

Persevering through loss

By MIKIE HAYES

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Carla Jones didn't seek leadership. It sought her.

Grateful for the many opportunities presented to her to share her gifts and make a difference in the lives of others, she always ensures at the end of the day that God receives the glory. These days, she takes little for granted, striving every day to be a better version of herself - her special brand of dedication and kindness a calling of sorts.

The supervisor of MUSC accounts receivable believes words have power, and she chooses hers carefully, with the purpose of building up the lives of those she comes into contact with. Colleagues say she's that person who no matter how hard she works or how much she accomplishes, she will not accept the credit alone. Still, her work does not go unrecognized. This month, MUSC honors her many contributions during National Women's History Month.



MUSC's Carla Jones, left, consoles her daughter Nikki Croker as they returned to Mother Emanuel AME Church four days after the church shootings.

MATCH DAY: A DAY OF CELEBRATION



Photo by Anne Thompson

The College of Medicine Class of 2018 celebrated Match Day on March 16 at the Charleston Music Hall. The 90s theme, *New Docs on the Block*, was huge success as were the match outcomes: 93.2 percent of the 162 students who entered the 2018 Match will join residency programs at prestigious institutions across the country. Of that, 47 (31 percent) of the students will remain in South Carolina with 33 staying at MUSC. Internal Medicine led the way with 23 students. Read the story on page 5.

Whether it's her career, family or church, Jones believes you can only make it through with the help of others. And when it comes to life's challenges or tragedies, she said, you have to pull together and get through. She would know. Over a recent period of 19 months, that belief was vigorously tested, as she faced unimaginable loss, relied on her faith and proved her mettle.

For the firm resolve and calm demeanor that define her, she credits the strong presence of Jesus in her life, as well as the influence of her parents, who were her most important

role models, she said.

It's hard to miss the fact that family is everything to her. She and her daughter, Nikki Croker, have an especially warm and loving bond. She also fondly describes her childhood with five sisters. The fifth of six girls born to a Lowcountry AME preacher and his wife, the sisters were close to both parents. Jones frequently quotes many pearls of wisdom her mother and father shared over the years.

Her dad adored his daughters and often joked he had

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Med student becomes
powerful advocate.

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IT analyst excels in a
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In remembrance: Clo Johnson

New College of Nursing dean named

Florida Atlantic University nursing leader set to replace Gail Stuart July 1

Staff Report

Linda S. Weglicki, RN, Ph.D., MSN, has been appointed dean of the College of Nursing effective July 1, MUSC Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lisa Saladin announced March 21.

Weglicki currently is the associate dean for nursing research and scholarship and Ph.D. studies at Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing in Boca Raton, Florida. She also holds the position of Schmidt Family Foundation distinguished professor at FAU.

"Dr. Weglicki has more than 40 years of professional experience in practice, education, and research, with extensive leadership experience in a variety of roles. Her breadth of experience as an administrator, scholar and leader in an academic health setting will enable her to continue the advancement of our College of Nursing that Dr. Gail Stuart achieved during her tenure at MUSC," Saladin said. "We are eternally grateful for Dr. Stuart's contributions to the nursing profession as she passes the torch to Dr. Weglicki, and we are confident that the college will continue to excel under her leadership."

"The opportunity as dean at MUSC is personally exciting to me, particularly," Weglicki said, "as it would build off the tremendous leadership of Dr. Gail Stuart, who I came to know and respect when she

served on NINR's Advisory Council and I was Chief of the Office of Extramural Programs."

As an academic leader, Weglicki has a record of success in developing and implementing programs and strategies that demonstrate excellence in key metric areas such as student academic progress, financial accountability, faculty evaluation and development and innovative curriculum development. Her mentorship of novice faculty researchers has resulted in their ability to develop focused, fundable research programs that support nursing faculty at a time when the discipline is facing a faculty shortage.

Weglicki's early nursing practice career was in critical care and then in community health nursing. She began her academic career at Wayne State University as a tenure track professor in adult health. In 2008, she was recruited to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), as program officer, with oversight of the health promotion portfolio concentrated in women, children, and families and environmental health. As such, she was responsible for consulting and mentoring extramural investigators who were in various stages of their research career paths, from pre-doctoral to senior expert researchers. In 2011, Weglicki rose to become chief of the Office of Extramural Programs, Division of Extramural

See **NURSING** on page 11



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Thursday

4:00 PM

A Calling To Help: Humanitarian Aid - The Risks, Rewards, and Reality

Discussion with experts from MUSC, Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières and Vanderbilt University.

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Changing What's Possible

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RECYCLEMANIA TRIVIA - WEEK 8

Tweet a picture of something incorrect in an MUSC recycling bin to "@MUSCgogreen"
First three win prizes #recycleright



Respond to
recycle@musc.edu
for a chance to win a prize

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Last Week's Answer: Disposable cutlery is not compostable unless specified as compostable!



MEET STEVEN



Steven Barker

Department and how long at MUSC
Patient Access Center—Parkshore; 7 months

How are you changing what's possible at MUSC

By effectively increasing patient access to health care at MUSC

Pets

Dog, Korra. She's age 3 this month.

Music that's in my player right now

A mix of Fleetwood Mac, David Bowie and Simon and Garfunkel

Last book read

"So You Want to Start a Brewery? The Lagunitas Story" by Tony Magee

Best thing about living in Charleston

Weather, food and proximity to the beach

Your idea of a dream vacation

Backpacking England or Europe and going to a soccer match of my favorite club

Favorite soccer team

Tottenham Hotspur — near London, England

Conversation Cafe

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Beyond Pyeongchang: Charleston Curling is here

Employee inspired by winter olympics, recruits others (including employees) to sport

BY JENNA LIEF

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Charleston Curling Club was in full swing just in time for the 2018 Winter Olympics, thanks to Amanda Smith, MUSC budget director. In operation for more than a year, it is the first curling club in the Lowcountry area, giving many who previously lacked the opportunity the chance to play regularly and with a team.

Having followed the sport for years, but without any means to play in Charleston, Smith spent hours researching the sport and staying on Facebook late into the night, commenting on curling posts and connecting with curling enthusiasts. She came across the Charlotte Curling Club and its Learn to Curl training in late 2016, and she quickly signed herself and her husband up.

Upon making the drive and attending the session, Smith said they fell in love with the sport, so much so, they decided to bring it to Charleston and start their own club.

While in Charlotte, North Carolina, they spoke to the founder of the club, Ronda Harlow, and its president Steve McKee, whom Smith described as encouraging, wonderful, and supportive of the idea.

Harlow and McKee kept in touch with the Smiths in the weeks to follow, informing them about operational issues and organizations to become a part of. They even sent out a message to all the club presidents in the Southeast, informing them of this up-and-coming club.

Shortly thereafter, Smith received a text from the head of the Orlando club, asking if they needed a set of stones. Given that stones are \$750 each, and imported from Scotland, it would certainly be a generous gift.

"The offer of the stones was not something I was going to let



Photo by Jenna Lief

Club founder Amanda Smith, from left, joins fellow members Jody Latham, Controller's Office-Bursar and Jilian Filan, MUHA Decision Support Services, as they show off their curling brooms.

sit more than a day or two," she said.

