The Future Starts Now!

A look at nursing’s future: The promises it holds and models yet to unfold.
College of Nursing Alumni Homecoming and Silent Auction

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009
Holliday Alumni Center, The Citadel

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

NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR THE CON OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD
The recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award for the College of Nursing exemplifies excellence in nursing practice. The College of Nursing has selected outstanding alumni to receive this award since 1973. The tradition will continue this year with the presentation of the 2009 award on March 28 during the nursing alumni weekend. Past honorees include Mary Wilbur, an expert in oncology; Ann Jonason, Chief Nursing Officer of Colleton Medical Center; and Anne Hollerbach, Associate Professor in the College of Nursing.

The Outstanding Alumnus Award Committee needs your input to identify alumni who deserve this honor and solicits your nominations until November 30. Your input is greatly appreciated, so please think of your colleagues, friends, instructors, and other nursing alumni who have made significant contributions to nursing. To make a nomination, contact Shari Wise at (888) 202-9306 or wises@musc.edu.

NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
All graduates are encouraged to become dues-paying members of the College of Nursing Alumni Association. Your membership makes our program stronger, and your support facilitates the sustainability of gifts, scholarships, and awards. Consider becoming a member today, whether by paying annual dues ($20) or by becoming a life member ($300). Your commitment will broaden your network and enable the Board to continue to support the College. Contact the Alumni Office at (888) 202-9306 to join.
The Dean’s Column

This fall issue of Lifelines continues the celebration of the 125th anniversary of our College of Nursing. Our 2008 spring issue focused on “Treasuring the Past 125 Years.” This issue has us heralding “The Future Starts Now!” with the promises it holds and its models yet to unfold.

So how do I envision the future of health care and nursing? I believe that nursing in the next 20 years will look nothing like the nursing of today. It will be shaped by three dominant health care issues.

• The first is technology: more technology, better technology, refined technology that will create a revolution in diagnosis and treatment.
• The second is that there will be fewer health care providers—nurses and physicians alike.
• The third is that people will be actively engaged in their own health care with a dominant emphasis on prevention and healthy lifestyles.

So the next question is, what will these changes mean for nursing? I predict that these changes will drive a further transformation of nursing. For example, nurses will become the important bridge between growing technology and the human side of health care. Nurses will truly be the “human touch” in a high tech system of care.

Nurses will play a central role in designing, implementing, managing and evaluating patient populations in communities and in systems of care. Nurses will be viewed not only as the “glue” of the health care system, but also as the leaders in health promotion and health education, helping patients and communities control and direct their own health destinies.

Nursing care will be differentiated by educational preparation, as the functioning of ADN, BSN, MSN, DSN, and PhD nurses will be distinguished by both clinical activities and patient outcomes. Such activities will include knowledge translation and transfer to reduce health disparities and promote social equity. Finally, nurses will function as gatekeepers, entrepreneurs, and policy-makers, thus proclaiming their voice in leading change.

This glimpse into the future both excites and gives one pause. But our College of Nursing fully embraces this agenda and is ready to set it in motion. So, as you scroll through these pages you will catch a glimpse of the future trajectory of our College. I hope you feel the energy in our plans and initiatives, and that the articles challenge your imagination and sense of wonder and awe at our unfolding potential.

There has never been a more exciting time in the MUSC College of Nursing. We are truly on the cutting edge of clinical innovation, educational technology, community partnerships, and leadership enactment. Our language is replete with new terms, our fingers are embracing new equipment, and our halls are filled with new faces of faculty, staff, and students. Both our student enrollment and the number of tenure track faculty are at a record high, and it is clear that we are trailblazing the path to success.

So fasten your seat belt and get ready for the ride!

Gail Stuart, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN
Dean and Distinguished University Professor
MUSC College of Nursing
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THE EMERGENCE OF PERSONALIZED MEDICINE:
A fundamental and significant shift in health care philosophy and medical research is occurring—from a world in which we “react” to disease and illness after it has happened, to one in which we will be doing far more in advance to “prevent” specific health care problems. The driver for this massive change is the emergence of extremely specialized and highly personalized medical treatments based upon your own particular DNA.

HOSPITALS GO VIRTUAL:
A hospital today is a physical place; tomorrow, it will be defined by the reach of its virtual network of bio-connectivity devices. It will come to be thought of as an extended community network by which a good portion of its services are provided.

SKILL WARS:
Hyper-growth in knowledge means that every medical profession is becoming ever more specialized and niche-oriented. Add to this the looming baby boomer retirement wave and declining numbers of medical graduates, and it’s evident that the war for talent is going to drive much of the agenda of the health care industry in the next few years.

ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE GROWTH:
Medical knowledge is doubling every eight years; this is expected to drop to every two years in the near future. Leading edge research now results in new methodologies, treatments and drugs faster than ever before. For medical professionals, the future is all about “keeping up,” and developing agility for rapid innovation, response, development, and implementation. For pharmaceutical and health care suppliers, it’s about rapid development and faster time to market. The pace of innovation and discovery is picking up.

BIO-INFORMATICS TAKES CENTER STAGE:
Microsoft estimates that at least 50,000 people worldwide are now working in the field of bio-informatics—a field that involves the development of the highly sophisticated computer databases and computational methodologies that analyze a patient’s DNA—a development that is critical to our migration into the era of personalized medicine.
DRUGS GET SMART:  
In the next few years, medical packaging will become smarter as it plugs into your home network. Your pill bottle will provide you advice on how the medicine will be used and when it should be taken. A few years after that, medicine itself will become intelligent: An in-home bio-monitor will analyze the effectiveness of the treatment, adjusting the dosage up or down as appropriate.

FEEL SICK? IT’S QUICK:  
Customer service is coming to the health care industry faster than you might think, and nothing will ever be the same. Pioneers such as Minute-Clinic (with the tag line, “You’re sick, we’re quick”) are rapidly redefining the delivery of health care. Once “patients” become “customers,” their expectations of their family doctor and local hospital will have forever changed.

CARBON-COMPOSITES AND YOU:  
Hip replacements are going hi-tech! By the time you reach the age of 72, you might find that up to 10% of your bone structure is made up of composite carbon fiber structures. The world of bio-materials is set to evolve at a furious pace as the science of golf-clubs comes to personal body structure re-engineering.

ATTITUDE CHANGES:  
The entire medical system is set to be transformed with the entrance of GenConnect (those born after 1990) into the health care system. As they take on careers as medical professionals and administrators, they will bring with them a flood of new ideas, innovation and different ways of thinking. Health care institutions currently clogged with organizational sclerosis cannot keep pace with today’s demands. But GenConnect’s aggressive attitude towards change will quickly break down this sclerosis.

BIO-CONNECTIVITY BECOMES THE NEXT BIG THING:  
A flood of highly intelligent, Internet-connected medical devices enters the health care industry, providing new opportunities for monitoring and managing difficult health care conditions. A furious pace of innovation comes to dominate the health care device and medical technology industries.

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When the Walt Disney Corporation went looking for an expert on the topic of innovation and creativity, they went with Jim Carroll! Carroll is a strategic thinker and “thought leader” with deep insight into trends, the future, creativity, and innovation. For the last fifteen years, he has provided high energy keynotes for audiences of up to 3,000 people, and intimate, detailed customized strategic planning insight for CEO / board / senior management meetings. He was named by Business Week as one of four leading sources for insight on innovation and creativity, and was a featured expert on the prime time CNBC series, “The Business of Innovation.” Carroll’s client base includes Nestle, Motorola, the American Society for Quality, Caterpillar, Verizon, the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Property and Casualty Insurance Association of America, and the Swiss Innovation Forum. His health care clients include VHA Georgia, Blue Cross Blue Shield national office, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Blue Cross Florida, Providence Health Care, the National Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, the American Society for Health Care Risk Management, and others.
The Future Starts Now!

MUSC Ashley River Tower combines patient care excellence and innovative design

The MUSC Ashley River Tower (ART), a state-of-the-art hospital designed to treat patients with cardiovascular and digestive disease problems, officially opened in January 2008. The new hospital marks the first step in a multi-phase expansion plan to replace the facility that for 50 years has served as the teaching hospital for MUSC.

This new 641,000 square foot facility has 156 beds, including 32 ICU beds, as well as nine operating rooms, catheterization laboratories, interventional radiology laboratories, state-of-the-art endoscopy suites, imaging suites, outpatient clinic space, and a dedicated around-the-clock chest pain center for rapid diagnosis and treatment. Specially sized equipment, treatment space and ICU beds accommodate bariatric surgery patients. The facility also includes a division specializing in surgery for gastrointestinal cancers.

Ashley River Tower features technology that can only be found at a handful of leading hospitals in the country. The hospital also has the flexibility to accommodate tomorrow’s innovations—some of which are being pioneered at MUSC. Innovative features include:

**ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS**
The new electronic medical records system enhances communications, efficiency, and accuracy of patient-related information.

**DUAL SOURCE SCANNER**
MUSC was the first hospital in the Southeast—and remains the only one in the area—to acquire a 128-slice computed tomography (CT) scanner. This cutting-edge diagnostic device gathers images and data from a patient’s entire heart in 10 seconds or less.

**STEREOTAXIS MAGNETIC NAVIGATION SYSTEM**
MUSC was among the first hospitals in the country to install a Stereotaxis Magnetic Navigation System, which steers catheters and guide wires through the heart and vascular system with precision.

**STATE-OF-THE-ART OPERATING ROOMS FEATURING ADVANCED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
During surgery, patient information can be retrieved with the touch of a button. Anything that is on the patient’s electronic record, whether it be an image from a catheterization, lab results, or an echocardiogram, can instantaneously be brought up on a monitor in the operating room. The new MUSC hospital is one of the first in the nation to have this capability in the operating room.

**PATIENT SAFETY**
Ashley River Tower is the first health care facility in the country built under the latest seismic and hurricane construction codes. A mock-up portion of the hospital was put under rigorous structural testing, including hurricane winds over 220 mph and earthquake conditions, before it was certified under the new building codes.

**INFECTION CONTROL**
- Separate halls within the operating room and procedure portions of the hospital allow patients to be moved without coming in contact with employees and guests in public hallways.
- A central sterile corridor allows doctors and nurses to quickly cross between operating rooms during an emergency.
- The operating room ceiling booms provide extra protection against infection because less equipment is wheeled around or built into the rooms.
- • DuPont™ Corian® surfacing coats operating room walls and countertops throughout the hospital to reduce the risk of infection and protect against mold and mildew.
- All dry wall throughout the facility is mold-resistant.
- All insulation is paper-free in order to prevent mold and mildew growth.

