I like disruptive innovations. The Harvard Business Review describes a disruptive innovation as when a cheaper, simpler, more convenient product or service starts meeting the needs of less-demanding customers. Such innovations stir up the status quo, dismantle complacency, and inject a note of potential jeopardy into existing systems. Yes, they do cause anxiety, but without anxiety there is little growth and no evolution.

There are many examples of the impact of disruptive innovations. I think about the huge main-frame computer housed in an entire room that I used when writing my doctoral dissertation and compare it to the existing computers that weigh less than 2 pounds and can be carried in the palm of one’s hand. It is easy to think of similar technological examples such as the cell phone, iPod, or even the X-ray machine. Disruptive innovations have also affected service industries. Consider how many of us do our banking online, in conveniently placed bank machines, or in drive-through, full-service bank windows.

But disruptive innovations have been strongly resisted by two large institutions: health care and education. For the most part, these industries continue to do business as usual, and in so doing they repetitively experience the problems of high costs, poor use of resources, and unclear outcomes.

If health care were to adopt a disruptive innovation, it could create and then embrace a system where the teaching is brought to the learner who would be an active participant in shaping one’s own increased knowledge and skill. Let’s envision how that might impact nursing. For example, current individual classroom lectures taught in each nursing program could be replaced by nationally distributed, digitally available summaries of important information created by the knowledge-leaders in nursing and supplemented by text, Internet and visual resources. This would standardize nursing content, assure content conformed to national educational competencies, and reduce the need for individual lecture experts in each and every nursing program throughout the country. Nursing faculty in each program could then become guides who help shape the students’ critical thinking, problem-solving and self-efficacy by emphasizing application and skill-building in real and simulated clinical settings.

Or perhaps you have a different vision of a disruptive innovation for health care or for nursing. If so, I say bring it on…and bring it to our MUSC College of Nursing. As you will read in this issue of Lifelines, we are creating waves of change in health care education through our use of technology and creative thinking. We like disruptive innovations if they can help us turn around the nursing shortage, educate more students, and shape a safer, more effective health care system. After all, sometimes the best leadership is both disruptive and innovative.
Dr. Gail Barbosa has been named Director of Online Education and Director of the Doctoral Program at the College of Nursing (CON). There is a bit of irony in this, as she will be fulfilling these roles virtually—interacting with faculty, staff, and students from a geographic distance, but also as close as her keyboard, telephone, iPod, and fax machine. “I think there is no better understanding of what it is like to learn from a distance than to be away from the main campus in this role. One quickly sees the difficulties encountered by students,” says Dr. Barbosa.

Although Dr. Barbosa has moved to the Atlanta, Georgia area, virtual reality is allowing her to remain a faculty member with the College of Nursing in these administrative roles, as well as in research, teaching, and scholarship activities. “I am encouraged that our growth in online education will be a vital component for our college, particularly in combination with simulation learning, keeping the MUSC CON on the cutting edge in education,” she says.

Dr. Barbosa, along with many of the faculty, have led the development of online programs at the College of Nursing, starting with the online RN to BSN and RN to MSN programs, and the master’s level tracks of Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator, Nursing Administration, and the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. These programs continue to grow in numbers, and students rate their satisfaction with the courses and teaching as highly as face-to-face campus courses.

Beginning in Fall, 2006, the doctoral program is being offered online. This decision was based on wanting numbers of doctoral students living in the local Charleston area and the desire to meet the higher education needs of nurses in the state and region. Potential doctoral candidates in nursing are older, have families, and rely on full-time employment, making an online program of study particularly attractive.

The purpose of the online doctoral program is to produce scholars who will contribute to the profession and continue to collaborate with our faculty in scholarship, research, and teaching. Dr. Barbosa states, “We will always be looking for the techniques and the hardware and software that increase a sense of learning community for our students. One such pilot is the use of a video camera that links students and faculty in live, interactive conversations. This supplements the asynchronous learning with a sense of personal communication that comes from seeing a face and hearing a voice.”

Dr. Barbosa is often asked how faculty know that learning is taking place when the students are at a distance. She explains, “Most of us remember correspondence courses, in which teachers mailed lesson plans to students and required written responses, videos, or tape recordings in return. The lack of quick interaction between the teacher and learner was often unrewarding. The recent explosion in the use of the Internet, personal computers, iPods, e-mail, and video chats has added a new dimension to the distance learning environment.”

Learners can now interact with each other and with their teacher using visuals, sound, and text with the choice to study in simultaneous or asynchronous learning sessions. These features add increased access to data, a heightened rigor to distance coursework, more engaging learning, and convenience for the student to study “anytime and anywhere.”

Weekly content modules in a course have learning objectives, activities, and learning resources, and one or more measures of learning outcomes. The learning outcomes are designed to allow students to demonstrate their critical thinking and comprehension of a concept. The learning is active and the faculty’s role is to guide and motivate the student’s learning, often by asking questions that require critical thinking on the part of the student. Faculty and students are required to post responses at least 3 - 4 times per week, encouraging a level of interaction that many students do not achieve in the classroom.

Online students have the same resources available to them as campus students: the MUSC Library, counseling, student services, help with writing and test taking, financial aid, scholarships, and faculty advisement. Students usually make a campus visit at least once a year, particularly at orientation time, to feel confident in their access to the courses and understanding of their program of study.

To learn more about our online programs of study at MUSC, go to http://www.musc.edu/nursing/academics/online/index.htm.
In Spring 2007, the MUSC College of Nursing will begin an ambitious new MSN+MBA dual degree program in collaboration with the University of South Carolina (USC) Moore School of Business. The traditional program in Nursing Administration is designed for those nurses who seek progressive management experiences in nursing. The addition of the MBA will allow nurses to get outside of the nursing “silo” and seek positions in a wide variety of health related settings. The combination of the master’s in Nursing Administration and the MBA will provide a broader business base for nurse managers and directors and will attract nurses from around the country.

Dr. John Welton, Assistant Professor at the College of Nursing, will head the program. His background in starting his own air ambulance company taught him some valuable lessons. “I had the clinical skills and the ambition to start my own company, but they didn’t teach entrepreneurship in nursing school,” notes Welton. “I had to learn the business of nursing from other courses I took during my master’s degree at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.” The MBA adds essential business, financial management, and marketing skills necessary to begin and run health related businesses.

Dr. Tom Madden, Director of the USC Professional MBA, approached Dean Stuart two years ago with a proposal – share some of the core courses in both programs and leverage the online experience of MUSC to craft a new approach to graduate nursing education. The initiative dovetails nicely with several joint ventures among sister universities in the state system.