They drove to Florida the next day and were handed the set of stones by the Florida club treasurer. Called foundation stones, they are passed along to help new clubs begin operating, and Smith will pass them on to the next club that needs them. With this equipment now in hand, Smith recruited new members, a few of whom also work at MUSC. Soon, they were on their way. The club, which is now up to 24 members, plays Sunday mornings at the Carolina Ice Palace.

In building her club, Smith not only learned the necessary processes to do so, but she said she also discovered the "welcomeness and inclusion within the sport." From the get-go, she explained, curlers from multiple states extended open arms, inviting them into the curling world, even helping them get started.

Members participate in pickup games and league play

See **CURLING** on page 15

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February & March 2018

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RECYCLEMANIA TRIVIA - WEEK 7

Which of the following isn't compostable?



Respond to recycle@musc.edu for a chance to win a prize

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Last Week's Answer: MUSC's paper is primarily recycled into paper towels and toilet tissue.

GoGreen

Match Day 2018 theme: 'New docs on the block'

90s theme an inspiration for medical students as they learn their residency matches

BY HELEN ADAMS

adamshel@musc.edu

A tiny Sir Mix-a-Lot sits in the second row of the Charleston Music Hall, waiting to find out where his family will be moving this summer when his dad, Jonte Miller, begins his medical residency.

Dressed in keeping with the nineties theme of this Match Day at MUSC, little Ayden Miller and his dad – who is also dressed as Mix-a-Lot, the singer famous for the 1992 hit song “Baby Got Back” – will be on stage soon to announce where Jonte Miller “matched.”

“I’m excited,” says Jonte Miller of the end of a months-long process that pairs graduating medical students with hospitals that will continue to train them. The students rank their top choices, and so do the hospitals. The nonprofit National Resident Matching Program, known as The Match, does the rest.

“I’m definitely eager to know. All of our hard work kind of comes down to today. I’m glad we’re all here and we get to announce everything to our families and friends.”

Match Day at MUSC is a huge celebration, with balloons, music and a chance for medical students who want to announce where they’ve matched to get on stage and share their news. More than 100 are opting to do that this year.

At the event, '90s pop culture references abound. The College of Medicine deans are dressed as everyone from Cruella de Vil – from the 1996 live action movie “101 Dalmations” – to a character from the 1993 movie “Jurassic Park.”

On stage, balloons spell out “NDOTB,” for “New Docs on the Block” – a nod to the '80s and '90s boy band New Kids on the Block, or NKOTB.

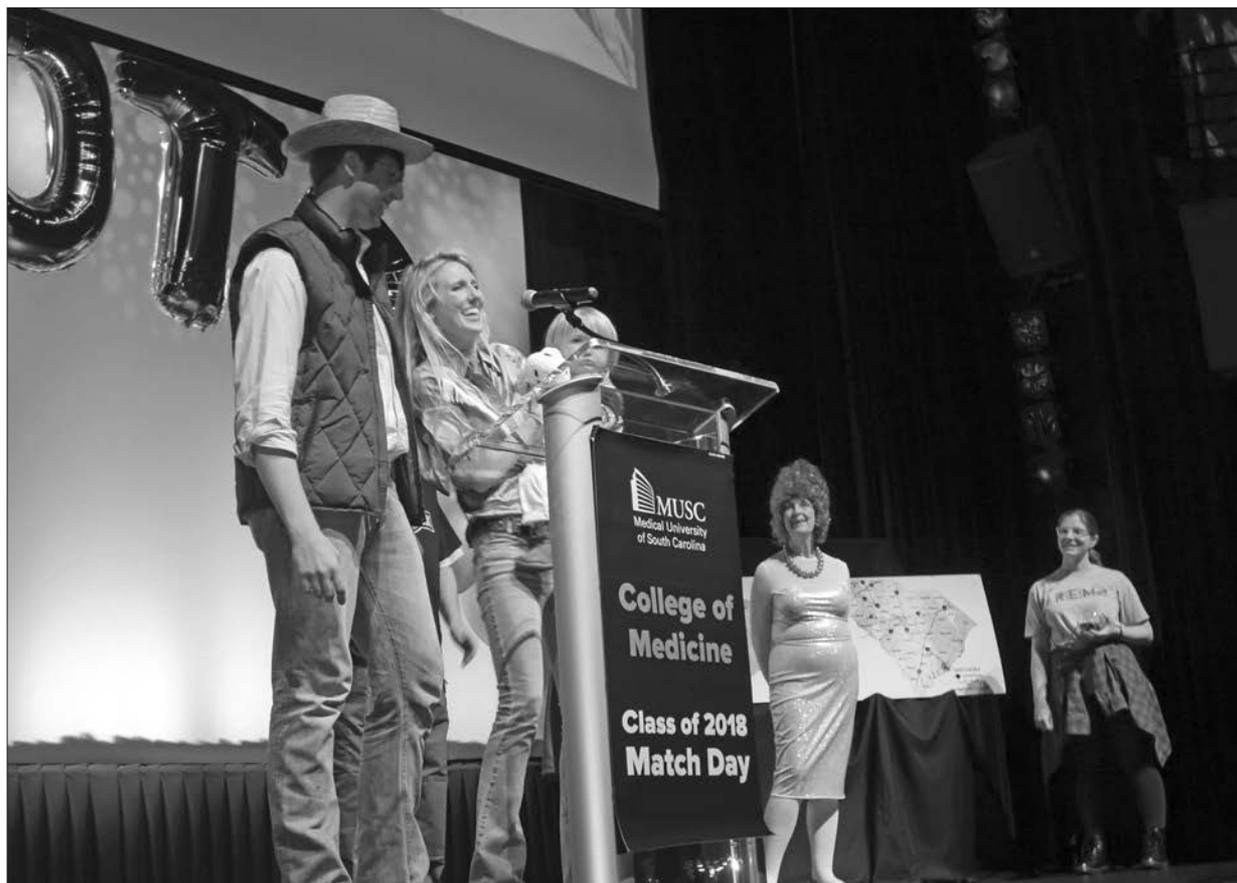


Photo by Helen Adams

William and Kathryn Oelsner, both graduating medical students, bring their son with them to announce where they're headed.



Photos by Anne Thompson

Fourth-year medical students, dressed up in various costumes, outside of the Match Day 2018 venue, the Charleston Music Hall.

About 30 percent of the 2018 graduating class will stay in South Carolina for their residencies, including 33 young doctors who will continue to train at MUSC. That includes Jennie Kwon. “I’m very happy to say I’m going to be staying here for cardiothoracic surgery,” Kwon announces to cheers.

Honor graduate Lindsay Shehee will remain at MUSC as well. “I’m excited that I’ve matched in otolaryngology,” she says when it’s her turn on stage. MUSC has one of the top-ranked otolaryngology – or ear, nose and throat – programs in the country.

The rest of the students at the celebration will soon fan out around the country. Mohammed Dany, originally from Lebanon, congratulates classmates and faculty in Arabic. Then he announces he’s headed to Boston. “I’ll be going first to Brigham and Women’s Hospital for a prelim in medicine,” he says. His field, dermatology, requires an extra year of training before residency. “Then I’m so excited that I’m going to join Penn Dermatology for a dermatology residency.”

Married medical students Kathryn and William Oelsner, who brought their son on stage with them, are headed to the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. Other residency sites for MUSC students include Brown University, Duke University Medical Center, Emory University, naval hospitals and the University of Southern California.