**NATURAL LIGHT**
- MUSC made access to natural light a primary design goal, ensuring natural light in patient rooms, corridors, and family gathering areas.
- The left side of the patient tower corridor has windows overlooking a view of the Ashley River, providing not only patients and families but also nurses, doctors, and staff with an open view, which is proven to reduce stress and provide a sense of place.
- A central conservatory features a full wall of windows to provide an open, welcoming place for families and employees.

**FLEXIBILITY BEYOND**
- The design leaves room for what caregivers cannot yet know about the way care will be delivered 10 or 20 years from now.
• In the operating room, most equipment is suspended from booms in the ceiling rather than taking up space on the floor, making it easier for aging technology to be exchanged for the latest equipment.
• Similarly, equipment is hidden in patient rooms, allowing extra space to be quick-changed into an intensive care room in the event of an emergency.
• Pneumatic tubes shuttle medications and lab specimens between the new facility and other campus facilities.

**GREEN INSIDE AND OUT**
- Corian®, which coats operating room walls and countertops throughout the hospital and is certified by the Green-guard Environmental Institute, provides a complete surfacing system with low volatile organic content. This system has been proven to release few if any breathable compounds, ensuring safer air and an odor-free hospital.
- The flooring is Marmoleum®, which is a linseed-based material made of 100 percent natural ingredients.
- In planning for future hospital expansion, the exterior of the building consists of paneling that is easily demountable and recyclable.
- Paper-free insulation systems are installed throughout the building.

In January when MUSC opened the doors to Ashley River Tower, its new state-of-the-art hospital, patients and visitors experienced the largest collection of original, contemporary South Carolina art on permanent display.

Health professionals have known for decades that art has an impact on healing, but more recent studies indicate that the presence of art in hospitals can shorten recovery time and hospital stays and reduce stress and anxiety for patients and caregivers. With this in mind, MUSC began planning for original artwork to be included in every public area of its new 641,000 square-foot hospital, including patient and exam rooms.

The exhibit “Contemporary Carolina Collection” showcases 873 original works of art by a diverse group of 54 artists who live in South Carolina. MUSC hired Mark Sloan of the Halsey Institute of Art at the College of Charleston to serve as the collection’s curator. A statewide call for submissions in 2007 sparked the interest of 275 artists. A selection committee identified 72 finalists for studio visits and interviews before choosing the featured artists. The collection includes a variety of media such as quilts, sweetgrass baskets, sculptures, paintings, Catawba pottery, and a bottle cap portrait of Philip Simmons. Artists represent a variety of age, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

“Art is an important element in setting the tone for a healing environment, and it has been shown to positively influence a number of clinical measures,” said MUSC President Ray Greenberg. “We chose to focus on South Carolina artists to ground the hospital in its native state and to provide a comforting and familiar environment for the patients and families that we serve.”

All funding for the artwork came from private donations. Working with the Halsey Institute at the College of Charleston, considerable savings were achieved in the costs of procuring, framing and installing the artwork.

“This unique partnership between MUSC and the College of Charleston has allowed for the creation of a remarkable collection of work by South Carolina artists,” said Mark Sloan, director of the Halsey Institute at the College of Charleston. “This collection offers a cross-section of some of the best artists in the state today.”

The value of the integration of arts and a healing environment in a health care setting is being recognized by a growing number of leading medical institutions, including Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt and Stanford.
The newest health care simulation center opens at the College of Nursing

In learning how to perform patient care procedures, the old adage has always been “See one, do one” for health care students. With the opening of the MUSC Healthcare Simulation Center at the MUSC College of Nursing, the new student mantra is, “See one, practice one, do one.”

But the MUSC Simulation Center is not just “Resusci® Anne” with a new wardrobe. Rather, we are using it to transform the way we teach in a number of ways.

First, the new center is part of a statewide network of simulation centers called Healthcare Simulation South Carolina and is under the umbrella of Health Sciences South Carolina. The MUSC Simulation Center marks the second opening of seven planned centers including Charleston, Greenville, Beaufort, Clemson, Spartanburg and Columbia. These statewide simulation centers will feed all data from the simulations to one centralized database. As such, the network provides unprecedented opportunities to evaluate outcomes related to simulation with larger populations of students and faculty.

Second, under the leadership of Nancy Duffy, MSN, RN, CEN, Director of Nursing Simulation at the MUSC College of Nursing, nurses from across South Carolina are working together to create, test, and disseminate nursing curriculum modules that maximize the use of simulation. Work has been completed on six modules to date, and more are being developed. These modules will be used by nursing programs across the state, reducing the duplication of efforts and creating greater teaching efficiencies.

Third, the MUSC center is staffed with simulation specialists. Thus nursing faculty do not have to program the manikins or learn the mechanics of running the equipment. Rather, they identify their learning needs and desired outcomes and are facilitated by center staff. In this way faculty do not need to be simulation programming experts, but can focus of the teaching-learning process.

Fourth, championed by MUSC College of Nursing Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, and directed by international simulation expert John Schaefer, MD, the center offers the future of interprofessional health care education and training to promote greater efficiency and patient safety. The 11,000 square-foot center houses more than $900,000 in sophisticated simulation technology, including more than 50 advanced adult and infant simulators. The simulators are used to provide clinical training to nursing, medical and allied health students as well as continuing education for practicing health care professionals.

MUSC’s center includes an emergency room with four different patients (including trauma); an operating room environment; machines that simulate giving birth, heart attacks, cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and more. In addition, all equipment in the center, including beds, monitors, and headwalls, is state-of-the-art.

“Simulation opens new opportunities for us in health care,” Stuart said. “Not only can we educate nurses and other health care providers more effectively and more efficiently, but we also can explore the impact of emerging technologies, improve interactions among health care team members, and prepare our students for a world in which technology is an essential element of practice. This is all about better health care outcomes for patients, and our simulation center brings the cutting edge of professional education to MUSC.”

Specifically, as nurses become increasingly responsible for a larger share of patient care and much of it is extremely
technology-intensive, the MUSC Healthcare Simulation Center creates an environment where they can learn these critical skills while optimizing patient safety. Beginning nurses and other health care professionals can now make their most common, most dangerous, and most preventable mistakes on a simulated patient, where the worst possible outcome is having to try again. Today’s technology enables the health care community to learn in a safe, guided environment as simulated patients replace real ones in the early parts of education.

In addition, MUSC President Ray Greenberg, MD, PhD, noted that the center will continue to foster interprofessional opportunities for student learning. “One of the most exciting aspects of the simulation lab is that it provides an environment for our students, residents, and faculty to work across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Here doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and therapists can be trained about how to function together effectively,” he said. “Health care is a team sport, and the simulation lab is the practice field for honing our skills at collaboration.”

“What a powerful experience—this Simulation Center and MUSC’s gifted faculty and staff bring an opportunity of a lifetime for our students and the patients and families we serve.”

~ Mary Mauldin, EdD, Associate Professor and Director MUSC Center for Academic and Research Computing

**FAST FACTS:**

**FASTER CLINICAL TRAINING:**
Using simulation training and distance learning allows more students to be trained in less time, which helps to reduce the health care workforce shortage in SC.

**SAFER CLINICAL TRAINING:**
The traditional clinical training model requires that students “practice” on real people. Using patient simulators, these students will obtain more hands-on training, thus elevating their clinical skills long before they ever touch a real patient.

**MUSC FACILITY**
- 11,000 square feet
- 50 advanced adult and infant simulators
- 14 training rooms
- Large classroom
- Offices and reception areas
- Full staffing includes a director, two simulation specialists, three administrative staff and IT.
A number of different forces will affect the future of care in the hospital. Patients are sicker, yet their length of stay in the hospital is shorter. The nursing intensity, or the number of hours of nursing care a patient receives, is increasing. The driving factor behind this is how health care is financed in the US. The payment system, which influences the type of care a hospital provides, supports high-tech services that are very labor-intensive for nurses. Hospitals do not receive an additional payment when they optimize their nursing services, so there is no incentive to hire more nurses. This has driven the so-called “nursing shortage.” When hospitals complain about not having enough nurses, to a certain degree the payment system is fueling this fire and not giving the hospitals the dollars to hire the nurses they need.

We have 2.9 million nurses in the workforce, more than ever in history. However, the hospitals are experiencing a nursing shortage, because nurses are not willing to work in hospitals. They want to work in other settings that have a better work environment.

Over the next 20 years, I predict patients will continue to become more ill, and the nursing intensity will continue to climb. We are already expanding hospital capacity because we believe the baby boomers will use hospital services at a much higher rate over the next 15 to 20 years. The problem is that each new bed is filled by a sicker patient.

Currently, half the nurses who work in hospitals are in their late 40s and 50s. In the next 20 years, we will lose more than half of our hospital nursing workforce to retirement. This means we will lose a quarter to a third of our patient capacity because we will not have the nurses to take care of them. While we are training new graduates to replace nurses who retire, new nurses tend to begin their careers in the hospital and then move on to other settings fairly soon afterwards. Producing more nurses doesn’t guarantee that they will work in hospitals.

I tend to take an optimistic view and believe that the problem is solvable. We need to improve the work environment for nurses in the hospital. We also must examine how we deliver and pay for health care. We need to move away from the current cure-based system toward a preventive model. We need to look at our high-tech services and change the payment system to emphasize the nursing labor involved in a patient’s hospitalization. We should have adequate payment in order to optimize nursing care. If we do these things, we may find that we have a shorter length of stay, fewer adverse events, better quality care at a lower cost, and enough nurses to provide the needed care.
ABOUT JOHN WELTON...

Dr. John Welton is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. He received his bachelor of science in nursing degree from Skidmore College, Saratoga Spring, NY (1980), his master of science degree in nursing administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (1989), and his doctorate in nursing from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a minor in medical informatics (1999). Dr. Welton had a long and extensive clinical career in critical care and flight nursing between 1980 to 1993, holding positions in New York City, Houston, TX, and Charlotte and Chapel Hill, NC. He started his own air ambulance business in the late 1980's partly as a result of his masters degree studies. During his studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, he became involved in nursing informatics, holding a position in the critical care units at the hospital to develop and maintain databases for quality and clinical management. His first position after receiving his PhD was at University of Maryland School of Nursing, where he taught in the highly regarded nursing informatics program before coming to MUSC in 2001. His clinical and research interests include critical care and nursing informatics, development of nursing databases, and other related areas. He currently teaches in the undergraduate and graduate programs at the College of Nursing.