The MSN+MBA will begin with the MBA component, which will be offered online with the option to take some courses on the USC campus. The nursing component will be shared with other Nursing Administration students. This program has been delivered completely online since the Fall of 2005. MUSC expects to increase enrollment by 20 to 30 additional students. The first cohort of students will complete their MBA degree requirements in Spring of 2008 and then enter the online MSN program the following Summer. The entire program can be completed in two and a half years of full-time study, and part-time options will soon be available. The joint program will be less expensive and take less time than earning the two degrees separately.

The new MSN+MBA dual degree program adds to the growing portfolio of innovative programs at the MUSC College of Nursing. Sharing resources improves educational effectiveness and adds new learning dimensions and choices to meet a more sophisticated consumer of higher education.

For further information, please see our website: http://www.musc.edu/nursing/academics/masters/nurseadminMBA.htm

NURSM 755: Organizational Theory and the Health Care System

Faculty
Patricia H. Arford, PhD, RN

Description
In this graduate-level course, students examine organization and management theories and applicable research which guide effective patient delivery in integrated health care systems. Organizations are conceptualized from the theoretical perspectives of structure, human resources, politics and symbolic/culture. Students synthesize nursing administration activities to enhance effectivenss of individuals, groups and organizations.

Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Differentiate organization theories and concepts evolved from the structural, human resources, political and cultural organizational perspectives.
2. Analyze health care organization situations from the theoretical perspectives.
3. Apply theory and concepts related to organization processes, such as problem solving, leadership, and change, to enhance managerial effectiveness.
4. Plan strategies to resolve individual, group, and organization issues using organization theories/concepts and relevant research.
5. Clearly communicate ideas, criticisms and major themes related to organization theories in health care systems.
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) approved funding of Dr. Elaine Amella’s proposal, “Teaching and Reaching Vulnerable Populations: An Online PhD Program,” effective July 1, 2006. The award will allow the PhD in Nursing program to go online, provide technical support for online video-conferencing, and expand content for students on health policy and use of systematic review. The total award is $503,122 over three years.

High out-of-state tuition has been a serious deterrent for many of our potential students at the College of Nursing, especially in our master’s and doctoral programs. Recently, the Board of Trustees approved a new rate for online out-of-state students, which is only 10% higher than in-state online tuition. This means that in-state students pay $5415, and students outside of South Carolina will now pay $5957 per semester for online programs.

The grass is definitely greener with the innovative use of technology at the College of Nursing.

With the directive to place the doctoral program completely online, the College has purchased video conferencing software called MegaMeeting. The software provides synchronous video chat via the Internet with students spread across the United States.

The Nursing Technology Center is also exploring ways to provide authored class materials by podcasting. The Medical University has been chosen as one of 100 higher education institutions to have free access to iTunes University. A committee is currently meeting to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to facilitate the hosting of these broadcasts, and the College of Nursing is looking at ways to take advantage of this technology for future classes.
Faculty, Nurses, and Students Influence National Health Policy

Senator John Kerry came to Charleston on Saturday, July 22, 2006, to discuss his health plan to help millions of uninsured Americans. However, he did not expect to see the audience filled with white lab coats representing nearly a hundred MUSC nurses, faculty, and students. They came to meet the senator and discuss their own plan to change Medicare reimbursement to hospitals to reflect nursing intensity.

In June of this year, Dr. John Welton, Assistant Professor at the College of Nursing, submitted a proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in response to a sweeping change to inpatient reimbursement. The federal government has growing concerns that a decades-old reimbursement formula based on hospital charges is out of control. The CMS proposal will move to a new cost-based and severity-adjusted formula for inpatient care. In April, Dr. Welton published in the Journal of Nursing Administration a study conducted in collaboration with nurses at the Medical Center examining the relationship between nursing intensity and costs with hospital billing and reimbursement. They found that nursing care was undervalued by 32%, leading to millions of dollars in lost billing. When the researchers began to investigate the shortfall, they were appalled to find that nursing care was still rolled up in room and board charges and absent from the reimbursement formula. Their overall conclusion was that nursing care was invisible at the policy and health financing levels of the US health care system.

The alternative plan submitted by Dr. Welton seeks to adjust the inpatient Medicare payment formula for nursing intensity. He argues that this is an excellent model to realize the stated policy goals to create a fairer reimbursement system. The proposal was presented at both the national meeting of the American Organization of Nurse Executives in Orlando, Florida, and the Nursing Informatics Congress in Seoul, South Korea. The plan was endorsed by the American Organization of Nurse Executives and the American Nurses Association.

When Kerry was asked by a local news reporter whether he supported the MUSC plan, he said, “Absolutely. I’m very, very interested in it. We’re looking at a number of options right now, anything that will help us do it more effectively and more efficiently.”

“The difficult part is ahead,” says Welton. “In order to move the proposal forward, we will have to interface with the national political process and make this a bipartisan effort to address the growing nursing needs of very sick patients who fill our hospital beds.”

The plan presented to Senator Kerry will identify nursing costs and directly fund hospitals for nursing care. Ultimately, the political choices made in the coming months will either raise the visibility of the 1.5 million nurses who work across US hospitals or keep them in the dark, buried in room and board.

MUSC faculty, nurses, and students are affecting national health policy, and although the eventual outcome is uncertain, the combined and collaborative efforts may very well succeed.

College of Nursing Proposal to CMS

1. Create a unique Nursing Cost Center within each provider hospital that identifies the inpatient direct and indirect costs expended by registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and unlicensed assistive personnel.
2. Collect nursing intensity data that identifies the daily expended direct hours of care for each patient by registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and unlicensed assistive personnel assigned to care for each individual patient.
3. Calculate mean nursing intensity and nursing costs for each patient’s hospital stay.
4. Add new nursing data (mean nursing intensity, direct and indirect nursing care costs) to UB92 and the hospital discharge abstract.
5. Calculate hospital payment by adjusting DRG payment based on the mean direct and indirect costs of nursing care by patient severity category.
6. Use the new nursing intensity and nursing cost data to compare nursing resource use at US hospitals.
7. Provide sufficient funds to study and implement the above recommendations.

Supporting Publications by Dr. John Welton

A Lowcountry initiative’s multi-pronged assault on diabetes—in libraries, doctor’s offices and churches—has improved the health of thousands of local African Americans dealing with the disease over the past six years.

Now, those slow but significant gains in South Carolina’s fight against the deadly blood sugar disease are gaining national attention.

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) 2010’s Charleston and Georgetown Diabetes Coalition, a venture spearheaded by the Medical University of South Carolina’s College of Nursing, recently earned two national awards. Although South Carolina has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the nation—more than 270,000 people have the disease—REACH 2010’s work is being recognized as a model for other states.

The Community-Campus Partnerships for Health annual award, which honors the nation’s best collaborations between educational institutions and community groups, cited the local program for its unique efforts and its research showing health improvements among participants.