It’s finally time for Jonte and Ayden Miller to go on stage. With Ayden in his arms, Jonte Miller tells the crowded music hall, “I matched in general surgery.” He whispers to Ayden to tell everyone where. “Greenville,” the little boy announces. They’re headed to East Carolina University in North Carolina, close to family.



Dean Ray DuBois, far left, poses with College of Medicine associate deans on March 16.

She loves to help pharmacy patients save money

Pharmacy tech inspired to help others

By HELEN ADAMS

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When L'Tanya Wright hears that a customer at the Rutledge Tower Pharmacy at the Medical University of South Carolina is having trouble paying for medication, the advanced pharmacy technician offers to try to help find a remedy.

"I get a kick out of it," she says. "I love to make sure people are able to pay for their medicine, because drug prices are pretty high."

For example: "We had a child from Myrtle Beach whose dad was paying hundreds of dollars a month for his medication. The child was too young to qualify for a coupon for that medicine."

Wright told the father how to deal with that. "Give the company a call. If he's able to take the drug, why can't he use the coupon?" He sat out in the waiting room and called. I said, 'Tell them you want to activate the coupon.' He got it to go through. Now he's

been getting it for free for three years."

It's the kind of customer service that led her coordinator to nominate Wright for Care Team Member of the Year at MUSC Health. "We got a letter from a patient talking about her excellent customer services skills," Jamie Von Dohlen says. "That wasn't the first time I'd heard that about her. I know how great she is, but I want everybody to know all the good things she's doing for our patients. She always goes above and beyond."

To Wright's surprise, she won. "I've never been nominated before. I just do what I do."

In a time when high drug prices are the subject of discussion and legislation across the country, what Wright does is highly valued by patients. The one who wrote the letter about Wright described going to the pharmacy and finding that the bill for medication after eye surgery was more than \$215. "Ms. L'Tanya Wright worked with me to find coupons to get my bill down to \$142.34," he wrote.

She later helped him get another



Photo by Helen Adams

L'Tanya Wright, who has worked at MUSC for 18 years, goes out of her way to help pharmacy customers suffering from sticker shock.

prescription for \$4 instead of the \$60 that a pharmacy chain wanted to charge him.

See **PHARMACY** on page 15



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Otolaryngology admin remembered for her loyalty, contributions

BY CINDY ABOLE

aboleca@musc.edu

Clotheal H. Johnson, administrative coordinator to the director and residency program coordinator in the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, died Feb. 16.

Johnson joined MUSC in 1979 providing administrative support for the Department of Environmental Services (later Business Services). She left MUSC in 1988 and returned in 1992 joining the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery as the medical residency coordinator and served as executive assistant to the chairman. She was later named the department's residency program administrator.

On Oct. 20, 2017, Johnson was among employees who were recognized at the annual MUSC Employee Service Awards event. Johnson was presented with a pin and framed MUSC lithograph recognizing her 30 years at the institution.

For the past 19 years, she worked with professor and Department of Otolaryngology Chairman Paul R. Lambert, M.D. Lambert credits Johnson for being integral to the growth of the department these past 25 years. From organizing resident activities and recruitment efforts to securing approvals for the dean's office to coordinating

"Clo was exceptional in so many ways. She loved MUSC and her many friends here."

Paul R. Lambert, M.D.

faculty contracts, Johnson was masterful in organization, planning and execution, according to Lambert.

"Clo was exceptional in so many ways. She loved MUSC and her many friends here. She wore many administrative hats within the department and took great pride in performing all those duties to near perfection. Simply put, Clo was a shining fixture within our department and in many ways the matriarch of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. All of us will miss her and her warm smile," said Lambert.

Otolaryngology Facial, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery associate professor Krishna G. Patel, M.D., Ph.D., remembers when he first met Johnson about 10 years ago. She credits her for helping her and so many other new employees get settled as a new attending physician in the department in 2008.

"Clo always had a smile on her face,

family for decades. She has been an inspiration to so many.

Terry A. Day, M.D., Wendy and Keith Wellin Endowed Chair for Head and Neck Surgery, Otolaryngology—H&NS

Clo, your presence will be missed. Take your rest.

Lisa Nelson, Otolaryngology—H&NS

Clo was a great inspiration who will be greatly missed.

Mark Bouknight, Otolaryngology—H&NS

Clo was involved in so many areas that touched so many — resident interviews, new hires, VA

Clo Johnson was such a huge presence in our department, and for so many years, that I am not sure if we can ever adequately fill her shoes. Speaking of shoes — she had the most amazing wardrobe because she also worked at Belk on the weekends. Clo was hardworking, family loving, dedicated to her church, fun and so full of 'sass and class.' She was loved by so many and will be deeply missed here at MUSC.

Jayne Gillespie, Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery

Clo will be remembered as the calm, pleasant face of the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery



Photo by Anne Thompson

Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery's Clo Johnson received her framed lithograph honoring her 30 years service from MUSC President Dr. David Cole during the 2017 MUSC Employee Service Awards last October.

and she always helped me with my needs, especially with squeezing me into Dr. Lamberts busy schedule," said Patel. "She had a love for our department that was so evident and uplifted the entire psyche of our team. Clo was an establishment within our department. I will miss her beautiful smile, her seriously first-class outfits at our department Christmas parties and graduations, and the wonderful energy that she brought to work every day. Clo's kindness that she showed me will always be remembered and I will miss her incredibly."

A native Charlestonian, Johnson graduated in 1977 from Burke High School and attended the College of Charleston. She was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in downtown Charleston where she served on the missionary auxiliary and sang in the church's choir. Previously, she attended Joshua United Methodist Church in Moncks Corner.

She is survived by her son Korie Johnson and several grandchildren; mother, Roselyn Pyatt June; six brothers and sisters and other family.

you, but God loves you best. Goodnight!
Vanessa Stewart, ART Guest Services

She was good at what she did, and had a way with people.
Pamela Teachey, Otolaryngology—H&NS

Clo was a force of one, but very much the team player — team leader in many cases. Her fun-loving presence will be missed, but her bigger than life spirit remains.
Alison Padlan-Gillette, Otolaryngology—H&NS

credentialing, to name a few, and knew who to contact for each scenario. We now have a huge gap that won't be easy to fill.
Jane Beaudrot, Otolaryngology—H&NS

Clo, I know you are my guardian angel as I walk this earthly way. You won't be here for me to see, but you'll walk with me each day. You have left me with some good memories to hold and think about. Please know that I do understand "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord," but somehow I'm deeply saddened, but your love and the love of God assures me that in due time I'll be OK. Know that our friendship will always remain the same forever in my heart. Clo, take your rest. I love

See **EMPLOYEE** on page 13

Once an underdog, now a champion for others

Medical student passionate about volunteering

By MIKIE HAYES

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Trailblazers come in all genders, colors and sizes. Add ages to that list. Perhaps it seems beyond the norm that a 25-year-old medical student would be honored during a month devoted to women who have made history. But when a self-described gentle, sweet, unassuming young woman comes out of her cocoon, sometimes what emerges is a passionate, powerful torchbearer whose flame is already burning.

Still, it's hard for Jilich to see herself as lighting the way for others, although that is exactly what others believe she is doing. She never thought she was the type of woman who could be considered a role model, let alone celebrated by others during National Women's History Month. And while some girls know early on they want to set the world on fire, Jilich has been circumspect, finding her voice, her passion and her calling a bit more purposefully... yet some say boldly.