Dr. Welton is also involved with emergency communications for disaster support and holds the position of district emergency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

HOSPITAL-BASED RESEARCH GRANTS


SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Many people currently receive health insurance from the workplace. Rising health care costs have inflated expenditures for medical claims and workers’ compensation. This rising cost to employers will create the demand for employees to share the financial risk with employers. One major change that will occur over the next 20 years is that health insurance plans will begin offering incentives for behavioral changes that support a healthier lifestyle. If people are able to get discounts on health insurance premiums because they don’t smoke or because their BMI is within a certain range, they will be encouraged to consider a healthier lifestyle. Healthier lifestyles are associated with lower health care costs.

I also believe that technology will move from the inpatient setting to the community. Over the next 20 years, we will witness the expansion of telemedicine in the form of tele-home-medicine. Even now, we are able to monitor the uterine activity of women with pre-term labor and the blood glucose levels of diabetics in the home. As the technology becomes more sophisticated in the future, it will become an important part of chronic disease management. Health care providers will be able to collect data remotely about a patient’s condition and evaluate whether they need to be seen in the office.

Underserved areas are experiencing a shortage of health care personnel. Traditional home visits are expensive. For people with limited resources in rural areas, access to transportation is often a barrier to receiving health care. For the growing elderly population, it is difficult to drive into the city to get the follow-up care they need. If clinical trials indicate that tele-home-medicine is cost-effective and as clinically effective as home visits, we could spread our health resources into the community and alleviate some of these problems.

However, despite their enormous potential, the spread of insurance incentives and tele-home-medicine will probably primarily benefit the middle class. Neither of these innovations is likely to decrease the burden of disease on underserved populations. In fact, my biggest concern is that the rift between the middle class and the underserved will continue to grow. Healthy behaviors necessitate having access to healthy foods and safe places to exercise. In many underserved areas, the food in the grocery stores is quite different from that in suburbia, and there may not be a safe area to walk or exercise. Disparities also exist with technology. Pre-term labor monitoring occurred in the homes of the middle class long before Medicaid approved it for the underserved. Unfortunately, disparities will continue to increase over the next 20 years unless as a state and nation we get policy makers, payors, and our communities together to identify how we can meet the needs of the underserved.
ABOUT DEBORAH WILLIAMSON...

Dr. Deborah Williamson is Associate Dean for Practice and an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. She received her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Duke University, her master’s in nursing and certificate in nurse-midwifery from the University of Utah, and a doctor of health administration degree from the MUSC College of Health Professions. Dr. Williamson has 27 years of experience as a practicing nurse-midwife in a private office setting.

Dr. Williamson has been awarded over a million dollars in grant funding to improve access to care for underserved women and children in Charleston County. Currently she has funding from the Duke Endowment to provide maternity and infant care to residents of the Sea Islands and the adjacent mainland. Dr. Williamson’s research interests are racial and ethnic disparities in health services, social support and health outcomes, and barriers to accessing health services. She is responsible for the evaluation of the Hollings Cancer Center’s CDC/Avon grant for rural mobile mammography services. Dr. Williamson teaches in the Presidential Scholars program, an interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on health disparities.

COMMUNITY-BASED PRACTICE GRANTS

- Williamson, D. (PI). Teen health advocate leadership program planning grant. Center for Public Service Communications.
- Williamson, D. (PI), Lawn, A., Mueller, M., Smith, S., & Williams, T. Hispanic health initiatives. HRSA.

Over the next 20 years, we will witness the expansion of telemedicine in the form of tele-home-medicine.
believe the same forces that have very rapidly changed education in the last decades will continue to shape how we deliver programs over the next 20 years. Successful programs will adapt to the changes and stake their claim in the future.

The rapid growth of technology in education has allowed for more flexibility in the learning environment and a shift away from the traditional structure of nursing programs. These changes have attracted a different student to the nursing profession. Current students are older, have previous degrees from varied occupational backgrounds, and are more likely to be male, working, married, and with children. Nursing programs use summers for learning, have a variety of program entry and exit points, and allow for part-time or full-time rates of completion. Population trends suggest that in 20 years, future learners will be even more racially and culturally diverse, multilingual, and geographically mobile. Our focus will be global, and students will continue to be attracted to programs that are flexible, modular, distance accessible, and culturally sensitive.

Information is at our fingertips, and the development of new knowledge is actually doubling with each decade. Educators have already begun to abandon the idea that students can memorize everything they need to know. Successful educators will package information in a way that becomes usable and will teach students how to access and apply it. Modular units of information will be constructed to scaffold a complete program of learning, so that curricula can be leveled to the focus of the learner, and best of all, be shared among many programs. “Super courses” with core expert faculty and electronic distribution of the information to many learning sites will make teaching more efficient. While we will no longer need duplicate programs teaching the same curricula, we will need more nurse scientists to generate new nursing knowledge.

Technology has become inseparable from patient care. Simulation opportunities will be required increasingly to familiarize students with equipment and allow learners to practice in lifelike settings the situations that prepare them for complex or rare events. Institutions will be able to share banks of learning objects, content modules, learning vignettes, and simulation decision trees. Animations will be 3-dimensional; sounds, sights, and even smells will be reproduced in learning environments to make the scenarios lifelike. Each learner will have a portfolio of specific competencies that can be tracked electronically and will be required to show evidence of baseline safety, knowledge acquisition, and readiness to enter the health care arena.

Whether one believes we have a nursing shortage, current realities include an increasingly complex work environment, escalating tuition costs, and dwindling funding for faculty salaries and infrastructure. There is an imaginable threshold where the capacity of schools to produce graduates will not meet the workplace needs. Mounting evidence suggests that the educational experience of a nurse significantly influences the health outcomes of patients. Health care educational leaders of the future must be proactively involved in shaping health policy and the financing of health care. Substantial improvements in health care will require an informed and unified vision of what “standard care” in this nation should include, who should provide it, and the resources required to educate those providers.
Dr. Gail Gilden is Director of the Doctoral Program and Online Learning in the College of Nursing. She received her bachelor and master of science degrees in nursing from the University of Maryland, and her doctoral degree in maternal child health at Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health. Dr. Gilden joined the nursing faculty in 1990 and has taught undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral courses. She has served the college in the roles of faculty, Department Chair, and Associate Dean.

Dr. Gilden’s clinical interests involve the care of well women during pregnancy, birth, and early parenting. Her primary research has focused on the effects of stress on birth outcomes. She has received federal funding to examine the relationship of domestic violence to infant birth weight and length of pregnancy in a population of pregnant, rural women. Dr. Gilden’s second scholarly interest is the use of technology in teaching. She chairs the college task force responsible for online programs of study and oversees the activities related to distributive learning methods.

EDUCATION GRANTS

- Barbosa, G. (PI), Magwood, G., Martin, M., McDougall, C., & Vandemark, L. Teaching and reaching vulnerable populations: An online PhD program. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- Laken, M. (PI); Inman, D. (Co-I); Grossman, J. (Co-I). Basic Nurse Education and Practice Program: School-based Clinics. HRSA.
- Stroud, S. (PI). Advanced education nursing traineeship program. HRSA.
- Stroud, S. (PI). Nurse faculty loan program. HRSA.

“Technology has become inseparable from patient care.”
Nursing initially occurred in the community; in the future, we will return to the community for our practice and the research to support it. As Nightingale noted over a century ago, “Hospitals are only an intermediate stage of civilization.” With shorter and shorter hospital stays, the explosion in same-day surgery, and only the sickest and most complex persons in the hospital, we need to recreate our hegemony over community-based care and thus generate the evidence to support that care.

How will research help? Nursing research will move to the next generation of scholarship while maintaining its distinct focus. We will join other disciplines in a movement toward Team Science, which arose out of a National Institute of Health (NIH) consortium in 1997 and has been implemented in several domains as this decade closes (NIH, 2003). Recognizing that no one discipline has all the answers, Team Science begins with a compelling issue that requires collaboration to solve. Although we will be a major player, it would be hubris to propose that these problems will be solved by nursing alone. A new infrastructure will be created that can integrate leadership, produce a team-friendly environment, and support an institutional commitment to teamwork (NIH, 2003). This transdisciplinary research will result in new types of research designs and methods that occur in multiple contexts instead of focusing on small, local projects and fragmented science (Hallberg, 2006). While descriptive work will still be needed to identify problems, the focus will change from researcher-generated questions to partners dialoguing about a problem and potential resolutions to build community capital. Community-based participatory research is the model for this research, and researchers need to learn to enter into an equitable dialogue that discloses problems and promotes sustainable solutions.

There is no doubt that burgeoning technology will be part of the future of nursing research; it will be part of a toolkit that will allow researchers to be more nimble, observe more astutely, and respond more rapidly. We may long for the tricorder sensor that Dr. McCoy waved over his patients to detect (and sometimes cure) an illness in Star Trek, and it may be ours to use for both research and diagnostic purposes in the not-too-distant future. Likewise, nanorobots may eventually be able to destroy individual cancer cells or detect microscopic toxic chemicals within the environment (Hall, 2005). While these fantastic products of research may be years away, researchers involved in this science should assure that all individuals and communities have access to these breakthroughs. Nursing will be part of developing that science, as well as bringing it to the communities that need it and want to use it. As researchers, we will be aware of the cultural and ethical issues involved in possible changes wrought by research, as well as the social justice issues of access to quality care once information is available through discovery science. We will not forget that the heart of nursing is the patient, the family, and community – no matter how broadly defined. Science will be different in 20 years; the issues will be more diverse and more of an ethical conundrum. We hope to prepare the next generation of nurses who will work with teams to confront the challenge.
ABOUT ELAINE AMELLA...

Dr. Elaine J. Amella is a tenured Associate Professor in the College of Nursing and a full member of the faculty of the College of Graduate Studies at MUSC. Amella received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Pace University in Pleasantville, NY, and both her master’s of arts in nursing and doctorate in research and theory development in nursing from New York University. She also received a post-masters certificate in the care of the older adult from New York University. Dr. Amella is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as both a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and the Gerontological Society of America. She is a member of the National Academies of Practice and was named the Merck Scholar and John A. Hartford Foundation for Geriatric Nursing Fellow in 2001. She received national recognition for her research through the Springer - Gerontological Society of America Gerontological Nurse Research Award. Students at the MUSC College of Nursing awarded her the Outstanding MSN Faculty for 2000, and the Golden Lamp for 2003 and 2004.