REACH 2010’s Library Partnership, which provides online training to help patients better manage their care, was also selected as the winner of the 2006 Health Information Award for Libraries from the nation’s top 2006 Health Information Award also selected as the winner of the Better Manage their Care, was online training to help patients.

Partnership, which provides improvements among participants.

Among the REACH program’s achievements:

- Slashing the rate of diabetic amputations in the Charleston area by 50%.
- Getting patients to the doctor more often and ensuring they receive the proper testing for diabetes-related vision problems, cholesterol control and hemoglobin A1c, which measures blood-sugar levels over time.
- Teaching Internet skills to help patients plan healthy meals, for instance, or understand their medications.
- Linking more patients with assistance programs to pay for their glucose testing strips, which can cost as much as $35 a week.

Despite the progress, leaders say the coalition’s work is a long-term investment that will expand in years to come.

“We really have just begun to make a difference, so we cannot sit back and say, ‘Sure, we’ve made a difference,’” said REACH principal investigator and MUSC College of Nursing Professor Dr. Carolyn Jenkins. “The health care disparities that we see are still tremendous. The message is, ‘Let’s all join arms and work to make a difference.’”

Education has been the biggest thrust of the program, after early surveys showing dangerous misunderstandings about diabetes care. When the coalition began its work in 2000, researchers learned that although most people saw a doctor four or more times a year—and many even had insurance—they weren’t getting the proper tests during their visit. Jenkins said the hemoglobin A1c test, for instance, is a crucial indicator of how well a patient’s blood sugar is being controlled and how to tweak the treatment plan. Now, after patient and provider education initiatives, 96% of program participants are getting the test.

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Hulsey Named a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow

A national fellowship focused on leading the country’s health care system into the 21st century has been awarded to Dr. Tara Hulsey. She is one of twenty nurses in executive leadership roles nationwide selected as a 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow.

The three-year program is designed to strategically position the voice of nursing across many sectors of the economy in a health care system undergoing unprecedented change and challenges.

“Nurses must play a pivotal role in leading the redesign and success of health care now and into the future,” said Dr. Hulsey. “The Executive Nurse Fellowship is an intensive opportunity to develop critical leadership skills, work with a nationally recognized team of coaches and instructors, and benefit from collaboration with nursing and health care leaders throughout the country.”

Dr. Tara Hulsey is Associate Dean for Academics and an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing, Associate Professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, and is a full faculty member of the College of Graduate Studies at MUSC.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change.

Two National Appointments for Dean Stuart

Gail W. Stuart, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN, Professor and Dean of the MUSC College of Nursing, has been invited to join the Board of Scientific Advisors for United Behavioral Health (UBH), a leading health care provider of emotional wellness services featuring professional, innovative solutions with behavioral health services, employee assistance, work/life/wellness programs, pharmacy management services, and other support programs to more than 22 million Americans. As the board’s only nursing professional, Stuart joins a team of nationally recognized leaders who will collaborate with UBH clinical and administrative leaders to advise on behavioral health services, policy, education, research and administration, as well as major trends and issues in the behavioral health fields. Stuart will serve a two-year term.

In addition, Dean Stuart was appointed Chair of the Board of Directors of the Annapolis Coalition on the Behavioral Health Workforce. The mission of the Annapolis Coalition is to build a national consensus on the nature of the behavioral health workforce crisis and to promote improvements in the quality and relevance of education and training by identifying and implementing change strategies. To move this agenda forward, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has engaged with the Annapolis Coalition to work with a broad constituency of stakeholders to develop a National Strategic Plan on Behavioral Health Workforce Development. The Coalition is managed by a Board of Directors and a National Steering Committee that includes experts on workforce issues in mental health and addictions, children and adolescent services, culturally competent care, consumer and family issues, and recovery-oriented approaches to treatment.
Dr. Gayenell S. Magwood is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. Dr. Magwood received her PhD in nursing from MUSC, MSN from George Mason University, BSN from MUSC, and a BA in Mass Communications and Psychology from Winthrop University. Dr. Magwood also holds a certificate in Faith Community Nursing from St. Louis University; completed specialized training in Cognitive Interviewing at the Joint Program of Survey Methodology, University of Michigan and University of Maryland; and did postgraduate work at the Graduate Summer Institute of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) Scholar and a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

From 2002-2006, Dr. Magwood was Project Director and Co-Investigator for REACH 2010, a research and demonstration grant focused on reducing disparities and improving care for African Americans with diabetes. Prior to joining REACH 2010, she was a kidney and pancreas clinical transplant coordinator at the Medical University Hospital Authority’s Transplant Center.

Dr. Magwood’s research interests include health disparities, patient-reported outcomes, and health literacy. She is also concerned with the under-representation of culturally diverse individuals in nursing and has worked with the SC AHEC student development and diversity program to establish a Pre-nursing Academy.

Dr. Lynne Nemeth is a Research Assistant Professor in the MUSC College of Nursing and a Nurse Researcher at the Medical University Hospital Authority. She received her BSN from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, her MSN from Boston College, and her PhD from MUSC.

Dr. Nemeth has extensive clinical, educational, administrative and research experience from New York, Boston, Seattle, and Charleston. Dr. Nemeth came to MUSC in 1999 as Director for Outcomes Management, Research and Development, where she provided leadership for case management, social work, outcomes and quality, home care, clinical education, interpreter services, lactation consultation, and diabetes education. Dr. Nemeth has led numerous quality initiatives over the past decade, including clinical pathway and coordinated care development and implementation, medication safety, discharge planning and hospital patient flow, documentation systems improvement, assessment of cultural competence and assessment of magnet hospital nursing standards.

Dr. Nemeth’s current position as a Nurse Researcher and new faculty member enables her to pursue her current program of research in translating research into practice. She is involved as co-investigator in three federally funded research projects within PPRNet, a primary care research network of practices that use the Practice Partner™ electronic medical record (Accelerating Translation of Research into Practice [A-TRIP]), Accelerating Alcohol Screening-Translation of Research into Practice [AA-TRIP], and Colorectal Cancer Screening in Primary Care). She is actively pursuing independent researcher status through the submission of her own proposals to develop the interdisciplinary team role and leadership skills in primary care practices. Dr. Nemeth received the SC Nurses Foundation Palmetto Gold Award in 2006.

Dr. Lisa M. Vandemark is a Research Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing and a Research Fellow in the Center for Health Disparities Research at MUSC. Dr. Vandemark received her PhD in Geography from Rutgers University; an MS in psychiatric nursing from the Catholic University of America; an MS in Human Ecology from the University of Brussels, Belgium; and a BSN from Rutgers University.

Her interests include community-based research on the distribution of disease, exposure, and the availability of health care services; the preparation of advanced practice nurses as psychotherapists; and the development of psychotherapeutic interventions to address dislocations in the sense of self, place, and belonging in the homeless. Her background as a professional geographer sensitizes her to the complex interactions among cultural and environmental conditions that determine the quality of our lives.