At 25, her life is something of a book in the making. From the assault she experienced as a preteen to a major life decision she made as a young adult to triumphing over adversity and focusing her energies on helping the vulnerable.

A picture is worth 1,000 words.

A College of Medicine ID badge hangs from the third-year medical student's lab coat.

The photo, now four years old, was taken her senior year in college – the image, a pretty coed with long blonde hair. But if that's who professors expect to see walk into their classrooms, there's a surprise in store.

If that picture were taken today, it would reflect the person she identifies with now. Gone are the golden locks, replaced with a darker crop cut, no makeup, less fitted clothing. But for Jilich, an accurately representative badge is about more than just a photo. On one hand, it allows others to recognize her as potentially part of the LGBTQ acronym. Going a step further, it offers a starting point for honest conversations around preferred names, photos and pronouns.

Many colleges already have a student management system, she explained. With a small electronic change at MUSC, professors could access their students' current photos and preferred identifiers that could prevent embarrassment and misunderstanding.

"The way it is now, every time you meet a new professor, you have to repeatedly share your preferred name and pronouns. This move allows everyone to be called the name they want to be called, like a nickname or middle name, and for trans people, for instance, to feel included, safe and not outed by having to explain their identity."

It's a situation she's familiar with. "I changed my look for a number of reasons.

Jilich, right, and medical student Daisy Sanchez present their research poster supporting access to care for Spanish-speaking patients at the MUSC CARES Clinic.

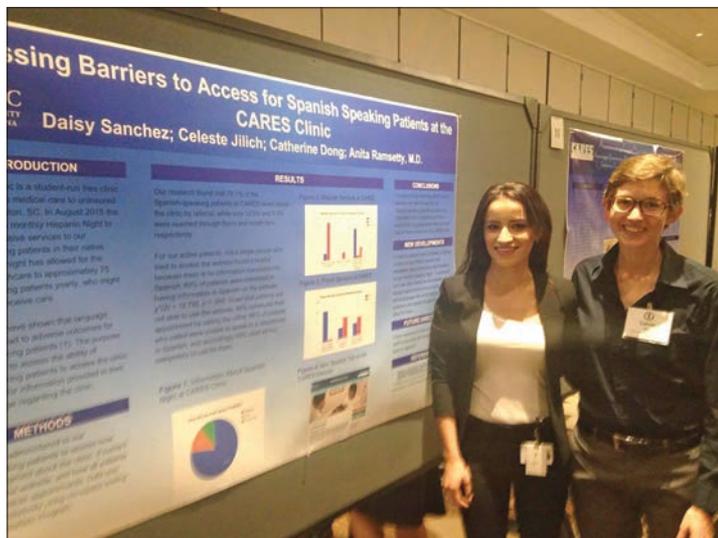


Photo by Anne Thompson

Celeste Jilich, second left, joins dad Jiri, brother G.W., and mother Jane as they celebrate the 2017 Charleston Regional Business Journal's Healthcare Heroes Awards in November.

Celeste Jilich, Carla Jones, Townsend Langley, L'Tanya Wright – four amazing MUSC women who every day put their hearts and souls into all they do. And while each is unique and extraordinary in her own way, common threads connect them – humility, gratitude and a deep-rooted passion for what they do.

The four honorees were humbled yet ecstatic to learn they had been chosen as one of the exceptional women leaders at MUSC being honored during Women's History Month 2018.

Every year, the National Women's History Project, an organization dedicated to championing and promoting the accomplishments of women throughout history, chooses a timely theme, often tied to relevant topics in the news that affect women. In this way, the organization is able to recognize the integral role that women play in society to foster new opportunities and a collective sense of self-respect for girls and young women.

MUSC participates in Women's History Month every March, and remarkable MUSC women, whose fascinating stories deserve to be told, are chosen. This year, MUSC's theme, "Nevertheless, She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination," builds on the topic the national organization chose to promote. Each of the four women being honored this year has made a lasting mark in her respective area – whether it's a woman making it in a historically man's world, bringing attention to the need for inclusivity, helping the poor or recovering from racial hatred, our honorees make MUSC proud.

For one, it makes me feel connected to my community. Plus, I don't have to come out anymore, and that's worth its weight in gold. It's such an uncomfortable experience. You're never sure where you have to or where it's appropriate. You just want to be accepted, and you never know how people are going to respond. When someone doesn't 'look gay' – like my old picture – the initial response I get most of the time is, 'Oh I didn't realize; you don't look gay.' Or, 'You were so beautiful.' 'Are you sure?' 'Is it a phase?' In essence, they

want me to prove I'm gay."

Jilich wants MUSC to be a place where people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer feel safe. After she came out, she recounts multiple experiences where she was treated badly, asked to leave groups, followed, threatened, assaulted, even spit on. Still, she holds no grudges and just wants better for all.

It was that type of resilience that earned

See **CHAMPION** on page 9



photo by Anne Thompson

Above photo: In 2017, Celeste Jilich, left, joined Dr. Cristina Lopez and John Sion as the winners of the Earl B. Higgins Leadership in Diversity Awards. Below: Jilich's student ID badge with a picture from 2014.



her some very prestigious accolades. In November, she was named a Health Care Hero by the Charleston Regional Business Journal for her volunteer and social justice efforts and received the 2017 Earl B. Higgins Leadership in Diversity Award for her relentless championing of underdogs.

NO TIME FOR SLEEP

Jilich is currently running unopposed for president of the MUSC Student Government Association. The election will take place later this month. Currently, she represents the Alliance for Equality on the SGA.

AFE is a campus organization that promotes equity for LGBTQ individuals. Last year she and fellow classmate Keeland Williams served as co-presidents. Together, they introduced initiatives that took into consideration the needs of those who might otherwise be overlooked. First, they pushed for more inclusive language on the medical school application. The measure was approved.

"Now, a prospective student can share that they're trans or

share their gender identity or sexual orientation if they choose to," she explained. "In that way they feel accepted, instead of a 'don't ask, don't tell' mentality."

They are working toward that language being included on the other colleges' applications and hope the student management system will also become a reality.

She is excited but slightly nervous about assuming the helm of the SGA. It's a bit out of her comfort zone, she admits. She hopes to work closely with an initiative-driven executive board to promote ways to make the MUSC student experience more inclusive for all.

Things are off to a good start. In November, she and Williams proposed a new SGA office - vice president for diversity and inclusion. Williams won the special election. Already a gender-inclusive bathroom has come out of their joint efforts and put an end to hurtful experiences Jilich and others have had. What might seem like a small win has gone a long way in letting people know their needs matter at MUSC.

"There was a lot of justification for a gender-neutral bathroom, but it was a nightmare to get passed," she said. "Even people in diversity roles didn't think it was necessary, but they weren't the ones to see what happens. I present pretty masculinely, and that can cause genuine confusion. Sometimes people don't realize I'm a woman."

