the most up-to-date College news.
“Simplify” has become our motto at the College of Nursing. We know that many of our alumni and friends are doing the same.

To that end we have launched a wonderful way to let someone know that you are thinking of them. Instead of rushing out to buy cards and gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations or memorials – consider a more meaningful option. Make a donation to the MUSC College of Nursing as a way of remembering your special person. To help you with this, we will send you a “Tribute Booklet” and for a donation of $10 or more, a beautiful linen card will be mailed to whomever you wish letting them know that you have honored them in this most meaningful way.

To request a MUSC College of Nursing Tribute Booklet, please contact: Denise Ciccarelli, (800) 810-6872 or ciccarel@musc.edu. These gifts are 100% tax deductible.

“I loved receiving the beautiful card from MUSC. I really don’t need any more chocolates, flowers or knick-knacks. It’s wonderful to know a nursing student has been helped in my name.”

~ Masha Kalinsky, Charleston, SC
**Bluegrass & Barbeque**

The College of Nursing’s Hilton Head Island Dean’s Advisory Board hosted a Bluegrass & Barbeque event Saturday, October 4, 2008 at Honey Horn Plantation on Hilton Head Island. The Broken Arrow Barbeque Team (pictured) prepared a scrumptious feast. Sounds of The Islanders Band filled the air as guests danced into the night on this festive fall evening in the beautiful South Carolina Lowcountry. The event raised more than $8,000 for nursing scholarships.

Watch for details coming soon for the 2009 Bluegrass and Barbeque event.

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**HILTON HEAD ADVISORY BOARD**

The Hilton Head Island Dean’s Advisory Board is a hard working group of community-minded individuals who generously donate their time and talents to support the College of Nursing. Members of this Advisory Board include Ruth E. Edwards (Board Chair), Shelton Bosley, Sherri Bundy, Ed Dowaschinski, Paula Hart, Elaine Hastings, Karen Kirby, Kim Likins, Anna Sharp, and Mary Vaux. Members of the Hilton Head Island Dean’s Advisory Board (pictured below) traveled to Charleston in February to hold their spring meeting. While on campus, the group toured the state-of-the-art MUSC Healthcare Simulation Laboratory and Ashley River Tower.

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"People say that the first thing to go when the economy is down is donations. But instead of cutting gifts to charity, I think it is even more important to give to others to the extent that you are able. Now more than ever I know the critical difference my nursing scholarship can make in the life of a student."

— Betty C. Kelchner CON Class of 1952 & Scholarship Donor

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"As nurses are the front line of hospital care, there must be good, available instruction for all who qualify and my small donation to the CON was in recognition of that need."

— Susan Payne, former Charleston Dean’s Advisory Board member
“Where people of goodwill get together and transcend their differences for the common good, peaceful and just solutions can be found even for those problems which seem most intractable.”

- Nelson Mandela
Charitable Gift Annuity.

Create a Legacy of Giving

Give a Gift That Will Bring a Lifetime of Benefits

With a gift annuity, you make a gift to MUSC and you receive fixed income for life. Your payment rate will be based on your age and a portion of your payment may even be tax-free. You may also receive valuable tax savings from a charitable income tax deduction in the year you make the gift. And your gift will help us further the mission of MUSC nursing.

For more information on creating a charitable gift annuity, please visit our web site at www.musc.edu/giving or call Denise Ciccarelli today at 800-810-6872.
MUSC announces the opening of the

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program**

at the

College of Nursing.

See inside for more details.