From 2000-2005, Dr. Vandemark was a study director at the National Research Council (NRC) and the Institute of Medicine in Washington, DC. In 2003, she served as a consultant to the International Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration on geospatial capacity-building and partnerships development in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Jane Zapka has particular expertise in primary and secondary prevention services, palliative and end-of-life services, patient-provider communication, and other health services research and quality improvement studies. Her keen methodological skills in research design, theory based intervention planning, survey research, systems interventions and program evaluation make her a valuable asset as the CON continues to build a strong research portfolio.

Dr. Zapka earned a bachelor’s in biology from Skidmore College, a master’s in public health from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and her doctorate from the Harvard School of Public Health. She had a similar faculty support relationship and adjunct appointment at the University of Massachusetts/ Worcester Graduate School of Nursing and in June 2000 received the State Award for Excellence-Nurse Practitioner Advocate from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Ms. Maggie O’Sullivan is a new Instructor at the College of Nursing. Ms. O’ Sullivan received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Worcester State College, Worcester, MA; a diploma in nursing from Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing; and an MSN from Marymount University, Arlington, VA. She has been an educator for 7 years and has over 20 years of nursing experience in surgical units, PACU, and Same Day Surgery settings. She will be teaching Adult Health in the accelerated baccalaureate degree program.
Dr. Carolyn Jenkins was appointed the Ann Darlington Edwards Endowed Chair in Nursing on May 8, 2006 at the Wickliffe House in Charleston. This first and only research endowed chair of nursing in South Carolina was funded through private donations and is named in honor of Mrs. Ann Edwards, former first lady of South Carolina and MUSC, and retired nurse. “We are excited to be appointing the very first nursing research endowed chair in South Carolina and are particularly pleased that it honors the contributions of Mrs. Ann Edwards to both nursing and the state,” said Gail Stuart, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Nursing.

This endowed chair position will allow Dr. Jenkins to pursue her own research, with a focus on the MUSC College of Nursing Caring for the Community Initiative, which emphasizes caring for vulnerable populations through the formation of community partnerships. Dr. Jenkins brings over 30 years of community outreach experience to this position, including a million dollar community research project sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Eli Lilly, and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“Dr. Jenkins represents the essence of nursing excellence. Her work has truly improved the health of citizens across this state and is a role model for effective outreach intervention. For this reason, as well as her ability to forge strong, collaborative community relationships, she has received state, regional and national recognition and respect,” said Dean Stuart.

Dr. Jenkins currently serves as a Professor in the College of Nursing, as well as Principal Investigator for Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health 2010 (REACH 2010), an ongoing program sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, whose goal is to reduce racial disparities for African Americans with diagnosed diabetes in Charleston and Georgetown counties.

Jenkins is a leader in the field of community outreach and diabetes research, as evidenced by her numerous awards and honors including recent recognition by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control as the recipient of the Minority Health Distinguished Leadership Award, and as one of 20 nationally recognized by Howard University as an Emerging Nurse Star in Health Disparities Research.

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Phyllis Bonham presented at the 38th Annual Wound, Ostomy and Continence Conference in Minneapolis. She also lectured at the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons’ Annual Conference in Seattle.

Dr. Bonham was elected Distinguished Practitioner in the National Academies of Practice in Nursing.

Dr. Carolyn Jenkins was funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research for her R15 proposal, “Emergency department se by African Americans with uncomplicated diabetes.”

Dr. Mary Martin was appointed to the Board of Advisors of American Defense International.

Dr. Lynne Nemeth and coauthors received the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine’s 2006 Best Research Paper Honorable Mention Award for their article, “A multi-method quality improvement intervention to improve preventive cardiovascular care,” published in Annals of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Nemeth presented a paper on evidence-based practice at Sigma Theta Tau International’s 17th International Congress in Montreal, Quebec.

Dr. Charlene Pope was named faculty for the 2006-2007 Presidential Scholars program.

Dr. Pope and Jason Roberson presented on the use of medical interpreters with Hispanic patients at the Conference on Communication, Medicine, and Ethics in Cardiff, UK.

Ms. Gigi Smith (Co-Investigator) received funding from Parents against Childhood Epilepsy: A Research and Education Fund for a study entitled, “Coping with Epilepsy: A Program for Youth.”

Dr. Gail Stuart presented “Evidence Based Psychiatric Nursing” at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London.

Dr. Stuart was Co-chair of the 14th Annual Congress on Women’s Health, Journal of Women’s Health, which was held in Hilton Head, SC, in July, 2006.

Dr. Deborah Williamson (PI) received funding for a second year for the Hispanic Health Initiative from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Two College of Nursing Faculty Members Inducted Into the American Academy of Nursing

Elaine J. Amella, PhD, APRN, BC, Associate Dean for Research and Evaluation and Marilyn P. Laken, PhD, RN, Director of Special Initiatives, both at MUSC’s College of Nursing, will be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as 2006 new Fellows on November 11, 2006, along with 52 other nurse leaders from across the country during the Academy’s Annual Awards Ceremony and Induction Banquet in Miami, FL.

Both were nominated for this honor by two current Academy Fellows and were selected by the Academy’s 15 member Fellow Selection Committee for outstanding achievements in the nursing profession. In addition, Drs. Amella and Laken are the only two Fellows chosen from the state of South Carolina.

The Academy is constituted to anticipate national and international trends in health care, and address resulting issues of health care knowledge and policy. Not only is the invitation to Fellowship recognition of one’s accomplishments within the nursing profession, but also affords an opportunity to work with other leaders in health care in addressing the issues of the day. The Academy’s mission is to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge.

For more information about the American Academy of Nursing, please visit their web site at www.aanet.org.
Dr. Valeria Shipp

Valeria “Val” Shipp has been a registered nurse since 1975, when she received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Winston-Salem State University. In 1980, she earned her Master of Education degree in Nursing Education from Columbia University in New York. She is now Dr. Valeria Shipp, PhD, RN, having completed her dissertation in August, 2006.

While research had not been the primary focus of Dr. Shipp’s nursing practice for the past thirty years, she says, “It had been part of my nursing experiences.” Her interest in studying how education can change the quality of life and health, especially for minorities, developed while conducting inner city health fairs and workshops and became the focus of her dissertation, entitled “Effectiveness of Accumulated Counted Steps in Meeting the Physical Activity Standard, Accumulation of at least 30 minutes of brisk walking, in African American men ages 30-60 years old. “Hopefully, my research will add to the body of knowledge about physical activity and its impact on the lives of African American men,” says Dr. Shipp.

While Dr. Shipp was enrolled in course work, she also worked full-time, raised three children, and found additional time to assist the College of Nursing with student recruitment activities. Having spent much of her nursing career with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Dr. Shipp recognizes the diversity of career paths available to nurses and wants to share that information with young people making important life decisions.