THE HUMAN CONNECTION

Like most third-year students, Jilich's schedule is grueling and the hours long. Still, she manages to serve humanity in a number of ways. Her SGA position is just the tip of the iceberg. She's driven by an unrelenting social conscience and

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MUSC WOMEN

March is Women's History Month

- 1894
Medical College opens to white women
- 1901
College of Medicine graduates first two women
- 1904
College of Pharmacy graduates first two women
- 1919
Roper Hospital Training School for Nurses incorporates with the Medical College, becoming the School of Nursing of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina.
- 1947
College of Pharmacy hires first female professor
- 1948
College of Medicine hires first full-time female professor
- 1953
College of Graduate Studies graduates its first female Ph.D.
- 1969
Hospital workers, mostly black women, go on strike to protest co-workers' firing, working conditions and treatment
- 1969-1983
Colleges of Nursing, Dental Medicine, Health Professions, Medicine, Graduate Studies and Pharmacy have their first black female graduates
- 1991
College of Graduate Studies gets its first female dean
- 2000-2001
MUSC hires first female provost and vice president for academic affairs. First African-American female faculty member is tenured.
- 2010
MUSC hires first female dean of College of Medicine

Analyst opening doors, making strides for women in technology

Employee breaking stereotypes of women working in IT jobs

BY CINDY ABOLE

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When Google admitted that more than four fifths of its U.S. tech workforce were men, it gave validity to the claim that the STEM world is still a man's world. One MUSC systems analyst challenges the perception that science, technology, engineering and math belong to the guys.

Seasoned information analyst Townsend Langley has worked for the past 16 months at MUSC Information Solutions. And while slowly but surely progress is being made in closing the gender gap that exists in the tech sector, according to the World Economic Forum, the notion still persists that the IT person walking through the door will no doubt be a man. And a first name like Townsend makes it even more of a surprise when she meets clients for the first time.

In a 2017 report by the National Center for Women & Information Technology, only 26 percent of the computing workforce were women.

And even at MUSC, people are surprised because when it comes to working with computers, coding and software programs, a majority just naturally expect to be working with a man.

And while Langley may not be what people expect, in reality, she's so much more.

In her 19 years working in or closely alongside IT, she's honed a particular skillset and possesses the technical knowledge, creativity and interpersonal skills that yield effective results. Through her various positions, teaching experiences, and guidance of mentors, Langley has become a strong analyst who understands the technical world around her and is comfortable interacting with people through work teams and projects.

James Goad, a senior information systems analyst in Information Solutions and Langley's manager, is pleased with the experience, leadership capabilities and confidence she brings to her job.

"Townsend's work and contributions have been invaluable. She's hit the ground running since joining us more than a year ago and has done an extraordinary job leading projects and building customer relationships," said Goad. "She's adaptable, smart, possesses a great attention to detail and is not afraid to ask questions. She's an extraordinary asset to our team."

MUSC off-campus housing coordinator Nadia Mariutto's experience reinforced Goad's comments.

Mariutto, who works in the Office of Student Programs and Student Diversity, collaborated with Langley on a project in 2017 to update and improve the off-campus housing database for students and others in the MUSC community. Mariutto's team had already purchased the software and



Photo provided

Information Solutions' Townsend Langley, right, reviews the new MUSC off-campus housing database, with Office of Student Programs and Student Diversity's Nadia Mariutto and Kevin Smuniewski, that she helped finalize and launch last May.

"There's an organizational difference working in higher education – a greater gender balance because, I believe, higher education values diversity and inclusion initiatives so much more than industries I've been exposed to."

Townsend Langley

needed help with implementation and integration to meet their needs and launch it.

Mariutto and Langley worked together to finalize the system in time for a May go-live launch.

"Townsend was so pleasant to work with. She was great at taking the project from our concept to reality and customizing it to meet our needs, while keeping it to web standards and guidelines. She's knowledgeable, responsive and experienced at anticipating our next steps," said Mariutto.

Sharlene Wedin, PsyD, associate professor, is another happy customer working with Langley and the Behavioral Support and Intervention Team, a team composed of MUSC

faculty that focuses on student concerns and distress, working under the Division of Education and Student Life. The team recently acquired Maxient software to serve as a reporting and case management tool to support students. Wedin worked with Langley and her research and academic information systems (AFIS/RAIS) team to complete implementation and integration and plan their March 1 go-live launch.

"Honestly, we couldn't have launched this project without Townsend," said Wedin, who described Langley as a conscientious, and responsive problem solver and executor of tasks.

"IT is not my area of strength. Townsend was able to see our direction from a software perspective and guide us through the steps we needed to take. She understood our software's limitations and guided us to find better methods and solutions."

A native of Darlington, South Carolina, Langley grew up the only girl among three brothers. Her parents were professionals – her mother, a teacher, and her father, a lawyer.

"I guess I came out of the gate feeling less intimidated when you grow up with brothers," said Langley. "I figured, if my brothers can do things, then so can I," she said.

She recalls her first introduction to computers as a college student attending the University of North Carolina-

See **TECH** on page 12

Lowcountry Go offers carpooling options

Catchy slogans, community support launch of state's first commuter services program

BY HELEN ADAMS

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“Embrace the awkward silence” when carpooling with someone you’ve just met. Enjoy “face time with complete strangers” on public transit. “No dress code required” if you work from home.

The creators of Lowcountry Go, the state’s first commuter services program, take a playful approach to trying to change habits that are causing serious congestion in the booming Tri-county area. The populations of Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties are soaring, and so are traffic and auto emissions.

Lowcountry Go, which launched Feb. on the Charleston Medical District Greenway by MUSC, is aimed at reducing road congestion by encouraging carpooling, the use of public transit, walking, biking and other alternatives to solo driving.

MUSC Health’s executive director of community health innovation, Anton Gunn, called it an important step forward. “It’s an incredible new tool in the multi-faceted, regional approach that is necessary to keep traffic moving and, in our case, ensure health care professionals are able to get to their jobs.”

Lowcountry Go is a partnership involving the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, the state Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and large employers such as MUSC.

In addition to connecting car and vanpool participants and showing the environmental and health benefits of taking part in the program, Lowcountry Go works with companies to give employees more choices. That includes flextime, staggered shifts, working from home and incentives to get people to take part in the program.

Ron Mitchum, executive director of the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, said a survey found that about 90 percent of people in the Tri-county area drive by themselves to work. “Obviously, that’s a problem we need to change.”

The chairman of the Charleston County Council agreed. Vic Rawl said he has lived in the area for 72 years and knows how people have traditionally viewed commuting. “The Southern perspective is, you have a constitutional right to a driver’s license, a car, a road to drive it on, a place to park and cheap gas. The Southern perspective was a great theory 25 years ago. It has now become a very destructive theory for our economy and our health, to say nothing of our financial ability to cope.”

On the financial front, Lowcountry Go is designed to save people money by letting them use less gas and reduce wear and tear on cars and trucks.

And Gunn highlighted its health benefits. “Air pollution caused by auto emissions can significantly increase the likelihood of issues like asthma, allergies and COPD. So reducing the number of cars on the road will be a positive step forward in that regard.” COPD stands for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a lung condition that makes it hard to breathe.

For people who worry that carpooling will leave them stuck at work when an emergency arises, Mitchum had an answer. “It provides a reimbursable emergency ride home program for ride sharing participants.” Registered users can grab a cab or rideshare in a crisis and the program will cover the cost, up to \$55 each use, for up to three uses per year.

Lowcountry Go, which is funded by the Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments, the South Carolina Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, is the latest in a series of campaigns designed to change the way people get around the Tri-county area. The bike share program Holy Spokes launched at MUSC and elsewhere in Charleston last May, and the Charleston Moves program advocates for safe walking and bicycling.

For people who still aren’t quite sure they want to take part, the Lowcountry Go website advises: “It’s only weird if you make it weird.”