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

REFERENCES


COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH GRANTS

- Amella, E. (PI), & Stockdell, R. Spreading the word: Teaching caregivers to support meals at home. SC Nutrition Research Consortium.
- Edlund, B. (Co-I). Improving patient outcomes in end-of-life care provided by physicians and nurses. NINR.
- Jenkins, C. (PI). Emergency department use in African Americans with diabetes. NINR.
- Laken, M. (PI). A partnership to promote physical activity and healthy eating in AME churches. NHLBI.
- Vandemark, L. (PI). Building capacity for place-based research in the College of Nursing. Center for Community Health Partnerships Research Pilot Study.
Teaching at the College of Nursing took on a global edge on February 19, 2008, when Professor Chris Hart joined us from the United Kingdom. He spent a day with the accelerated BSN students sharing with them his expertise in psychiatric nursing.

But this was no ordinary lecture! Instead he brought with him an innovative program developed under his leadership in the UK that is focused on skill-building in communication and risk-reduction interventions in psychiatric settings.

During a full day of interaction and exchange, Mr. Hart used short films produced with professional actors to depict challenging situations in the care of psychiatric patients. After watching the first movie clip, students analyzed the interactions, focusing on verbal and non-verbal communication, physical environment, safety, and therapeutic challenges. They then watched a second movie clip showing a more therapeutic exchange and better clinical outcome with a similar post-video analysis. In the final phase, students had the opportunity to break into small groups with a “faculty coach” to role-play how they would intervene in a similar situation, thus allowing them a true psychosocial skill building opportunity.

This program took “simulation” to a new and different level as it examined how nursing students can build skills and obtain competencies, not with mannequins, but with expert recreations of clinical scenarios that focus on their communication and relationship skills, along with psychosocial interventions. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the College intends to invite Chris Hart back to further develop this global aspect of simulation and learning.

Chris Hart is a nurse consultant in liaison psychiatry and principal lecturer in the United Kingdom. His time is split between clinical practice and service development for the South West London and St. George’s Mental Health NHS Trust, and combining teaching and research at Kingston University and St. George’s University in London. He has been involved in a number of national projects with the Department of Health related to liaison psychiatry and risk assessment, while also acting as an advisor on the CNO Review of Mental Health Nursing and Mental Health Bill. As a lecturer, he leads on a range of innovative educational projects aimed at developing clinical skills for students and qualified clinicians. He also plays a key role in leadership and management training.

He is the author of several books, including Nurses and Politics (Palgrave 2005), as well as numerous articles and essays, and is active on a number of research projects. Having been mental heath editor at the Nursing Times, he is now a member of the magazine’s advisory board and currently is the chair of the Association of Nurse Consultants and President of the International Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

Peggy Sires, Office of Student Services, received the first Staff of the Year award at Convocation on May 15 at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church. The award was created to recognize one staff member each year for excellence in service to the College of Nursing. Sires was selected by the faculty and staff members of the College for her “can-do” spirit. She received a check for $1,000, and her name engraved on a plaque displayed in the College. Students gave Sires a standing ovation as she received this well deserved award.
125TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

JANUARY
125th Anniversary Celebration

FEBRUARY
Legislative Visit

MARCH
Homecoming

APRIL
Administrative Day

MAY
Charleston RiverDogs Game

JUNE
Gene Glave’s performance of “Mammologues”

JULY
Melissa Fitzpatrick, Hill-Rom

AUGUST
Ice Cream Social

SEPTEMBER
Dr. Herman Blake presentation
Jeannette Andrews, PhD, APRN-BC, FNP, joined the College of Nursing as Associate Professor in January, 2008. Dr. Andrews came to Charleston from the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) in Augusta, where she was Department Chair of Biobehavioral Nursing and Associate Professor. She was also Chair of the Health Disparities Workgroup and Advisory Board at MCG. Dr. Andrews earned a BSN from MCG, an MSN from Georgia Southern University, and a DNSC from the University of South Carolina. She is currently a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow.

Dr. Andrews’ research focuses on health disparities in community settings, with an emphasis on cardiovascular and cancer risk reduction interventions among minorities. One recent project, Sister to Sister, focused on helping black female smokers in Georgia public housing neighborhoods quit smoking and remain smoke-free for at least a year. This intervention was developed and tested by public housing residents, housing authority officials, and academic researchers over the past seven years. “Coming to MUSC gave me the opportunity to expand Sister to Sister and improve the health of women in both Georgia and South Carolina,” said Dr. Andrews. “I hope to eventually have a model that can be replicated in public housing and other segregated urban neighborhoods across the country.”

Upon arriving at MUSC, Dr. Andrews hit the ground running. Her R03 proposal entitled, “Partnership readiness for community based participatory research,” was funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health. Her R01 entitled, “A social ecological based, multi-level smoking cessation intervention in public housing,” was also approved for funding by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Dr. Andrews’ other professional interests include obesity and diabetes prevention interventions. At MCG she conducted a pilot study to implement a faith-based intervention administered by health ministers and pastors, with the goal of the congregation losing 7% of their body weight (for those who were overweight) and adopting an exercise program of 150 minutes per week. The intervention was co-developed with the faith-based community, and with their involvement with the intervention delivery, the early results are promising. She plans to initiate similar community-based participatory research in the Charleston community.

In addition, Dr. Andrews has a keen interest in nursing leadership. “As the largest health profession, nurses can lead the way in transforming health care delivery in our nation. Nurses are on the front lines witnessing the evolving trends of chronic health care management, technological advances, changing demographics with aging baby boomers and increasing minority populations, and consumer engagement. The 2.5 million nurses in our country have the potential to champion health care reform with innovative, cost-efficient, and customer-centered quality health care models,” she said. She also enjoys mentoring graduate students and junior faculty regarding their research and career trajectories.

The focus of Dr. Andrews’ personal life is her 18-year-old twins. Her daughter, Jamie, is pre-med at the University of Georgia, and her son, Josh, is a swimmer at Georgia Tech majoring in nuclear engineering. Dr. Andrews also enjoys gardening, golfing, and cooking with family and friends.
Annemarie Donato, RN, FNP, a new Instructor in the College of Nursing, has been teaching on a part-time basis at MUSC for the past 10 years. Donato began her career 20 years ago in the Netherlands, where she attended a hospital-based nursing program. She earned an MSN from Columbia University in 1993 and became certified as a family nurse practitioner. Since moving to South Carolina in 1994, Donato has worked for the Department of Health and Environmental Control, Palmetto Lowcountry Behavioral Health, and MUSC Employee Health Services.

Donato teaches several courses in the nurse practitioner program at the College of Nursing and practices and supervises students on clinical rotations at the College of Charleston Student Health Services. She also serves on the admissions team for the MUSC Institute of Psychiatry and volunteers her nursing skills at Moultrie Middle School.

Donato is passionate about the growing nurse practitioner role in South Carolina and in the US and serves on the board of the Lowcountry Advanced Practice Nurses, the professional association of nurse practitioners in Charleston. She recently visited the University of Leiden in Holland and made two presentations about the education and role of nurse practitioners in the US. Currently, there are only five schools with nurse practitioner programs in Holland. Upon her return to the US, Donato developed an international mentoring program between nurse practitioners and students in Holland and nurse practitioners in the Charleston area. “Nurse practitioners in the Charleston area have enthusiastically embraced the idea of having a peer and mentoring relationship with colleagues in Holland,” she says.

Cindy Hudson, DNSc, RN, PHCNS, BC, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. She earned a BSN at Duquesne University, an MSN at the University of Pittsburgh, a DNSc at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Hudson is also board certified as a public health clinical nurse specialist. She completed seven years of active duty as a Captain in the US Army, working as a community health nurse at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC; Fort Carson in Colorado; and in Bremerhaven, Germany.

Dr. Hudson’s research interests include childhood obesity and health promotion, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations. She has over thirty years of combined nursing and community health teaching experience. She is also a clinical faculty member for the undergraduate Population Focused nursing care course. “I am excited to join the College of Nursing because of the emphasis on community health enterprises here. With my research on obesity, I hope to make a difference for the people of South Carolina,” says Dr. Hudson.

“I hope to make a difference for the people of South Carolina.”
Tiffany Williams, APRN, MSN, CPNP, is an Instructor at the College of Nursing. A native of Charleston, she received her BSN and MSN from MUSC and an MA in counseling from Webster University. Williams works as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for the College of Nursing Hispanic Health Initiatives at the Franklin C. Fetter Clinic on Johns Island, and for the College of Nursing School-based Clinics at Burns Elementary School and North Charleston High School. She is also a Clinical Instructor for the undergraduate Population Focused Nursing Care course.

Williams’ interests include obesity prevention in adolescents and teaching parenting skills. She especially enjoys counseling adolescent girls about self-esteem, goal setting, and reproductive health. She has worked extensively with pediatric HIV patients and children who have experienced sexual abuse.

Williams and her husband started the A.J. Williams Children with Special Needs Foundation in memory of their son, who was born with lissencephaly, a rare brain malformation. The foundation’s mission is to support organizations that provide support to children with special needs and their families through increasing awareness, improving services, enhancing support, and embracing families. “This was our way to give back to the community that supported us in so many ways,” says Williams.

Susan Newman, PhD, RN, CRRN, is an Assistant Professor and Junior Research Scientist at the College of Nursing. She received her BFA from Clemson University and her BSN from MUSC. Newman is a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse with over 13 years of clinical experience in the acute inpatient physical rehabilitation setting. Her research interests led her to the community setting for her dissertation work, which involved the engagement of individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) in a community-based participatory research project using Photovoice. The primary aims of the project were to identify, and address through social action, the environmental factors that act as barriers or facilitators to community participation of individuals with SCI.

“Through my practice as a rehabilitation nurse, I came to realize that many rehabilitation professionals only encounter individuals with SCI in the clinical setting,” says Newman. “The shortened, post-injury inpatient rehabilitation stay makes it especially difficult to develop an understanding of the environments to which people return after discharge from acute rehabilitation. Our efforts to rehabilitate individuals with SCI require that we have an understanding of how the community environment affects their function and participation.”