She provided leadership to the co-sponsored AHEC and REACH 2010 summer institute designed to attract minority high school students into nursing.

“Young people need to have the right perspective about the nursing profession. These days, it is a very lucrative career, but people entering it need to see beyond this fact. It is about caring and the lives of others. You must have a heart for people, even though it can really pull on you personally. New nursing graduates will need to learn to roll with the punches and expect the unexpected. Experience will help them feel confident in their roles and help them find the right fit for them in the profession,” said Dr. Shipp.

Currently a clinical nurse educator for the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Salisbury, NC, Dr. Shipp primarily manages affiliations and is involved with the Institutional Review Board and mentoring new nurses. In addition, she teaches a course or two each year for her alma mater, Winston-Salem State University.

In the Limelight:

New PhD Graduates

Dr. Winnie Hennessy

Completing her PhD from MUSC in August 2006, Dr. Winnie Hennessy has already distinguished herself as a teacher of palliative care education and clinical practice. Currently working at the Medical University Hospital Authority, Dr. Hennessy is a palliative and support care nurse and works as a co-investigator for the EXCEED study, “An Exploration of Racial Differences in End-of-Life Care Preferences Among Cancer and CHF Patients in South Carolina.” Dr. Hennessy’s dissertation, “Exploring Differences in Resource Intensity in Dying Intensive Care Patients,” will lay the foundation for future research in this area. She has already presented on this topic at the Annual Assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association in Nashville, TN.

Dr. Hennessy is always eager to speak to students of other health profession backgrounds about the interdisciplinary nature of palliative care. As part of her residency for her MSN program, which she also completed at the MUSC College of Nursing (1997), Dr. Hennessy traveled to New York Hospital and Cornell Medical University to study palliative models of care and assessment tools. Soon after, Dr. Hennessy began collaborating with physicians and an interdisciplinary team to create a formal business plan and consultation service in palliative care.

Dr. Gayenell Magwood

Joining the MUSC College of Nursing faculty as an Assistant Professor, Dr. Magwood will be teaching and building on her initial research. Her dissertation, “Evaluation of Two Health Related Quality of Life Instruments for Use with Older African-Americans with Diabetes Mellitus,” examined sources of problems in comprehension, response categories and within-language cultural variations that may influence validity and reliability of two existing diabetes-specific instruments.

After earning her BSN from the MUSC College of Nursing in 1993, Dr. Magwood began her nursing career in Washington, DC, at Washington Hospital Center, Surgical Trauma ICU. Ever increasing her knowledge and skills, Dr. Magwood earned her MSN from George Mason University and began focusing her attention on coordinating care for transplant patients. In 1998, Dr. Magwood and her family moved back to Charleston, SC, and she became the clinical transplant coordinator for the Medical University Hospital Authority.

Dr. Magwood has been a role model for prospective nursing students and has served as the co-coordinator and lead faculty for the AHEC Pre-Nursing Academy since 2004. In fact, she received the AHEC Role Model Award in 2005. She also mentored a student for the MUSC Project EXPORT, a collaborative research program between MUSC and SC State University. She has received numerous recognitions for her commitment to youth, including the Women of Influence Award from YWCA of Greater Charleston, Inc.
Welcome to Our New Online Doctoral Students!

From August 14-17th, the College of Nursing hosted a campus residency for the first cohort of online doctoral students. The students were oriented to their fall classes and mingled with fellow students, staff, and faculty to build an identity with their virtual community of learners. Students learned how to access the library; visited writing, research, and advisement resources available to them from the MUSC campus; and practiced using the WebCT and MegaMeeting software that will be used in the fall online courses. The students enjoyed lodging at the historic Indigo Inn and sampling the sights, flavors, and sounds of the market section of Charleston. The week’s events ended with a student and faculty social at Toucan Reef, located at the South Carolina Aquarium. The residency was a great start for this impressive and motivated first cohort of online doctoral students!

Outstanding Students Earn Scholarships

Stephanie McPherson is the first recipient of a $2500 scholarship from the Sunset Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island. This scholarship allows one nurse per year from the Hilton Head area to continue his or her nursing education and pursue a baccalaureate or master’s degree through the College of Nursing’s online learning program. Stephanie is enrolled in the Nurse Educator track of the RN-MSN degree program.

Stephanie lives in Bluffton, SC, and works as a clinical coordinator at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. In this role, she coordinates patient education for a busy 28-bed medical/surgical unit and serves as the liaison between patients, families, physicians, and other health care professionals. She is a graduate of the Associate Degree in Nursing program at the Technical College of the Lowcountry in Beaufort, SC. Last year Stephanie received the Super Nurse Award and was nominated for the Palmetto Gold Award, a statewide recognition. In addition to her work, she has been involved in the community, serving as a chairperson for a health fair, and assisting with the Walk for Cystic Fibrosis and Heart Walk.

“Being enrolled in an online degree program allows me to meet my professional and educational goals at the same time. My supervisors at work have been very supportive, and earning my degree online allows me to stay involved in my own community and make a contribution,” says Stephanie.

Presidential Scholars Announced for 2006-2007

The Presidential Scholars Program brings together selected students and faculty from the Medical University of South Carolina’s six colleges to explore the complex social, political, and human issues that shape the delivery of health care services in South Carolina and the nation.

During this year-long extracurricular program, the scholars address topics that transcend their own discipline and professional boundaries. They learn more about the contributions that each discipline makes to health care and the value of teamwork.

Through discussion, debate, and interaction with community leaders, legislators, and faculty, these outstanding students develop new perspectives on important health care issues and learn how they, working together as health care professionals, can become leaders of health care change.

Congratulations to this year’s Presidential Scholars from the College of Nursing!

Stephanie McPherson is the first recipient of a $2500 scholarship from the Sunset Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island. This scholarship allows one nurse per year from the Hilton Head area to continue his or her nursing education and pursue a baccalaureate or master’s degree through the College of Nursing’s online learning program. Stephanie is enrolled in the Nurse Educator track of the RN-MSN degree program.

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“Being enrolled in an online degree program allows me to meet my professional and educational goals at the same time. My supervisors at work have been very supportive, and earning my degree online allows me to stay involved in my own community and make a contribution,” says Stephanie.

Harmony Edelman is a fourth semester student enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. She is a second degree student, having earned a Bachelor in Health Science from Clemson University. This twin and native of North Myrtle Beach, SC, is interested in becoming a nurse midwife.

Harmony’s previous work experience will greatly influence her nursing practice. She has served as a Community Outreach Coordinator for the Anderson Oconee Council on Teen Pregnancy Prevention and interned at the Joseph F. Sullivan Center, where she was responsible for organizing health fairs and counseling clients on nutrition and exercise. She also interned as an assistant health visitor in a cultural immersion program in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

A cancer survivor, Harmony organized a College of Nursing Relay for Life team, which raised nearly $1500. “As a child, I was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma and was treated at the MUSC Hospital. My personal experience has fostered a desire to give back and provide others with health education and nursing care. I hope my public health perspective, my clinical skills, and my personal passion will help me make a difference as a nurse.”