Photo provided

MUSC Health leader Anton Gunn says Lowcountry Go has the potential to reduce air pollution.



NURSING *Continued from Page Two*

Activities, responsible for strategic vision and leadership in advancing nursing science across all NINR’s science priorities and portfolios. This included managing a large division of scientists and staff, as well as ensuring scientific recommendations and funding opportunities were on the cutting edge of transformative and translational discovery.

In 2014, Weglicki was recruited to the position of associate dean for nursing research, scholarship and Ph.D. studies at FAU. She distinguished herself as a focused leader and advocate for faculty and students. In this role, she was directly responsible the advancement of research while also serving as a member of the senior leadership team. Some highlights of her accomplishments at FAU include increasing grant submissions by more

than 300 percent and peer-reviewed publications nearly 40 percent, and developing and improving key metrics for student academic success, thus ensuring a high ranking from the state’s university system that led to significant state funding support.

Weglicki received her undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees from Wayne State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Her professional honors and duties are that of ambassador of the Friends of National Institute of Nursing Research, co-chair of the organizational leadership network (OLN) steering committee for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, OLN planning committee co-chair for the American Colleges of Nursing and selection to the Jonas Scholars Cohort.

TECH *Continued from Page ten*

Wilmington. Langley's parents bought her a Gateway computer to help her at school.

"It was an amazing device and very capable of doing much more than how I initially used it - mostly as a word processor," said Langley, who was taking business classes at the time.

One day, during a storm, her computer broke down, and she was forced to troubleshoot the problem. She ended up calling technical support where a technician talked Langley through the step-by-step repair. She recalled taking the computer apart only to reassemble it.

"I remember thinking it wasn't so bad or terrifying as I had anticipated it to be. Honestly, I feel more terrified looking inside a car's engine than the insides of a computer," she said.

While at school, UNCW was among the first schools in North Carolina to offer a new information systems degree not sponsored through the math department. The program was created as a hybrid program - meshing true business and programming courses. The new program met her interests - computer programming, statistics and modeling. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in information systems from UNCW in 1999.

Later in her career, she received an MBA from The Citadel. The year was 2002.

Langley's early jobs as an account coordinator and project analyst and programmer challenged her. Feelings of inadequacy, also known as the "imposter syndrome," where women feel they must constantly prove their place and worth in the tech world, were present in her early career.



Townsend Langley joined MUSC in 2016.

"At times I felt like a fish out of water or felt inexperienced or undervalued - feeling as though what I brought to the table wasn't enough," Langley said about her struggles.

Things changed when she started working in higher education. In 2003, Langley was hired as an applications analyst at Trident Technical College. Opportunities led her to teach the computers and programming class. For more than 11 years at TTC, she was the director of Instructional Services, before moving to her current job at MUSC in the fall of 2016.

"There's an organizational difference working in higher education - a greater gender balance because, I believe, higher education values diversity and inclusion initiatives so much more than other industries I've been exposed to. Because of that, I feel my journey hasn't been quite so difficult as a female professional working in a male-dominated field," Langley said.

Working at MUSC has allowed Langley to see firsthand an institution making strides in closing the gender gap by supporting the growth of women and minorities in the workplace and also see qualified women being placed in senior leadership roles.

When it comes to modeling success, Langley advocates for mentoring others. She feels fortunate to have been guided by great mentors, both male and female, throughout her career, and she recognizes that there's "room for growth." She mentors new IT team recruits through training and with a focus on best practices.

Beyond her work at MUSC, she's committed to her role as a mom to her 15-year-old son Thomas and to being a female role model who reinforces the belief that women are capable of achieving extraordinary things in any field they choose.

"Thomas' generation didn't see the struggle women have had in these types of professions. Still, through our conversations and watching the things I've been able to accomplish, he has a better understanding of the incredible strides women have made in STEM fields and in the workplace. I hope these things make a lasting impression on him and contribute to women being accepted in these roles in an even more profound way," Langley said.

March is Social Work Month:

MUSC social workers welcome new case management leader

By **SHERRELL A. THOMAS-NELSON**

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Celebrated each March, National Professional Social Work Month is an opportunity for social workers across the country to take the spotlight and celebrate the many important contributions they make to society.

A particular highlight for the MUSC Department of Case Management was introducing Kesha Wall Graham as its new social work manager, a role she assumed on Sept. 4.

In this role, Graham is responsible for providing leadership to the 45 social workers who provide services in the main hospital, Children's Hospital, Ashley River Tower, Rutledge Tower, Hollings Cancer Center and Institute of Psychiatry.

Prior to this new responsibility, Graham worked as a social worker for nearly eight years in various MUSC programs and areas,



Kesha Wall Graham is the new Department of Case Management social work manager.

including the Outpatient Bone Marrow Transplant Program, Surgical Trauma ICU, Medical ICU, Neuro-Surgical ICU and MUSC Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Prior to her employment at MUSC, Graham worked with Hospice of Charleston in the Office of Business Development.

Inspired to become a social worker while in the 11th grade, Graham said she initially thought she wanted to be a school-based social worker but later changed her plans and decided instead to work in health care. She has been a professional social worker for 16 years.

"No two days are the same, and you will always be faced with many challenges, just like our patients and clients are faced with in their daily lives," Graham said of being a social worker. She encourages all social workers to become lifelong learners and to always remain humble. In terms of the personal belief that guides her and how she

approaches life, she points to Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV):

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. Since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

She graduated from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro with a BS in social work and received her master's in social work from the University of South Carolina. In addition to her leadership position at MUSC, she also serves as an adjunct instructor at Trident Technical College.

In addition to the career she loves, Graham enjoys time spent reading and attending outdoor events and festivals. She particularly relishes spending time with her husband, Reginald, and her two daughters, stepson, and grandson. She's involved as a member of the Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston and Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

CHAMPION *Continued from Page Nine*

heart that beats to help others, and, in many ways, the need for a human connection.

“The first two years of medical school are very lonely. If you’re always studying alone in the library, and there’s no patient interaction or opportunity to practice medicine the way you wanted to when you decided to go to med school, you lose sight of what you’re doing here – why you wanted to become a doctor. Volunteering reminds you why,” she said. “I needed to feel like I had a purpose beyond getting good grades. I wanted to feel close to people.”

Her work with the student-run CARES Clinic goes a long way toward fulfilling that wish. Last year, she spent 20 hours a week as its director of operations. This year she’s an advisor and provides hands-on medical care to its uninsured patients. It’s one of the reasons she became a doctor.

“I wanted to help people, and being a doctor is one of the only places where you can help people in a way that is so incredibly vulnerable for you and the patient. People are literally showing you their sores, they’re taking off their clothes, they’re telling you they’ve been assaulted or that they’ve stopped wanting to live. There are a lot of ways you

can help people, but being a doctor seemed like the greatest thing I could do.”

That sensitivity is critical in her volunteer work with People Against Rape, a local advocacy program for survivors of sexual assault. It was something she wanted to do for a long time but wasn’t ready, she said. Now she’s been involved for four years.

Jilich has a personal reason for caring. She’s suffered the unimaginable, not once but twice, at ages 12 and 22. She channels these traumatic experiences into compassionate support for others who also have suffered. She also cofounded Break the Cycle, End the Culture, a student organization that provides education about domestic violence and sexual assault.

These experiences helped her pinpoint the area of medicine that she’s most passionate about.