Newman has received funding from the Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation (RNF). She currently is a clinical instructor in the undergraduate Population Focused Nursing course.

Lisa M. Vandemark, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to conduct research at Ubon Ratchathani University in Thailand during the 2008-2009 academic year. Dr. Vandemark will perform community-based participatory research with colleagues from Ubon Ratchathani University, focusing on identifying behaviors that influence vulnerability to vector-borne and infectious disease in Northeast Thailand. The purpose of the research is to design health education materials that are sensitive to cultural conditions and relevant to community life, and to collect community-level data that can be integrated with other data relevant to infectious disease using a geographic information system (GIS).

“I feel so lucky for the chance to work with the talented and dedicated researchers and staff of Ubon Ratchathani University, and to contribute in a small way to the health and well-being of communities in the Mekong Valley,” says Dr. Vandemark. “Without the support and encouragement of the College of Nursing, I would not be able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.”

The Fulbright Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
STUART RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS PEPLAU AWARD

For the past 35 years, Gail Stuart, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN, Dean of the MUSC College of Nursing and Distinguished University Professor, has dedicated her career to improving the lives of patients and their families by addressing their mental health needs and challenging the problems they experience with the behavioral health delivery system. In recognition of her numerous professional achievements in the field of psychiatric nursing, the American Nurses Association (ANA) selected Dr. Stuart as the recipient of the 2008 Hildegard Peplau Award. The Hildegard Peplau Award can be compared to a lifetime achievement award for psychiatric nurses, because it honors years of service in clinical practice, policy development and educational leadership.

“Peplau is often referred to as the mother of psychiatric nursing,” said Stuart. “And so it is a truly high honor to be recognized with this award at the pinnacle of my career. It’s one of those rare moments when you look back at your lifetime’s work as seen through the eyes of the many people you have touched, and you think, ‘Yes, it has been good.’”

One of Stuart’s major contributions to the psychiatric nursing field is her textbook, Principles and Practice of Psychiatric Nursing, first published in 1979. The book was released this fall in its ninth edition. In addition to the award-winning textbook, Stuart has authored numerous journal publications and given more than 200 national and international presentations.

Over the past ten years, much of Stuart’s work has involved spanning boundaries and working in interprofessional forums. She has been president of both the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and the American College of Mental Health Administration, and currently presides as President of the Board of the Annapolis Coalition on the Behavioral Health Workforce. Stuart also serves on the Board of Directors of Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association). “I am definitely grounded in nursing, but I have spent much of my career bringing the view of nursing to interprofessional circles where I believe that all providers, working together, can bring about real change in the health care system,” said Stuart.

Dr. Stuart holds an undergraduate degree in nursing from Georgetown University and a master of science degree in psychiatric nursing from the University of Maryland. She earned her doctorate in behavioral sciences from Johns Hopkins University and is board certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing. In addition, Dr. Stuart is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, and a Distinguished Practitioner in the National Academies of Practice. She also has been a van Ameringen Fellow at the Beck Institute of Cognitive Therapy and Research and a Visiting Professor at Kings College, London, Institute of Psychiatry.

PALMETTO GOLD RECIPIENTS

On April 19, MUSC College of Nursing faculty members Nancy Duffy, Marilyn King, and Sheila Smith received the 2008 Palmetto Gold Award for excellence in nursing practice and commitment to their profession. They were selected by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation and were recognized at the annual Palmetto Gold Gala at Seawell’s Restaurant in Columbia, SC. The College of Nursing is proud that of its full-time nursing faculty, 74 percent have received the South Carolina Palmetto Gold Award for nursing excellence.

The Palmetto Gold Award is an annual statewide nursing recognition program that showcases the valuable contributions nurses make to patient care in our state. The program also raises funds to endow scholarships for registered nurse students. The South Carolina Nurses Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation, provides the vehicle through which donations to the Palmetto Gold scholarships are received and invested.

Pictured left to right: Nancy Duffy, Marilyn King, and Sheila Smith.
SMITH APPOINTED TO STATE COMMITTEE

Gigi Smith, MSN, APRN, has been appointed to the Study Committee on Service Delivery for Persons With Epilepsy in South Carolina. Comprised of six volunteers, four representatives of state agencies, and two state legislators, the committee was constituted according to Act 168, which was passed by the SC General Assembly and Governor Mark Sanford in 2007. This committee will determine what services are available, what services are needed, and how these services can be best provided to people with epilepsy.

Act 168 evolved from efforts of the Epilepsy Foundation of South Carolina and study committee chair Braxton Wanna-maker, MD, to improve the health and lives of people with epilepsy. Additionally, new and compelling epidemiological research from MUSC revealed that a larger segment of the population had epilepsy than had been previously considered. Epilepsy is the second most common neurological condition, and 2.2% of the population of South Carolina, or 90,000 individuals, have had epilepsy during their lifetime. This population also has a greater burden of medical costs, limitations of access to care and services, unemployment and neurobehavioral difficulties.

Smith, a pediatric nurse practitioner, is an Assistant Professor in the MUSC College of Nursing and is a faculty member in the MUSC Comprehensive Epilepsy Center and Department of Pediatrics. She was previously a clinical nurse specialist in child and adolescent psychiatric mental health nursing and was a leader in the development of the pediatric epilepsy program at MUSC. “Individuals with difficult to control epilepsy battle many issues, including social stigma, possible difficulties with everyday activities, and lack of community support. It is my hope that the actions of the study committee will enable persons with epilepsy to be welcomed into their communities and experience improved quality of life,” says Smith.

DUFFY NAMED 2007 GOVERNOR’S PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Nancy Duffy, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor and Director of the Undergraduate Program at the College of Nursing, was named the Governor’s 2007 Professor of the Year for four-year institutions of higher education.

“Ms. Duffy is truly a role model for all of our faculty in that her teaching expresses both her love of nursing and her desire to share all that she knows in a way that energizes the next generation of nurses,” said Dean Gail Stuart.

Duffy’s students also speak highly of her. “She exemplifies the integrity and passion that are needed to encourage and teach students in such an accelerated program,” said one of her students, Lynn DiVecchio. It comes as little surprise, therefore, to learn that Duffy was selected four times by the undergraduate students to receive the College’s Golden Lamp Award, an award given to the faculty member who has most influenced their education.

Her instruction and mentoring of students have won Duffy a variety of other awards, including MUSC’s Outstanding Teaching Award for the College of Nursing Baccalaureate Program and the 2007 MUSC Foundation Teaching Excellence Award. She also was awarded the MUSC Educator-Lecturer Award for her ability to make her classes both enjoyable and educational.

A person of high energy, Duffy is continuing her own student career as a candidate for a degree in a doctor of nursing practice program. “I love learning,” she said, “and I believe it should be a lifelong commitment for everyone.”

Special thanks to MUSC Catalyst.

“I love learning, and I believe it should be a lifelong commitment for everyone.”
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Give a gift to your favorite MUSC College of Nursing alumnus from the College’s Marketplace. A variety of gift items such as books, pins, and bookmarks are available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the College of Nursing’s 125th Anniversary Scholarship.

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Ashley Bath is the recipient of the Elizabeth Mills Scholarship. She completed her first semester of coursework in the accelerated bachelor of science in nursing degree program with a 3.94 GPA and was ranked number two in her class. Bath has a previous bachelor of science degree from Denison University in Ohio. As a student at Denison she was active in community and philanthropy activities, including the Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Society. She was employed as a Research Aide at The Ohio State University Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute. At MUSC, she enrolled in the Research Honors Practicum, where her study also focused on cystic fibrosis.

Rebecca Freeman is the recipient of the Irene Dixon Scholarship. She completed her bachelor of science in nursing at MUSC in May, 2008 and is now enrolled in the BSN to PhD program. She emerged as a leader among her peers and served as the president of the Student Nurse’s Association.

Freeman was part of a clinical group in the Population Focused Nursing course that identified needs and raised funds for a local Title I elementary school. While their initial assignment was to work one day with the school nurse and perform vision screenings on 2nd and 5th graders, the students collectively knew there was so much more that needed to be done for the children, their parents, and school. They identified several student needs, including follow-up optometry care, appropriate clothing, health and nutrition education, classroom supplies and learning software, and books for in-home reading. They began working on solutions. To date, over fifty-five donors have participated in the “solution,” including friends and family, employers from the community, and a PTA group from two other area schools. Over $3,000 has been raised to purchase clothing, hygiene supplies, learning software, notebooks, markers, rulers, and pencils. The students assisted the teacher coach by purchasing books—an entire curriculum of 4000+ titles that will rotate from pre-school to 2nd grade. Her group credits Freeman’s spirit of giving, energy, and enthusiasm for the project’s success.

Pam Murphy is the recipient of the Ruth Chamberlin Scholarship. This disciplined leader is a graduate of Georgetown University with a master of science in nursing in nurse midwifery and earned her bachelor of science in nursing, magna cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. She plans to complete her doctorate in May, 2009 and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Nursing Honor Society. Murphy recently had an article published in the Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health, titled “Vitamin D deficiency and depressive disorders among women: An integrative review.” She has also completed mentored research focusing on lactation complications. Murphy is dedicated to the field of women’s health and childbirth as well as teaching and conducting research. She is a student representative on the doctoral program committee and also works full-time as a lactation consultant. Incredibly, she is also married to David and is the mother of three young children.

Andrea White is the recipient of the Gail Stuart Scholarship. She entered the accelerated bachelor of science in nursing degree program in January, 2008. She brings an outstanding academic record, having graduated magna cum laude from Clemson University with a bachelor of arts with a major in psychology and minor in women’s studies.

White also brings an interesting work history and perspective with her to the nursing program. She has worked as an investigator for child and adult protective services, as a program coordinator and community outreach coordinator for a child advocacy center, and most recently as a client services coordinator and shelter coordinator for My Sister’s House. She is a natural advocate and a passionate person who is able to work with diverse populations without judgment and to establish rapport and build trust with others.

Erin Wilson is the recipient of the Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones Scholarship. She is enrolled in the master of science in nursing degree program in the pediatric nurse practitioner track. She completed the accelerated bachelor of science in nursing degree program in December 2006. Wilson graduated magna cum laude and was invited for membership into Sigma Theta Tau, the International Nursing Honor Society. During her undergraduate program, she was deeply involved in the MUSC Student Government Association. During this time, she embraced the opportunity to raise nursing students’ awareness of the importance of building relationships with students and professionals in other disciplines.
HARRIS AWARDED MUHA PATRON SCHOLARSHIP

Lauren Harris, a graduate of Clemson University, has been selected as the second $25,000 Medical University Hospital Authority Patron Scholarship award recipient. Harris is an outstanding student, having completed a major in marketing with a 3.98 GPA. During her interview, she commented that she would like to use her marketing background to attract others to the MUSC College of Nursing and the nursing profession.

QUARLES AWARDED PALMETTO GOLD SCHOLARSHIP

Kristie Quarles received a $1,000 Palmetto Gold Scholarship. She completed her BSN at the College of Nursing in May, 2008 and is currently a student in the MSN program. Funded through the South Carolina Nurses Foundation, Inc., the Palmetto Gold Scholarship Program is the single largest scholarship program for undergraduate student nurses in the state.

BARRON RECEIVES EARL B. HIGGINS SCHOLARSHIP

Mia Barron, a student enrolled in the master of science in nursing degree program, is the recipient of the Earl B. Higgins Scholarship. She was recognized for this honor at the annual Earl B. Higgins Diversity Awards Ceremony on April 2, 2008.

Barron is a December, 2001 graduate of the MUSC College of Nursing bachelor of science in nursing degree program. As an undergraduate student, she was the recipient of the Ida Spruill Scholarship, McLeod Minority Scholarship, Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship, and Congressional Black Caucus Education Scholarship.

Barron has co-authored publications with former faculty member Dr. Barbara Powe and presented at two conferences. She has worked at MUSC as a clinical nurse coordinator, community advisor, and clinical research nurse coordinator for the Department of Rheumatology. She advises investigators and staff on approaches to develop closer ties with the African American community, suggests ideas for recruitment and retention issues, and provides input regarding feasibility and culturally sensitive issues relating to grants. Barron has also been a Lupus Health Educator for the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., and Program Coordinator for the Office on Women’s Health, Region IV, US Department of Health and Human Services.

She is currently a clinical nurse coordinator for the Progressive Care Unit for the MUSC Health and Vascular Center.

Donate to a College of Nursing scholarship.

For more information, contact Denise Ciccareli at (843) 792-8421 or ciccarel@musc.edu.
GRADUATION
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF MAY 2008!
Every year, the Medical University Hospital Nurse of the Year award goes to the registered nurse who has displayed the highest level of merit. With more than 50 exceptional unit winners vying for the top honor of Nurse of the Year, Adina Garner, Labor and Delivery, represents the best of the best. “It highlights the last 13 years of my work at MUSC,” said Garner. “I was nominated and recognized by my peers, which is so important to me.”

Garner is a 1994 graduate of the College of Nursing BSN program. As Nurse of the Year, she will enjoy a free parking space for a year. She also was presented a “Tourist in Your Own Town” package that includes dinner certificates to local restaurants, a stay at the Meeting Street Inn, a carriage ride downtown, spa treatments, and a decorative plate of historic Charleston.

Garner’s specialty is outpatient education, specifically childbirth and breastfeeding classes. She instructs mothers-to-be on the proper techniques of these fundamental practices at both MUSC and Babies “R” Us. She also shares her knowledge at the bedside by helping mothers with their breathing positions and comfort positions while in labor.

Two philosophies guide Garner in her nursing practice; one being the Golden Rule, which states “treat others as you would like to be treated.” The other value system comes from her mother, Suzette Gaines, RN, who works in the medical intensive care unit (MICU). “She would always tell me to do my best and work as if I was signing my name to each task,” Garner said.

Garner credits the high caliber of staff in Labor and Delivery, veteran and newer nurses alike, for her success. “One labor nurse can’t take care of her own delivery, the mother, and the baby all by herself,” said Garner. “Whether it’s a Cesarean section or a normal delivery, there’s at least another person in the room.”

She advises nurses who are just starting out in the profession to get involved in various unit projects. “You have to be engaged in what you do. We could go to the patient’s room and not come out until after the baby’s born. However, if you participate in other projects like patient satisfaction, customer service or patient education, you’ll remain engaged.”

Collaborating with a church missions organization, Burgbacher is working on her second project in Nepal. “My current work focuses on ‘street children’ and the goals of finding placements for them in foster homes, getting them off drugs, and establishing protocols for their care,” she says. She shared that drugs are inexpensive and easily available in Nepal and that many foreigners come there for the purpose of acquiring drugs, then they never leave.

Prior to this project, Burgbacher worked to establish a free women’s health clinic for prostitutes. “The overwhelming challenge, aside from the language barrier, was doing everything myself from the bottom up—there were no established guidelines, and much of the learning was hands-on. It was very trial and error—even the support staff had to be trained on the very basics of their role.”

When Burgbacher entered the nursing program, she knew this was what she wanted to do. She had already completed a bachelor of arts in missions from a Bible college in Missouri and had experienced international travel to help the needy. “The needs are so overwhelming. I know what we are doing barely scratches the surface, but it is worth it. I meet new people everyday and continuously learn new things about myself, the culture and language, and providing healthcare,” says Burgbacher.
SIGMA THETA TAU UPDATE

Dear Gamma Omicron At-Large Chapter,
It is with great pleasure that I greet you on behalf of the 2008-2009 Board of Directors.

2008 is a special year for Gamma Omicron, as it marks the 30th anniversary of our chapter and the 5th anniversary of our at-large chapter. The activities we have planned for the upcoming year will focus on celebrating our past and our future.

I encourage you to visit our web site at http://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. Our primary way of communicating with our membership is via email. If you are an active member and do not receive emails 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
(All meetings listed below are to be held at 5:30 p.m. at Fairfield Park.)
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 14

ANNUAL CHAPTER EDUCATION AND BUSINESS MEETING
(Includes presentation of new Board of Directors and Research Awards)
May 12

If you have any questions or would like information about how to become a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, please contact me via email at tanyalott@homesc.com.

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

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Dear Nursing Alumni and Friends:
I am honored to serve as president of the MUSC Nursing Alumni Association. This year has been one of special celebration honoring the 125th anniversary of the College of Nursing. I enthusiastically welcome members of the Alumni Board for the 2008-2009 academic year. I look forward to working with this dynamic group of talented and creative nursing leaders. Stay tuned for highlights of the year ahead!

The Alumni Board meeting in August focused on planning some wonderful activities for the upcoming year. Mark your calendars for Alumni Homecoming on Saturday, March 28, 2009. The morning will begin with an open house hosted by the College of Nursing for all alumni and their guests. This is a time to reconnect with fellow alumni and bring the past to life through the memories you share.

In the evening, there will be an alumni party at the Altmann Center located on the The Citadel campus. A highlight of the evening will be the sixth annual Silent Auction organized by the Nursing Alumni Board. Last year’s event was a huge success with over 140 auction items collected from area businesses and signature hand-made items donated by our alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the College. The event raised over $10,000, and all proceeds were donated to the College of Nursing Student Scholarship Fund.

Finally, the evening will conclude with the 2009 Outstanding Nursing Alumnus Award and Student Scholarship Awards. There will be wonderful food, as well as great conversation with other CON alumni, faculty, friends, and students. Make plans now to attend this fabulous evening—it is the College event of the year!!

Good wishes to you! Hope to see you at Homecoming!

Sincerely,
Nancy Finch, PhD, RN
President, MUSC Nursing Alumni Association
The College of Nursing celebrated its annual Homecoming on March 8, with a record number of alumni participating. The morning reception welcomed over 75 alumni representing classes from the 1950’s and each of the decades following.

Eager to share their stories about being a student and nurse, former Alumni Board President, Dottie Halsey, Class of 1953, said, “It was great to be part of an organization with such a long and rich history.” Mrs. Halsey served as the Alumni Association President the year of the 100th Anniversary.

The evening activities also hosted a record 152 attendees and included a Lowcountry reception and Silent Auction. The Silent Auction Committee, chaired by Nancy Finch, Class of 1985, and Stephanie Chomos, Class of 2004, offered more than 140 items and raised more than $10,000 for student scholarships, surpassing the goal. The class gift, presented by Ms. Caroline Counts, Classes of 1968, 1982, and 1988, was $5,672.

Five $2,000 student scholarships were awarded during the evening program. Two alumni, Ms. Shirley Hendrix and Ms. Leigh Wood, were awarded the Outstanding Alumnus Award. Former Alumni Board presidents were also recognized, and a perpetual plaque honoring these special volunteers is now on display in the College of Nursing.
Leigh Wood, Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient (pictured left) and Sharon Bond.

Past Alumni Board Presidents
Front row (left to right): Joan Herbert, Mary Lee Lavelle, Dottie Halsey, and Hazel Marie Huff.
Back row: Nancy Davidson Tassin, Gail Bullock, Brenda Hale, and Florence Simmons.

Shirley Hendrix, Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient

Kal Fornes, Sabrina Fornes (class of 1998), and Mardi Long

Class of 1978
1953

Loretta Brockenfelt of Charleston and her husband, Brock, are staying involved with their two grandchildren, Hunter and Delaney.

Betty Crowley of Hartsville wasn’t able to attend the 2008 reunion but writes: “Sorry I couldn’t be there for this one. After two knee replacements, I have had to slow down. Wish you all well.”

Dorothy Halsey enjoys travel and photography.

Elizabeth Hill’s interests include walking, various church activities, musical concerts (particularly strings and piano) and her dog, Sandy. Her daughter, Christi, is an RN and her daughter, Rachel, is presently in the nursing program at USC. This will make three generations of nurses in her family.

Gloria Murray had a stroke in September 2007 but is now doing well.

Mariann Purdy of Bedford, TX, and her husband, John, enjoy traveling, especially cruising and seeing their grandchildren and their children. They visit old friends and other family members. She is also actively researching her family in geneology.com and other resources.

Betty Quat retired with 47 years of service at MUSC.

Lucy Turner enjoys gardening, machine embroidery, traveling, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

1958

Carolyn Gay writes that she was excited to become a “Golden Grad” at the May 2008 activities.

1959

Heather Harris retired in 1998 after a career of psychiatric nursing in SC. She and her husband are enjoying a busy retirement and live on Lake Murray in Newberry County. She is a freelance photographer and accepts custom art commissions, including pet portraits. They are involved in outdoor ministries through SC Lutheran Retreat Centers in Batesburg-Leesville.

Weona Carroll retired in 2006 after 38 years with MUSC.

Dorothy Hartley retired in 1998. She now volunteers at Colleton Medical Center in Walterboro, SC.

Deloris Jenkins of Sanford, NC, welcomed her first grandson, Ryan Miles Yoder, born November 14, 2007.

Sharon Martin has four children; one is the mayor of Central, SC, two are graphic designers, and one is a forestry person working for Auburn University. She also has six grandchildren.
Tutta Mood works part-time in the operating room and teaches horseback riding to children and adults with disabilities at a therapeutic barn in Awendaw, SC.

Carie Rust of Irmo retired from C.M. Tucker Nursing Center and has three grandchildren, Dalton, Delaney, and Dylan.

Paula Thomson of Arlington, TX, was successfully treated for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in 2006. Last year, she spent a month in Bali, Indonesia, and seven weeks in Turkey, Israel, Jordan and Greece.

1961
Rita Moore of Roswell, GA, retired in November 2007 after 36 years at DeKalb Medical Center.

Jo Summey of Gastonia, NC, retired from nursing. She and her husband enjoy traveling and seeing their grandchildren. She would love to hear from classmates.

1963
Linda Manning and her husband, Ray, of Mt. Pleasant are busy traveling, caring for their elderly parents, and loving their nine grandchildren. She writes, “Life is good!”

Dianne Smolen was recently named the coordinator of the doctorate in nursing practice program at the University of Toledo College of Nursing. The program was approved by the Ohio Board of Regents to be implemented in the Spring semester of 2008 in collaboration with Wright State University in Dayton and is entirely online.

Susan Moore lives in Camden, SC, at her “old homestead.” She enjoys gardening, updating the house, and her four grandchildren.

1965
Anne Beck writes: “Charlie and I have traveled less and traded the large RV after fuel prices increased. We spent the 2008 summer in our RV trailer near Bat Cave, NC, where we have a lot and the climate is cooler than Charleston. I have retired from TTC except for occasional fill-ins. We spend the winter working at James Island County Park as volunteers.”

Martha Lyerly of Lake City writes that her son, George William Lyerly, Jr., (Will) married Erin Fitzgerald Farmer on June 28, 2008, in Aiken.

Laurel Searcy of Magnolia, TX, used her nursing knowledge working 20 years for Lorance & Thompson, a defense law firm assisting attorneys to understand the medical aspects of cases. Medical malpractice defense was her specialty.

1970
Nancy Chapman of Charleston and husband, Richard, retired in December 2007 and planned to spend the spring of 2008 on an around-the-world cruise.

1972
Barbara Scott is retiring from a Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in 2008. She was a nurse manager of the Ft. Myers, Florida, VAOPC and the Naples and Port Charlotte CBOCs.

1973
Betsy McCune of Kalamazoo, MI, writes: “I finally have a daughter! Our oldest son, Steve, married Ashley on June 2, 2007. She’s wonderful! They are living in Hilton Head, where Steve works as a worship-youth pastor. Phil is in Michigan, Dave in Wisconsin, and Dan is a junior in college at Liberty University in Virginia.”

1974
Denise Wood has retired after 32 years of service at MUSC in the Division of Endocrinology. She and her husband have moved to Rutherfordton, NC. They have three grandchildren and love being able to see them more often.
1975
Patricia (McVay) Harvin of Mt. Pleasant was selected for a South Carolina Palmetto Gold Award. She is a dialysis nurse manager at the Charleston VA Medical Center and is certified in nephrology.

Marilyn McKinnon of St. George retired from DHEC Home Health after 29 years. She continues to work PRN with Home Health.

Rebecca Peters is CEO of Lifespan, a multi-geriatric services agency celebrating 25 years. She was awarded the 2007 Business of the Year Award for Santa Cruz County, CA.

1976
Sara Williams of Montgomery, AL, is deputy associate director of patient care services for the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System.

1977
Kathleen McQuown-Gunn of Greenwood, SC, writes: “Our class reunion was fantastic! It was so wonderful to see my classmates after 30 years!”

1979
Theressa Edwards has joined the ranks of educators. She is teaching in an LPN program at North Central Texas College.

1980
Joy Bondt re-entered the profession as a continuing critical care nurse after taking 13 years off from nursing. She lived in Greenville, SC, for 22 years after graduation, but really loves being back at the beach and so close to Charleston. Her son, Joshua, graduated from the University of Maryland with a molecular genetics degree and a communications degree. While in school, he traveled to England, Spain and France as a student ambassador and was an exchange student to Japan. He also spent a year in South Africa. Presently, he has a job with the government and loves the DC area. She would love to hear from her friends from the Nursing Class of 1980.

1981
Anne Johnson of Urbana, OH, continues to work on-call for an outpatient surgery facility and a same-day surgery floor of a local hospital. She hopes to return to a career in nursing education in a few years after her son graduates from high school.

Karen McGee of Cincinnati, OH, writes: “27 years ago I completed my master’s degree in nursing with a major in nurse midwifery from MUSC. At long last, I am able to report on the amazing journey that I have traveled since then. The education I received at MUSC allowed me to be a change agent as a nurse midwife. My accomplishments over the years are from partnering with nurses, physicians and health care administrators who believe in the hallmarks of nurse midwifery care. Some of these accomplishments are: 1) founder of the first private nurse midwifery practice in the state of Ohio, 1982-1985; 2) director of the nurse midwifery practice at the University of Cincinnati Hospital, 1985-2001; 3) establishment of a graduate nurse midwifery education program at the University of Cincinnati, 1995; 4) founder of the nurse midwifery practice in the largest provider of maternity care in the region, 2002; 5) traveling annually to Haiti with a medical team to assist with the education and practice of local midwives; 6) Board member and President, CHI, formerly known as Centering Pregnancy and Parenting Association, 2006; 6) founder and clinician of a community based program, The Midwife, located on a health care van in Cincinnati, 2002. Thanks, MUSC! It has been exciting, and I couldn’t have done it without you or the many people with whom I shared the planning and implementation of these programs.”

1982
Lynette Gibson is currently an Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina-Upstate’s Mary Black School of Nursing. She is married to Ron Gibson, Pharmacy Class of ’83. They have one son, Sterling, who attends J.L. Mann Academy in Greenville.

Joyce Peterson is employed as a hospital supervisor at MUSC.
1983
**Linda Bailey Campbell** received her MBA from Webster University in 2001 and retired from the US Air Force as a major on July 1, 2008, after more than 20 years of honorable service. She is a certified OR Nurse and is married with two children.

**Loretta Cararano-Kangas** is working on her PhD in nursing at the University of California-San Francisco.

**Leslie Redler** of Hilton Head Island, SC, retired from nursing for several years to raise her two children. She returned to hospital-based nursing in October 2007 and loves working as a PRN in obstetrics. She and her husband, Bruce, have been married for 23 years.

**1985**
**Nancy Judson Finch** is a nurse researcher in the Transplant Center at MUSC and will serve as president of the MUSC Nursing Alumni Association for the 2008-09 term.

**1986**
**Costa Cockfield** is Chief Nursing Officer at Carolinas Hospital System in Florence, SC and is president of the South Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders. She and her husband, Flynn, have two children, a son, Walt, and daughter, Savannah.

**Suzanne Prevost** is now Associate Dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Kentucky.

**1987**
**Virgina Ballentine** completed the SCHA Management Academy in November 2007. She is now certified in inpatient OB with a secondary certification in fetal monitoring. This year, she plans to begin working on her master’s degree in nursing informatics.

**1988**
**Pamela Cook** recently obtained her doctor of nursing practice degree from the Medical College of Georgia. She is Assistant Dean of Student Affairs in the School of Nursing at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. Dr. Cook and her husband, Mark, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 2008.

**1989**
**Maria Bazan’s** daughter, Caitlin Marie Bazan, graduated from Greenwood High School and will be attending Furman University as a Hollingsworth Scholarship recipient.

**Alice Howell** retired in 2006 after 30 years of teaching practical nursing in Marion, SC. She is now working part-time at McLeod Hospice House in Florence.

**Mary Nickle** is living in Vienna, VA, and works in Fairfax as an oncology nurse. Her husband, Bruce, is in the US Marine Corps. They will be moving to the San Diego, CA, area in 2009. They have three great children, Sarah, Sam and Daisy.

**1990**
**Cynthia McClure** began a new business, Southern Cosmetic Laser, LLC, in St. George, SC. She is still practicing part-time as a nurse practitioner in primary care and aesthetic medicine.

**1991**
**Cathy Borris-Hale** was recognized in 2007 by Sigma Theta Tau as one of Washington, DC’s “One Hundred Extraordinary Nurses.” She received her master’s degree in health care administration from Bellevue University in 2007. She was also selected as Chief Nursing Officer for a hospital in Washington.

**Penny Walter Chase** of Bucks County, PA, is working part-time as a nurse in an alternative school for kids with behavioral problems, in a partial hospital program. She has the summers off and just got back from a few days at the Jersey shore with two lively granddaughters.

**Michelle Cox** is employed at Hilton Head Regional Medical Center. She has worked in the float pool for ten years and has done everything from management and supervising to bedside nursing.

**Marie Lasater** is the director of RN education at a small, private nursing school in Missouri and also works as a staff nurse in neurosurgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

**1992**
**Angela Moody** was remarried on January 26, 2008, to David Christopher Moody. They have five boys together: Nate, 12, Patrick, 11, Nicholas, 9, Jack, 5, and Andrew, 4.

**Josephine Worrell** has earned a doctor of divinity degree.

**1993**
**Maria Feaster** completed a post-master’s certificate in nursing informatics from Duke University in 2002.

**1994**
**Julia Ball** is the Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of South Carolina–Aiken.

**Robin Matutina** is a student at MUSC in the BSN to PhD nursing program. She was awarded the Stephen Stewart Scholarship for South Carolina doctoral students. Her first published manuscript, titled “Recruiting middle school students into nursing,” was accepted in *The Journal of School Nursing*.

**1995**
**Rosina Feagin** is Vice President for Clinical Effectiveness at Trident Health System in Charleston.

**Robin Bissinger** (CON 2007) has been promoted to Associate Professor in the MUSC College of Nursing. She directs the neonatal nurse practitioner program and has served in leadership positions with the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, the Carolinas’ Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, the National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, the National Certification Corporation, and the...
CLASS NOTES

American Academy of Pediatrics. She recently led the first neonatal nursing delegation to China. She also received a 2002 Award for Excellence from the SC League for Nursing.

Raquel Walker was accepted into the 2007-08 Emerging Leader Program for the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). The leadership development program is a year-long commitment with the opportunity for participants to work with a mentor to develop projects for the community, for which AWHONN provides a small stipend.

1996
Natalie Cannata, her husband, Gregory, and their children moved to Shrivenham, England, for Gregory to attend the British Command and General Staff College.

Kevin Quinn has been attending the University of Cincinnati for MSC in Adult Acute Care (CNS/NP) since fall of 2006. He will be assigned to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda following graduation.

Helen Seal practices medical surgery at Hanford Community Medical Center in California. She is married to Mitchell Seal, CON class of 1997.

Mitchell Seal is a doctoral candidate at the University of the Pacific. He is also a lieutenant commander in the Navy Nurse Corps. He is married to Helen Seal, CON class of 1997.

1998
Frederick Baer joined the Navy Reserve four years ago and is now a lieutenant. He just came off a one-year’s deployment to Germany and was stationed at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where he was assigned to surgery as a preoperative nurse. He found his deployment to be very fulfilling and considers it an honor to serve his country on war-time orders and to help the wounded heroes coming back from the battlefield. He is happy to be home now with his family and looks forward to the future.

Lora Balerno writes: “Only CNS in this graduating class!”

Elizabeth Frost graduated in 1998 and worked in the ED at MUSC, St. Francis, Roper and Summerville. She joined the Air Force in 2003. Her first duty station was Scott AFB, IL. She now lives in Dayton, OH and has a son who is six-years old. One day she hopes to make it back for a class reunion.

Zoe Ostergren teaches at Galen College of Nursing in Kentucky and has welcomed the birth of her third child, Rae Catharina.

Melissa Stone is a sexual assault nurse examiner and received her MSN in Forensic Nursing from Quinnipiac University in 2006. She welcomed her first child, Isabella, in October 2007.

Emily Whitehead obtained her master’s degree in public health. She married and moved to Florence, where she began teaching pediatric and public health nursing at the FMU program. Now with two small children, she stays at home but remains very interested in and involved with the nursing school as well as advocating for children’s health within the community.

1999
Wendy Chapman was recipient of the Brigadier General E.A. Hoefly Award presented by the Aerospace Medical Association, Aerospace Nursing Society, at the annual scientific meeting in New Orleans, LA, in May 2007. This award was presented for outstanding performance in the field of clinical nursing. She was also a guest speaker at the conference, discussing a case study on traumatic brain injury and our wounded warriors. She also earned a MBA degree in August of 2007 and welcomed her third daughter, Malaya Ann, born on September 17, 2007.

Shannon Guy and her husband, John, have two children, Daniel and Lana.

2000
Roy Smith graduated with a doctor of nursing practice degree from USC in December 2007. He accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Nursing at Francis Marion University and is also a part-time family nurse practitioner.

2002
Elissa Barfield is working in the cardiac cath lab at Roper Hospital in Charleston, SC.

Jennifer Yeargin Dean was a nurse in L & D for 4 ½ years and is currently working on her master’s in women’s health-nurse practitioner at the University of Colorado. She has been married to Chad since the weekend after graduation. They moved to Denver two years ago.

Kristen Hall is employed with Pulmonary Disease Associates and Critical Care Management in Greenville as a nurse practitioner. She has two children, Jackson Douglas and Sarah Olivia.

Melanie O’Tuel is employed with Marlboro Park Hospital and Agape Hospice of the Pee Dee.

2003
Catherine Sarah Cohen and David Wesley Decker were married on October 6, 2007, on Pawley’s Island. They live in New York.

Jessica Moroney started out in CV step-down in Charleston, then moved to Massachusetts to be with her husband while he attended law school. While in Massachusetts, she trained in the CVICU, and after her husband’s graduation they moved to Atlanta, GA. She still loves the ICU environment and is enjoying the strong nursing support at a top heart hospital.
**Madelyn Myers** enjoys her position at the Veterans Administration Ralph H. Johnson Medical Center in the addictions outpatient program. Her two sons, Joe and Thomas, are in medical school at MUSC. Her daughter Katherine, ’04, is now in management at Sandpiper Nursing Home. Her daughter Melissa, is in management at Booksurge Publishing.

**2004**

**Jill Cleary** works part time at Mt. Pleasant Internal Medicine and has been happily married to Johnny Cleary for four years.

**Jennifer Gray** is a night-shift nursing supervisor at Williamsburg Regional Hospital in Kingstree, SC. She has two young daughters, Bailey Elizabeth and Kennedy Elise. She thoroughly enjoys her job and would love to make contact with any of her classmates.

**Norma Jean Washington** works in the CCU at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence.

**2005**

**Megan E. Irby** was married to Keith D. La Force on September 22, 2007, in Columbia, SC. Megan is currently in school at the University of South Carolina to become a CRNA.

**Lynne Nemeth** served as president of the MUSC Nursing Alumni Association for 2007-08. She is an Associate Professor at the College of Nursing.

**Lauren Perril** and William Curtis Small, both of Charleston, were married April 12, 2008, at St. Helena’s Episcopal Church in Beaufort.

**Julia Wood** and Russell Bryant were married on April 5, 2008, in Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Charleston, SC.

**2006**

**Michelle Cleveland** was married to Will Chapman on September 28, 2007, at Mauldin United Methodist Church. Michelle is working in the MSICU at Greenville Memorial, and Will is working in the CCU at Greenville Memorial.


**Frances Suzanne Cunningham** and Daniel Eugen Pach were married on December 8, 2007, at White Point Gardens, Charleston, SC. The couple honeymooned in Herzogenaurach, Germany, and resides in Summerville.

**Alan K. Phillips** has received his commission as an officer in the Marine Corps after completing Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, VA, in April 2008.

**Ashley Sauls** of Jacksonville, FL, and her husband, Cliff, welcomed their first baby on August 8, 2007, Cooper Michael Sauls.

**2007**

**Jennifer Anderson** serves as a RN and officer in the Air National Guard as of July 2008. She is also an RN in the ER at Trident Regional Medical Center in Charleston and an MSN student at MUSC.

**Valerie Mumm** works as a critical care RN and plans to earn a master’s degree in nurse anesthesia. She has accepted a position as a clinical instructor for the nursing program at Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

**In Memoriam**

**Mae Mitchum Alexander, ’45**

**Sarah F. Brown, ’48**

**Kathleen Norrell Buxton, ’86**

**Kimberly Gethers Champaigne, ’98**

**Nancy S. Drawdy, ’81**

**Nell Hunt Ellis, ’47**

**J. Carlene L. Fox, ’76**

**Perry Rumph Mappus, ’53**

**Charles E. Peigler, ’04**

**Katherine B. Porcher, ’44**

**Dorothy Varn Still, ’59**

**Anna McKinney Stockman, ’43**

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.**
2008 DONORS
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Many thanks to the alumni, parents, friends, students, faculty, and staff whose gifts have generated much needed funds for some of the College of Nursing’s most critical needs: scholarships and financial aid, building renovation, new technology, and much, much more. As you know, your contributions go right to work to make a difference in the lives of our students and future nurse leaders.

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WHY I GIVE BACK TO THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

CINDY & JOHN BOOLEAN
Cindy (BSN ’90) and John Boolen (BSN ’99, MSN ’02) are both graduates of the MUSC College of Nursing. Both now work at the MUSC Hospital. The Boolens enthusiastically give back what they can each year to help students accomplish their dreams of becoming a nurse. Their example will hopefully inspire our young alumni to give what they can afford, knowing that they too can make a difference in someone’s life.

JANELLE & BIEMAN OTHERSEN
Janelle and her husband, Dr. Bieman Othersen, have been a part of MUSC since they were both students. Over the years she has held leadership roles on the Alumni Board and the Dean’s Advisory Board. She worked diligently to establish the state’s first endowed chair in nursing at MUSC to honor her lifelong friend, Ann Edwards. Janelle also initiated a successful Doctors Honoring Nurses Scholarship Campaign and, most recently, served as the Class of 1954’s class agent, coordinating the class’s golden graduate reunion. Dr. Othersen decided to honor Janelle’s nursing legacy by establishing the Janelle Lester Othersen Endowed Professorship in Nursing. Janelle’s enthusiasm for helping others will live on through this professorship, her children, and her grandchildren.

KAY CHITTY
Dr. Kay Chitty is no stranger to nursing. Once the Dean of the University of Tennessee’s College of Nursing, she has a unique perspective of the challenges MUSC faces. Although she did not attend MUSC, she has become an integral part of our university. Dr. Chitty has served MUSC as the chair of the College of Nursing Dean’s Advisory Board and is a current member of the MUSC Foundation Board. She and her husband Charlie selflessly give back to our community through their gifts of time and resources. Their generous gift of $100,000 will establish the MUSC College of Nursing Center for Innovation and Technology in Education, CITE. This leadership gift in the MUSC capital campaign will enhance the College of Nursing’s efforts to stay on the cutting edge of advanced nursing technology.

WILLIAM LADSON
In 2006, the College of Nursing received a most moving letter. It read like a love letter of a man who had just lost his soul mate. Indeed, William Ladson had just lost his life-long love, his wife Johnsie. Johnsie Ladson was a Class of 1937 College of Nursing graduate. She and William had a wonderful life together, full of the joys and trials that all marriages endure. William now sends a hand-written letter along with a gift to the College of Nursing to mark Johnsie’s birthday, their anniversary, and special days throughout the year. Each gift is directed to the Nurse to Nurse Scholarship. This is a fund for nurses to give back to nurses who are in the MUSC College of Nursing Program.

If you would like to give a gift to the College of Nursing, contact Denise Ciccareli at (843) 792-8421 or ciccarel@musc.edu.
May you be blessed with vision in these shadow times.

May light invade the darkness.

May it be a soft brilliance, as bare as candlelight,

guiding you through twilight ’til dawn.

And when the dawn breaks, may you find yourself upon a threshold.

May you enter and go through, and may you emerge into the dance—

a whole and holy new dance of grace.
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College of Nursing’s
125th Anniversary Fund

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Thanks to you we’ve raised over $95,000 to support nursing scholarships, but we would like to reach our goal of $125,000 during the 125th year at the College of Nursing.

Please consider giving a contribution to the 125th Anniversary Fund and help PUT US OVER THE TOP!

For more information, contact Denise Ciccarelli at (843) 792-8421 or ciccarel@musc.edu.