Harmony is stellar student and has completed her first three semesters of course work with a 3.9 GPA. She is the recipient of the Irene Dixon Alumni Scholarship and a Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship. She is also a College of Nursing representative serving on the MUSC Student Government Association. Harmony is a great role model for her peers and is sure to be a leader in nursing.

From left to right, Janet Primrose, Theresa Lawson (in front), Catherine Ling, Suzanne Devendry, Dean Gail Stuart, Leslie Parker, and Lynette Duley.

Stephanie McPherson.
Congratulations, Class of 2006!
Greetings from the Alumni Board!

I would like to welcome the new board members for the 2006-2007 academic year. The nominating committee was able to recruit members from Roper St. Francis Healthcare, Trident Technical College, and MUSC making this a very diverse group who I believe will be very successful. I would like to thank those members who have completed their term of office and will not be returning to the board.

A gentle reminder, Alumni Association dues ($20) are assessed on a fiscal year basis (July 1-June 30). Dues are billed by mail. Life memberships are available for $300. Dues help finance activities for alumni and students. Activities include alumni gatherings and publications, student “lunch and learns,” and alumni and student awards.

This past year, the College of Nursing Alumni Board was able to award five $1500 scholarships for students enrolled in the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs. Recipients included stellar students Alison Davis, Harmony Edelman, Christina Squires, Jennifer Fox, and Ruth Stockdell. Your alumni dues also help to support these scholarships.

In addition, your dues sponsor the College of Nursing and student awards.

Outstanding Student Awards at the Convocations held in December and May. I have the honor of presenting the Alumni Association Outstanding BSN Student Award.

There are other ways you can support the College of Nursing and be involved. For instance, you may be interested in providing career information about your specialty or even recruiting students for your hospital or agency; you may be interested in making presentations to high school or community groups about becoming a nurse and attending the Medical University of South Carolina; or you may want to be a guest speaker on a specific topic or serve as a preceptor. Keep in mind, with the online programs, MUSC College of Nursing students are learning throughout South Carolina and the United States. You may be aware of opportunities in your area to support students as they work toward their educational and career goals.

We are open to your ideas and suggestions. Please let us hear from you. I look forward to serving as the President of the Alumni Board for the 2006-2007 academic year, and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Florence Simmons

College of Nursing Alumni Board President

Save the date for March 3, 2007, when the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing will celebrate Alumni Homecoming. We are hoping to increase the attendance from last year’s event and particularly encourage those graduates from classes ending in 2 and 7 to attend. We will continue to include a Silent Auction as part of the festivities. Monies raised from the Silent Auction provide help to support current nursing student activities and scholarships. If you are interested in donating an item for the auction, please contact Ms. Mardi Long, Director of Student and Alumni Relations for the College of Nursing. She may be reached at 843-792-6683 or longm@musc.edu.

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Sincerely,

Florence Simmons

College of Nursing Alumni Board President

On May 12 at the Medical University Hospital Authority Nurse’s Week awards ceremony, Hannah Weiner, BSN, RN, Class of December 2004, was named MUSC Nurse of the Year. The event, which promotes the best of professional nursing, recognizes nurses for professional accomplishments and exceptional patient care.

“I was totally shocked, I couldn’t believe it,” Ms. Weiner said. “I’ll be honest and say I haven’t been here at MUSC very long and didn’t know about the Nurse of the Year Award. It is a huge, incredible honor and I want everyone to know that this award is really representative of the floor where I work. I wouldn’t have gotten it without being part of such a great team.”

Ms. Weiner works on 8 West, Division of Oncology/Medical/Surgical Services. Her nurse manager is Ms. Yvonne Martin, MSN, RN, MUSC College of Nursing Classes of 1992 (BSN), 1996 (MSN), 2001 (ANP Certification). Ms. Martin shared these insights about Ms. Weiner and the award: “She quickly assimilated into the role of a bone marrow transplant nurse. She completed the chemotherapy and biotherapy certification course and became an active member of the medical oncology team. While only having been a member of our team for a little over a year, Hannah’s co-workers say she is a great team member, and she has progressed in both her technical and artistic abilities in terms of communication, psychosocial support, and flexibility.”

In a letter to MUSC President Dr. Raymond Greenberg, the husband of one of Ms. Weiner’s patients wrote, “During the course of treatment, my wife received excellent care and was above and beyond what would normally be expected. The professional expertise, kindness, politeness, concern for dignity, genuine interest in my wife’s medical recovery, has far exceeded our most optimistic expectations.”

In addition to the Nurse of the Year title, Ms. Weiner also received one year’s use of luxury vehicles from Luxury Cars of Charleston – and a reserved space to park it!

As a College of Nursing student, Ms. Weiner completed the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. She was elected president of the MUSC College of Nursing Student Nurses Association, was selected for Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and was the recipient of the Alumni Association Outstanding BSN Student Award.

Save the date! March 3, 2007 • Alumni Homecoming
1931 Marie Bennett Love is now 96 years old and living at Heritage Nursing Home in Morrisstown, TN.

1934 Azalee Bitch and her husband Herbert Live in the West Ash area of Charleston. She continues to be a strong supporter of the College of Nursing.

1940 Dorothy Carr holds a BS in Nursing.

1945 Congratulations to Patrick (COM ’58) and Myrtle Ann Dennis (CC ’55) on their 50th wed- ding anniversary.

1956 Janice Cook is a participant in the Abundant Living Program through the Baptist Hospital and in the Duke University School of Divinity. Mary Grimley McDonald writes, “I enjoyed my nursing career, but there’s a lot to be said for retirement. Still kick- ing, just not so high.” Lettie Johnston Tracy retired in 1998 as a school nurse.

1957 Sidney Badger Lancaster and her husband Fred celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 3, 2006, with a cruise in Europe. Alice Brad- er Mathews writes: “Still kicking!” Jo Rush writes: “Dick has retired after 39 years in family prac- tice. We are enjoying our 7 grandchildren. I am involved with church and community activities. My oldest grandson, George Magrath, is working at MUSC this summer and will be starting medical school this fall.”

1959 Patty Atkinson is a RN and was a 19-year-old ward of the war. She has a great-grandchild, Ava, born August 5, 2008. She is still shagging at N. Myrtle Beach, travel- ing, and decorating her house.