A SAFE PLACE FOR THE VULNERABLE

Jilich wants to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology, focusing on the gynecological side. She is excited about the prospect of working within the sexual assault arena and talking to patients about healthy relationships, sex and consent – topics that often get skipped or glossed over.

“I think this idea of consent – whether



Photo by Anne Thompson

Celeste Jilich, podium, participated in the 2016 MUSC Black History Month program, which featured speaker Malcolm Graham, brother of Emanuel 9 victim Cynthia Hurd.

it’s sexual, physical, romantic – it’s so much bigger than that, and we don’t do it justice in terms of teaching people consent or healthy relationships. If we talked more about it, we’d have less blurry lines around sexual assault, and people would be more empowered to say the things they want and need in life.”

This field, she feels, will provide her a unique connection with women and non-males – people who are trans, genderqueer, not quite strictly a man.

“I could work with trans people who identify as male but still have a vagina and breasts that need to be checked. I realized that is an area I do outside of medical school, and I can also do for my job. Not only is it something I am so passionate about it, but I’m pretty good at it. I spend a lot of time understanding the vocabulary and knowing how to have these conversations with people. I could really make a difference in it.”

She pulls up the “Genderbread Person” chart, a takeoff on a gingerbread man, which defines sex, orientation, identity and expression – terms that are important in her line of work but that confuse many.

She broke it down. Biological sex, she said, are the parts you’re born with, the chromosomes that you have. Biologically, she said, you are either male or female, or in rare cases, intersexual, a combination of male and female biological characteristics.

Sexual orientation is about who one is attracted to and includes terms like lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer. Identity, she explained, is about how someone feels internally,

irrespective of anyone else. How you categorize yourself. And expression is how people express the identifies they feel – how they dress, the activities they participate in.

This newfound confidence belies the fact that this lovely woman who once attended Ashley Hall for 12 years often felt like an underdog and one of the weird kids. That is, until her outside and inside synced.

“I’m a very sweet, caring and gentle person. I get lost in a crowd sometimes. I’m not one to step over anyone else and not one to demand anything. I find myself more comfortable in a support role, so I can make sure everyone is comfortable. But changing the way I look has allowed me to still be gentle, and still be radical, and still be powerful, and still be noticed and still have people know who I am and want to follow.”

It was hard for her to wrap her mind around being honored for Women’s History Month.

“I was surprised and flattered to be considered a woman that people want to celebrate. I don’t necessarily look like all the women here, and I think that broadens the definition of who fits into that. It allows people who aren’t super feminine, people who aren’t straight, people who don’t have women’s parts to be a woman still. Sometimes when you get an award, it’s because someone wants other people to see you and be able to emulate you or find you and ask you questions. I was just surprised that someone thought that could be me.”

EMPLOYEE *Continued from Page Seven*

Clotheal was here when I joined the department 20 years ago. Right away it was easy to see she was extremely organized, hard-working, dedicated (not to mention very fashionable) and could handle multiple tasks with ease and grace. I never saw anyone accomplish so much and keep an immaculate desk. Over the years, I grew to know her as a warm, family-oriented, fiercely loyal, woman of faith and integrity with a large heart for others. Clo will be greatly missed professionally and personally.

Anita Cheslek, Otolaryngology—H&NS

RECYCLEMANIA TRIVIA – WEEK 8

Tweet a picture of something incorrect in an MUSC recycling bin to “@MUSCgogreen”
First three win prizes #recycleright



Respond to
recycle@musc.edu
for a chance to win a prize

FAITH *Continued from Page One*

“none for Uncle Sam.” They lived in downtown Charleston, right around the corner from Emanuel AME church. And while they typically attended the churches their dad pastored, when it was going to be a long day or late evening of programs, the girls would attend Mother Emanuel instead.

As youngsters, their favorite trick was grabbing a program and skipping out before the service was over, until one day, they realized they couldn't pull anything over on their dad. After he asked them to describe in detail a sermon they'd missed, they made sure to stay and visit the pastor after the service to prove they were there.

Jones especially loved the time she spent with her dad doing math homework and visiting the bank. “Dad would come home and take me to South Carolina National Bank with him on Fridays. We would stand in line holding hands. At that time, men dominated the bank. I believe he was preparing me for banking.”

She did indeed go into banking. And one day, as he was slowing down, he turned over his finances to her and the responsibility of making sure her mother had what she needed. It was as if he knew all along that someday he,

too, would need her help.

When she lost her dad in the last days of 2014, she was heartbroken. Six months later, her heart would break again.

A CHURCH OF HER OWN

In 1985, Jones joined Mother Emanuel. In 1988, she was married there. By the time she was in her early 40s, she was tapped for a position of leadership. People, she said, often saw things in her that she didn't see in herself.

“I remember when my pastor asked me to be a class leader, and in the AME church, that is looked upon with great respect. I always thought that was for an older person who was rich in their walk with God. I remember telling Pastor Smith at the time, ‘That is not for me.’ But he told me he wanted me to try. Some women were old enough to be my grandmothers, but they welcomed me. They embraced me and told me they want me to be their class leader.”

That was just the beginning. To this day, the many leadership hats she wears mean you can find her at church several times a week. In addition to being the Christian education director for the district, she serves on the Mother Emanuel senior steward board; A.W. Holman usher board; the leadership team of the LIFE women's ministry, a group she

founded in 2009 that meets monthly; and the community advisory board for the Mother Emanuel Empowerment Center that was created after the mass shooting in 2015.

A GREAT MOTHER WEEPS

It was Wednesday, June 17, 2015, and Jones had just left her MUSC office bound for the quarterly conference at the church. It had been a long day, but little did she know, it was about to get much longer.

That night, like normal, she strolled the hallways, embraced friends, tied up loose ends for an upcoming program and sat amongst her church family. Ninety minutes later, things would be anything but normal.

As Christian education director for the AME Church Edisto District, Jones was up to her elbows, preparing for a Christian education convention, where in two days, 500 attendees would descend upon Baptist Hill High School. She'd arranged for her pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, to be the worship leader for the day. Before heading out, she stopped to chat with Wilhelmenia Boston, the youth choir director, about what the kids would wear to sing at Friday's event.

As she prepared to exit, her friend, the Rev. Myra Thompson, asked if she was staying for the Bible study that would start at 8 o'clock. She would be teaching that night and was excited about the lesson. No, Jones told her, she would have to miss – it was already 7:30, and she was meeting her daughter at Walmart to pick up the water for Friday and then head home to Summerville. Those would be the last words she would speak to her friend.

Just after 9 p.m., with cars filled with cases of water, Jones followed her daughter home. While getting off her I-26 exit, she answered a call from Boston, who told her that something bad had happened at the church. She sounded terrified, and Jones told her she would make some calls to find out what was happening. The few people she reached didn't know anything, but finally she reached Carolyn Singleton, who said there were more than just a few ambulances, fire trucks and police cars at the church.

“I kept saying, ‘I've got to go back, I've got to go back.’ And she told me, ‘Don't you go back. You've got to go home. Do not turn around.’”

Jones arrived home in a panic, running across the lawn to get inside. “Nikki kept asking me what was wrong. Not knowing was the worst. I turned on the TV. I kept seeing more and more EMS and firetrucks; I knew it had to be something really bad. There were just too many emergency people. I kept saying, ‘I just left there. I just left there.’ I was broken.”

She stared in disbelief as the news described a scene of horror, with reports that eight people had been killed. This was her church family. Her phone started ringing off the hook. People, she later discovered, wanted to make sure she was OK. But she was too shocked to leave the TV.

“I know who I left there,” she told her daughter. “I just want to know is everybody OK? Who is hurt? Nikki said, ‘Mom, you have to answer your phone. People know you're at church all the time. They're worried.’”

Normally, she would have been there. The fact she wasn't was not lost on her. Jones immediately called Cynthia Hurd, but didn't get an answer. She wouldn't know until the next day that Hurd was among the nine who were murdered by a young male visitor.

“He stayed until the very end, and as they prayed with heads bowed and eyes closed, that is when he did what he did,” she said of the shooter, wiping away tears.

THE PROCESS OF HEALING

Even in her grief, her Christian education convention went on as planned, but without the choir or the Rev. Pinckney, who had been one of nine murdered that night.

A day later, members of the congregation met with the Rev. Norvel Goff at Burke High School to make decisions, talk about what had happened and just embrace one another.

Jones posed an important question to the presiding elder.

“I asked him who we, the members of the congregation, should reach out to – like mental health counselors – to be there for us in case someone is broken, or it gets to a place beyond a spiritual thing or a mental or emotionally charged situation. I told him we needed to envision what that was going to look like. ‘Who is there to help us,’ I asked? This is different. All of us feel this hurt.”

The elder put her in charge of that task and instructed her to work with the Department of Mental Health to ensure people could find the resources for help. That became her charge for the foreseeable future, one she took to heart.

Within the hour, the decision was made that the congregation would return to the church the next day – four days after the massacre, Father's Day. She was still grieving the beloved father she'd lost less than six months before. It would be her first Father's Day without him. Still, as difficult as it was, she and her daughter were in the sanctuary on Sunday.

While attending Columbia College, Jones' daughter had worked for the Rev. Pinckney, and the families were close. Jones would speak

See **FAITH** on page 15

Hollings Cancer Center



The Mobile Unit is Coming to You!
Onsite Mammography Screening Where You Work
It's Easy and Convenient
April 2, 2018
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Parkshore Centre
1 Poston Rd. Charleston, SC 29407
Appointments Required - Please Call 843-792-0878 to schedule



FAITH *Continued from Page Fourteen*

at his funeral.

Monday, she returned to work. She didn't want to be bombarded, but she didn't want to reject the love and concern people were feeling. That strength and generosity of spirit didn't surprise her colleagues. Her signature concern for others makes her an effective manager. She's been in her current supervisory role for five years and the department for 18. In the recent Press Ganey survey, her unit moved from tier three to tier two. Her supervisor, Sherry Smith, said she credits a lot of that improvement to Jones for helping build confidence and trust within the team in a very calming way.

"Carla has a quiet and kind spirit and has a way about her that she can build other's confidence up through her words and deeds. Carla is a preacher's daughter, and within that quiet and kind spirit there is also a strength in her that you cannot imagine until you see it in action."

And see it in action she did. Smith had two long-term members of the church, Jones and Cynthia Smalls, on her team. "As the news started trickling in that there had been a shooting at Mother Emanuel Church, I didn't know if our friends and coworkers were involved, but I knew Carla was likely there. I was afraid to text Carla that night, afraid she couldn't answer. In the days that followed, I admired the strength, courage and love that both Carla and Cynthia showed during their own immense pain, in helping their church family and community try and heal from this senseless act of violence."

Jones would call on that strength and courage once more. Nearing the one-year anniversary of the Mother Emanuel



photo provided

Carla Jones, right, is joined by Marlena Davis and Malcolm Graham in February 2016

tragedy, Jones' sister Marsha died. Nineteen days later, her mother passed. It had been a heartbreaking year and a half, but she stood firm in faith and family.

"My parents, later in their lives, talked about death. My dad would say, 'The day will come when we will no longer be here.' I would say, 'Oh Dad, we don't have to have this conversation.' Then one day, I matured and listened to what they said. It

helped me deal with their deaths. I loved my dad, and I loved my mom, and because I was so close to them, I thought that losing them would have destroyed me."

But instead, she holds tightly to their teachings. "You never let go of those things – memories I will forever cherish in my heart, family traditions. Some days are hard, but all my tears are not because I'm sad. Some days I hear things and see things that remind me of my mother, my sister and my father that bring me such joy. That's why it's so important to me to be my better self. In the end, I always try to be the kind of woman that my daughter is proud of."

CURLING *Continued from Page Four*

in Charleston and compete in bonspiels, or tournaments, around the country. After only a year in operation, Smith and members of the Charleston club have competed in six bonspiels, traveling to Charlotte, Raleigh/ Durham, Wilmington, North Carolina, Atlanta, Georgia, Daytona Beach, Florida, and even as far away as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They plan to expand their travels in the coming year.

As new curlers, Smith said that playing those teams has been rewarding to her and her teammates. "There is nothing better than playing people who are better than you," she added. Additionally, she said, there is no age limitation, so she has learned from curlers who are both young and old, she said.

Along with it being a great learning experience for Smith, her entrance into the curling world has also greatly expanded her social circle. Because the sport, while competitive, is a game where respect for your opponents is emphasized, making friends with other teams is a part of the ethos. After games, there is a tradition called broomstacking, where the winner buys the loser a first round of drinks, and then the loser reciprocates, which Smith said would be hard to do if you've just been really nasty on the ice. She smiled. "These are my friends. People that you play with in a bonspiel are your friends."

While most clubs take the summer off, the Charleston Curling Club has access to its ice rink year-round. This creates an opportunity for its members to practice and continue to grow in their talents, which they hope will enhance their skills and competitive edge in the future. Smith said they will be hosting their first Charleston bonspiel this July and look forward to clubs like Charlotte participating. She is excited for what's to come, especially considering that a year ago, no one knew what was possible. When she considers the support they received from clubs along the East Coast, Smith is grateful.

"The amazing thing is we've been able to pay it forward. Jacksonville has opened up a club, and I just drove down to West Palm Beach and taught a Learn to Curl," she said. "That's the beauty of a quickly expanding sport in a really inclusive community."

The Charleston club offers learn to curl sessions for anyone wishing to receive instruction. Smith said it is best to connect with the club via its Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/charlestoncurlingclub/>. Most Sundays, they can be found on the rink in North Charleston and welcome new members of all levels of experience with open arms, just like the welcome she received a year ago.

PHARMACY *Continued from Page Six*

Wright knows what it's like to be in her customers' shoes. She got interested in the pharmacy field when one of her sons was hospitalized with asthma. "I stayed in and out of the hospital with him and there were so many different drugs. I wanted to learn about the drugs that were available for him."

She already had degrees in math and computer programming when she began studying to become a pharmacy technician. She earned her diploma from Trident Technical College in 1999. Last year, she added another item to her resume: a Master of Science in Health Informatics degree from MUSC.

"I'd like to continue to do something new within pharmacy with my degree," she says. In the meantime, Wright continues to work on billing and insurance at Rutledge Tower, always listening for ways to help. "I sit on the side by the register so I pretty much hear everything," she says. "That's our goal – for our patients to get medication and not be without it."



photo provided

Dr. Pat Cawley congratulates 2017 MUSC Health Care Team Member of the Year winner L'Tanya Wright last December.



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