1960 Jane E. Barton is retired and living in N. Charleston. SC. Sylvia Harrison Bates writes: “Wonderful class reunion in April (2005). Wish everyone could have joined us.” Mildred Brackett (retired from full-time nurs- ing doing medical review with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina. She is enjoying hav- ing her grandchildren. She is still firm at nortonnursing.com. Jo Grissom Sumney still enjoys working in assisted living in Resident Care Director. She and her husband have 7 grandchildren. Eva Brummond Tim- brook retired in 2004 and the villages in FL with her husband. They enjoy golf and the many other activities available. They have 5 grandchildren.

1962 Barbara F. Jackson writes: “I have retired from nursing but am enjoying a 2-year old grandchild and travel- ing with my hus- band.” Geraldine M. Weaver retired from St. Francis Hospital in December 2004. She is enjoying ball- room dancing, reading, and sewing.

1964 Carolyn Murdough is the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Nursing at the University of Arizona.

1965 Elizabeth Allen writes: “Yes, I am remarried to George Allen (4/4/05). Due to back issues, I’ve retired on disability. We live in beautiful Summerville. Di- ane, my daughter, is in her 2nd year of residency in psychiatry at UVA!”

1976 Civil Rights movement is still shagging at N. Myrtle Beach, travel- ing more free time. Everyone could have their shot. Nurse practitioner at the MUSC College of Nursing, is an ad- vanced practice nurse in Psycho/Mental Health with a private psychotherapy and consultation practice since 1996. She spe- cializes in teaching mindfulness skills and facilitation of voice dialogue and the aware ego pro- cess.

1980 Jean Stocks Crow is a PCO nurse manager at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. Donna Driggers is working as a diabetes clinical nurse specialist for the Medical Group in Hartsville, SC.

1981 Alice L. Hovell has retired. Paula and her husband, Stewart, have one daughter. Michael is a staff nurse at VA Medical Center in Charleston.


1986 Barbara F. Jackson writes: “I have retired from nursing but am enjoying a 2-year old grandchild and travel- ing with my hus- band.”

1988 Cynthia Williams Anderson has been a nurse practitioner for Charleston Neurosurgical Associates since 1995. Debra O’Neil Ferrara is married to John Ferrara on one daughter, Kendall. Debra works at Caro- lina Medical Center in Florence, SC.

1989 Mary Ann Middle- son Scarborough is a clinical consul- tation at Roper Hospital Vascular Center in Charleston. Lori Tochterman received her MSN from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. She has three sons: Adam, Ben, and Michael.

1990 Teresa Anne Long Bland lives in Colorado. Catherine Hudak welcomed a newborn daughter, Heather Victoria, on July 22, 2005, born to parents Susan and Scott Bass. Paula Johnson is a clinical instructor with the MUSC College of Nursing, is an ad- vanced practice nurse in Psych/Mental Health with a private psychotherapy and consultation practice since 1996. She spe- cializes in teaching mindfulness skills and facilitation of voice dialogue and the aware ego pro- cess.

1991 Dana Kontras writes: “I am honored to be the Southeastern Alliance Coordina- tor for the Spirit of EAGLES American Indian/Alaska Native Leadership Initiative on Cancer.” This role has allowed me to become a more cul- turally sensitive care- giver, teacher, and writer as well as an advocate for under- represented people in eliminating health disparity.”

1993 Margaret A. Jealous is employed as the RN discharge planner for Ralph Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston. Jeanine Murrow is a full- time mom to Jeremy and Zachary. She is a PRN emergency room nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston.

“Golden Grads,” Class of 1956

Conference held in Belfast, Ireland.
it is currently working as a clinical instructor for the nursing school at Old-Dominion University.

1994
Julia Ball has been the head of the School of Nursing at USC-Aiken since 2004. Robin Dianna Evans Matutina, an MUSC Children’s Hospital nurse coordinator, received the DAISY Award in May, 2006. The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation was established by J. Mark Mitchell to honor nurses with The DAISY Award in memory of his son, Justin Sebastian Mitchell Jr., who was a nurse practitioner.

1995
Mary Tabler, a nurse at Roper Hospital in Charleston, has been a nurse for 35 years. She is currently working as a nurse educator at the Children’s Hospital.

1996
Julia B. Fogle is now a travel nurse for the nursing program at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently working as a nurse educator at the Medical College of Georgia.

1997
Cathie A. Hagerman-Kennedy is now a travel nurse in Illinois. She is currently working as a nurse educator at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

1998
Melinda “Molly” Antoni is now a travel nurse in New York. She is currently working as a nurse educator at the University at Albany.

1999
Roslyn Lufkin Clark is currently working as a nurse practitioner at the University of Washington.

2000
Anita B. LaPorte has been working as a nurse practitioner at the University of Michigan. She is currently working as a nurse educator at the Medical College of Georgia.

2001
Michelle Grant Ray is now a travel nurse for the nursing program at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently working as a nurse educator at the Medical College of Georgia.

2002
Cassie Brown-Britt is currently working as a nurse practitioner at the University of Michigan. She is currently working as a nurse educator at the Medical College of Georgia.

2003
Caroline M. Campbell is now a travel nurse for the nursing program at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently working as a nurse educator at the Medical College of Georgia.
2005  
David Davis is a neonatal nurse practitioner at St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Florence. His wife, Kelly, is employed by Entergy in South Carolina. Their two children, Taylor, 7, and Brandon, 5, are looking forward to learning to surf and promise their parents that they will never forget the days of playing outside with friends.

Joner, moved to Midland, TX, in 1950 and resided there with their daughter for over 30 years. She is survived by her daughter, Judy Short, and husband, Tom, of Ft. Worth and other family members.

1934  
Priscilla Hamilton Armeistad of Easley died March 5, 2006. Mrs. Armeistad served Pickeys County as a nurse for many years. Surviving are a son, John Armeistad of Easley a daughter, Myra Ann Armeistad of Central, a brother, Fred Hamilton of Easley and a sister, Ella Cannon of Easley. Dorothy Sellers White, widow of Donald Curtis White, Sr., died July 29, 2005. She was a registered nurse in Charlotte area hospitals and later a volunteer in the Charlotte County School District. Surviving are a daughter, Ann Anthony, and other family members.

1938  
Miriam Tred Corder of Florence died March 15, 2005. Mrs. Corder was president of the MUSC Nursing Alumni Association from 1943-44. Surviving are her daughter, Katherine Janice Phillips of Rock Hill and other family members. Rachel Norwood of Mount Pleasant died March 20, 2006. She worked in private duty nursing, where she became associated with the Pritchard and Read families. She also worked for Dr. John Settle and Dr. Max Harrelson. After her nursing career, Rachel returned to school and became an executive secretary to Attorney Edward K. Pritchard. She later worked for Pritchard and Company until her retirement. She is survived by two sisters, Margaret N. Welling and her husband John of Greenville and Dorothy N. Gilbert of Florence, and other family members. Mildred Taylor Morgan of Greer, died February 16, 2006. She was a native of Laurens, SC, and lived in Western NC for over 60 years. Mrs. Thutt received public health nursing education in Richmond, VA. She was a licensed embalmer, graduating from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, Cincinnati, OH. During WWII, she served as 1st Lt in the Army Air Corp Hospital. Mrs. Thutt held many nursing positions in Western NC hospitals and retired in 1979 from the VA Regional Hospital in Oteen. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert P. Thutt. Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law and other family members.

1941  
Alline Copeland Villepontaux of Greenwood, SC was a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. She worked for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Charleston for 26 years, during which time she was a registered nurse in the NICU at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence. Lori E. Young is employed by Kershaw County Medical Center in Camden.

1946  
Leone Stedley Reeves of St. Matthews, MD, formerly of College Park, MD, died March 15, 2005. She was the widow of the late Irwin Reeves and was also preceded in death by one brother, Robert R. Reeves, of Roanoke, VA, and several nieces and nephews.

1946  
Elise Claire Goff of Charleston died March 18, 2006. Elise was a nurse at MUSC for 17 years, working last in the PACU before her illness necessitated early retirement in 2005. She is survived by her husband, John Goff, of Hilton Head, SC, and David Goff of Winchester, VA, as well as other family members.

1947  
Tommy Lynne Strang of Summerville, wife of Kenneth Howard Strang, died July 7, 2006. She was survived by her husband, Eugene Joseph Villepontaux of Charleston, SC; a daughter, Mary Villepontaux of Raleigh, NC; and other family members.

1947  
Thea W. Martin of Indianapolis, IN, died February 14, 2005. She served 10 years as a family nurse practitioner at the Extended Hours Health Clinic in Mountain City, TN; and was a member of the faculty of the College of Nursing at East Tennessee State University. She also served on the faculty of the School of Nursing at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA, and the Department of Public Health Nursing at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

1947  
Bradford and Diane Ridley and children Adam, Tyler and Ben of Westborough, MA; David T. Gay and children Sophie, Joy and children, Grace and Grace of Mt. Pleasant; William J. and Linda Gay of Charleston; and children Megan, Charlene, and Neely of Marietta, GA.

1996  
Carly Heider Goffey, 46, of Glou- gow, KY, wife of Gary Guffey and mother of Jeremiah, died August 6, 2005. She had worked at the Rosewood Health Care facility in Bowling Green, KY. In addition to her husband and son, she is survived by her parents James and Carolyn Heider of Charleston, and other family members.
In Memoriam: Dean Marcia Curtis

Dr. Marcia Curtis, Dean of the College of Nursing from 1969-1984, passed away on April 25, 2006. Dr. Curtis was a catalyst for many changes that occurred in the College. It was under her tenure that the curriculum changed from a three-year hospital training program to a four-year collegiate track leading to the BSN. During this time, the CON also received its first accreditation from the National League for Nursing and initiated the Midwifery and MSN programs. Dean Gail Stuart noted, “Dr. Curtis was an extraordinary leader who was well ahead of her time. She moved the College of Nursing in significant directions and will always serve as a role model to us all.” In her honor, a memorial fund has been established through the MUSC Foundation. If you wish to contribute, please designate your gift for the Marcia Curtis Nursing Memorial Fund. For further information, contact Denise Ciccarelli at 843-792-8421.

Gift Ideas in Time for the Holidays

College of Nursing Giclee
This gorgeous giclee of the College of Nursing building by local artist Kevin LePrince was commissioned in 2005. LePrince took the original artwork of the College of Nursing and created it into a 16” x 20” stretched canvas giclee. A giclee (zhee-CLAY) is a high resolution digital print made from an archival ink and media combination and is recognized as a fine print similar to lithographs and serigraphs. $259 unframed or $319 with a gold scoop frame that measures approximately 25.5” x 29.5” (plus $30 shipping).

College of Nursing Ornaments
These beautiful 24K gold flashed brass ornaments will look beautiful on any tree. $12 (plus $3 shipping).

College of Nursing Wooden Replica
This three-dimensional (6.5” x 5” x 1”), painted collectible of the College of Nursing building by Sheila makes a lasting keepsake for alumni and friends of the College. $35 (plus $10 shipping).

In the Gamma Omicron At-Large Chapter

In August, I passed on the torch of president to Laurie Zone Smith, who has been a nurse and a member of Sigma Theta Tau International for 19 years. She is full of enthusiasm and passion and I am certain will take Gamma Omicron At-Large to new heights. Laurie will be hosting a board retreat this fall to develop a strategic direction for Gamma Omicron in 2006-07.

Communication with all members is accomplished via the chapter website and e-mail messages. Please verify with the membership office at the Sigma Theta Tau International office that your e-mail address is correct. Visit the membership website at www.nursingsociety.org/membership/main.html, then click on the button, “update my profile.” Our e-mail chapter membership list is downloaded from the membership office.

Two Chapter committees (Leadership and Governance) are looking for participation from members. Please contact zonel@musc.edu if you are interested. The 2006 Induction Ceremony for our newest Gamma Omicron At-Large members will be November 16th at 6pm at St. Luke’s Chapel on the MUSC campus. All members are invited to attend. New inductees are encouraged to become leadership interns for the local chapter. Please contact zonel@musc.edu if you are interested.

For additional information, please visit our chapter website at www.gammaomicron.org. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as your Gamma Omicron At-Large president and look forward to the new ideas and perspectives the 2006-07 board will bring.

Marilyn Schaffner PhD(c), RN, CGRN
Clinical Services Administrator
Medical University of South Carolina

In Memoriam: Dean Marcia Curtis

Dr. Marcia Curtis, Dean of the College of Nursing from 1969-1984, passed away on April 25, 2006. Dr. Curtis was a catalyst for many changes that occurred in the College. It was under her tenure that the curriculum changed from a three-year hospital training program to a four-year collegiate track leading to the BSN. During this time, the CON also received its first accreditation from the National League for Nursing and initiated the Midwifery and MSN programs. Dean Gail Stuart noted, “Dr. Curtis was an extraordinary leader who was well ahead of her time. She moved the College of Nursing in significant directions and will always serve as a role model to us all.” In her honor, a memorial fund has been established through the MUSC Foundation. If you wish to contribute, please designate your gift for the Marcia Curtis Nursing Memorial Fund. For further information, contact Denise Ciccarelli at 843-792-8421.

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We’d love to hear from you and share your news with other MUSC College of Nursing alumni. You can send your information to the College of Nursing via e-mail at Longm@musc.edu or complete the form below and return it to:

Medical University of South Carolina
Alumni Association
268 Calhoun Street
PO Box 250182
Charleston, SC 29425

Name: (please include maiden name if appropriate)

Date of Graduation:

My address has changed to:

Please add me to your e-mail mailing list.

My e-mail address is:

News: