

YES Campaign launches, chance for employees to give back, support projects

By CINDY ABOLE

aboleca@musc.edu

The 33rd Yearly Employee Support or YES Campaign luncheon and kickoff drew a crowd of longtime supporters and donors at the April 9 event held in the Drug Discovery Building lobby.

Jim Fisher, vice president of development and alumni affairs, greeted the crowd. He reminded employee guests that since the inception of the YES Campaign, which started in 1985, employees have contributed more than \$8 million to support programs and projects. "That's an amazing vote of confidence from those closest to MUSC through so many years. Philanthropy allows us as an institution to be the best that we can be. If there wasn't any philanthropy, we wouldn't survive, and we know that."

Fisher introduced the 2018 YES Campaign co-chairs Ray Dubois, M.D., Ph.D., College of Medicine dean, and Darrick Paul, MUSC Health chief people officer. He also announced the 2018 campaign goal — \$430,000.

Lisa Saladin, PT, Ph.D., executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, echoed Fisher's sentiments about the impact of philanthropy and giving.

"Over the past 33 years, the campaign has become increasingly important to MUSC and the community we serve. It gives us the opportunity each day to go above and beyond in our jobs to make

MUSC and South Carolina a healthier place to live. These are the things that make us special — special and different from every other institution in the Lowcountry and in South Carolina. Beyond that, the campaign is important because it sends a message to the community that MUSC supports the community back, and that we're an institution worth supporting," said Saladin.

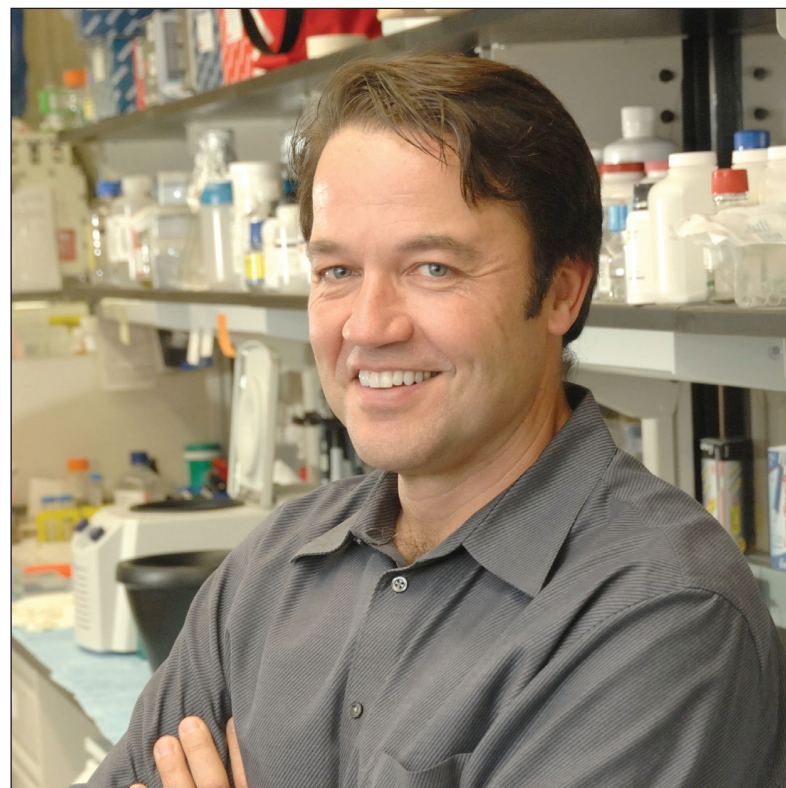
Throughout the years, the YES campaign has funded scholarships; research, community health and patient education programs; building funds; mobile health units; internal projects; and outreach services.

Saladin announced that 100 percent of MUSC leadership has donated and pledged support to the 2018 campaign. She also recognized luncheon guests for their continuous years of giving and support.

DuBois spoke about his willingness to co-chair this year's campaign with Paul. "I realized this is one of the things that I feel strongly about — giving back to MUSC. Your presence here today helps us in so many different ways. There's a lot of opportunities to give to the YES Campaign. Part of that giving can be to the YES Family Fund. It was created in 1999 as a resource where MUSC employees can give money to applied grants and support projects in their areas of work."

DuBois spoke about the clinical impact that several YES projects have made. Since its inception, the YES Family Fund has

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NIH researcher-physician to address MUSC graduates May 19

Staff Report

John F. Tisdale, M.D., a renowned authority on sickle cell disease, will address MUSC's 2018 graduating class during commencement ceremonies on May 19. Approximately 644 candidates are expected to receive their degrees from MUSC's six colleges: Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy.

A graduate of the College of Charleston and a 1990 alumnus of MUSC's College of Medicine, Tisdale was one of four clinicians featured in a three-part documentary on the Discovery Channel last fall titled, "First in Human." The documentary followed the physicians

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Important changes come with May 31 deadline.

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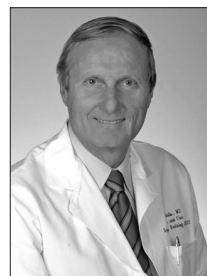
Meet Jacqueline Bulanow

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Health and Well-Being

PEOPLE

Philip Costello



Philip Costello, M.D., professor and chairman, Department of Radiology and Radiological Science, became the 118th president of the American Roentgen Ray Society on April 22.

Costello has been an active member of the society since 1990, serving in various capacities including three years on the Roentgen Fund Board of Trustees and vice president. The American Roentgen Ray Society is the first and oldest radiology society in the United States.

Zihai Li



Zihai Li, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the South Carolina SmartState Center of Economic Excellence Sally

Abney Rose Chair in Stem Cell Biology & Therapy, was elected to the Association of American Physicians. The AAP is a nonprofit professional organization with goals that include the pursuit of medical knowledge and the advancement through

AROUND CAMPUS

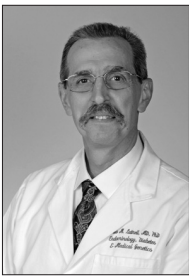


photo provided

Dozens of people, including many Team MUSC groups gathered April 28 to participate in the March of Dimes March for Babies Walk and Cannon Park. Monies raised will support March of Dimes programs.

experimentation and discovery of basic and clinical science and application to clinical medicine.

Louis Luttrell



Louis Luttrell, M.D., Ph.D., James A. Keating Jr. professor of medicine and professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, was elected to the Association of the American Physicians.

Election to the AAP is a highly

competitive process that recognizes outstanding physician scientists.

Lynn Schnapp



Lynn Schnapp, M.D., professor and division chief, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care Allergy and Sleep Medicine, was elected secretary-treasurer of the American Thoracic Society. She is slated

to become ATS president in 2021-22.

EVENTS

Dragon Boat Festival

The 11th Annual Charleston Dragon Boat Festival will be held Saturday, May 5 at Brittlebank Park off Lockwood Drive. This is one of the largest dragon boat festivals in the country and features a fierce dragon boat competition, huge party and celebration of cancer survivors. Heat schedules are as follows: Heat 1 at 8 a.m.; Heat 2 at 10:50 a.m.; and Heat 3 at 2 p.m. Survivor ceremony will be at 10:30 a.m and spirit awards at 1:15 p.m. and awards ceremony at 4 p.m. All proceeds will benefit cancer survivor programs of Dragon Boat Charleston. Call 843-714-4131.

Employee Appreciation Week

MUSC's Office of Diversity & Inclusion is sponsoring a one-hour program, "Body, Mind and Spirit Renewal: Taking Care of Ourselves First to Care for Others" from 1 to 2 p.m., May 10, 2West Amphitheater, University Hospital and from 1 to 2 p.m., ART, Room 2408. Leaders will receive one hour of D&I credit. Register via MyQuest.

Innovation Station

Need to print out photos? MUSC's Innovation Station has a convenient kiosk where you can print photos directly from your phone. The cost is 35 cents per photo. It takes no time at all. There are connections for both Apple and Android devices. For information, call 843-792-5312.

THE CATALYST

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The Catalyst is published bi-monthly. Paid advertisements, which do not represent an endorsement by MUSC or the state of South Carolina, are handled by Island Publications Inc., Moultrie News, 134 Columbus St., Charleston, S.C., 843-958-7480, 958-7384, 958-7488 or 937-7489. E-mail: advertising@moultrienews.com.



Celebrate Nurses' Week!!!!

Calendar of Events

Monday, May 7th- Healthy Work Environment (HWE) will host the Nurse of the Year Ceremony-10a-11a St Luke's Chapel

Tuesday, May 8th- Nursing Excellence Transformational Leadership Council (NETL) will sponsor leadership rounding and virtual yearbook

Wednesday, May 9th- Exemplary Professional Practice (EPP) Council will sponsor coffee cart, snacks and mobile photo challenge

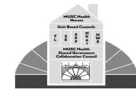
Thursday, May 10th-New Knowledge and Innovation (NKI) Council will host a Poster Development workshop, 1PM-2PM, 2W Classroom

Friday, May 11th-Structural Environment (SE) Council will support information sharing on Professional Development and rounding

Saturday, May 12th-Florence Nightingale's Birthday

Unit based councils are asked to plan celebration activities throughout the week.

Nurses Inspire, Innovate, Influence



HCC announces seven fellowship program awards

Staff Report

Hollings Cancer Center (HCC) awarded seven cancer scientists funding as part of its fellowship program that is designed to train and support the next generation of MUSC researchers making important advances in the field.

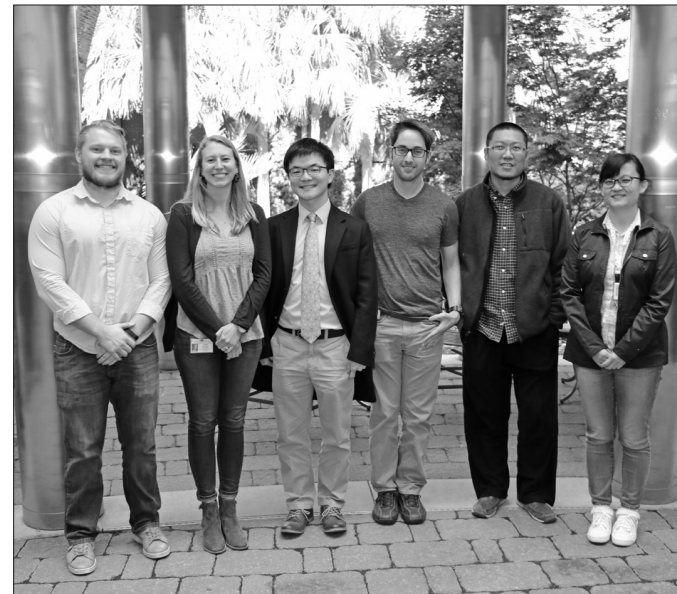
"It's exciting to announce the first round of these awards," said Mike Ostrowski, Ph.D., who serves as co-director of the program along with Elizabeth Yeh, Ph.D., and David Long, Ph.D. "It's an important mission of Hollings Cancer Center, the only NCI-designated cancer center in South Carolina, to educate the next generation of exceptional cancer scientists who are focused on research relevant to the state's population," he said.

"Hollings already has an amazing educational pipeline, but this program is a critical additional piece to that

effort, which importantly highlights HCC's commitment to our educational mission."

The fellowship supports promising trainees who are working on a spectrum of cancer-focused projects that include population sciences, basic science and translational research, he said. "Our vision is that this program will serve as a beacon to the community, highlighting HCC's commitment to the fight against cancer in South Carolina, and also be a beacon to continuously attract the best and brightest trainees to HCC in the future."

The program, which launched in November, has two components. The Postdoctoral and Clinical Fellowship Program focuses on recruiting and training innovative basic science and clinical-translational researchers who have the potential to apply for nationally funded grants. At this point in their



2018 HCC Fellows include Bradley Krisanits, from left, Aubrey Smith, Hyunwoo (Tony) Kwon, Steven Schutt, Zongyang Luy and Yongxia Wu. Not pictured is Simon Grelet.

careers, postdoctoral researchers usually can work on their own research projects and have some experience presenting their work and having results published in research journals. The award provides support to help them gain the necessary skills and funding to become independent researchers.

The HCC Graduate Fellowship Program focuses on developing highly

promising graduates with the potential to become independent research scientists. Graduate students are responsible for much of the work performed in research labs around the MUSC campus, so funding helps them become more immersed in cancer research as they develop their own research projects

The following are the recipients of this year's awards.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

□ Hyunwoo (Tony) Kwon

Mentor: Zihai Li, M.D., Ph.D.

Project: Investigation of IFN γ -IDO1-Tryptophan Transport Axis as the Molecular Basis for Bladder Cancer Sex Bias

"Males and females share robust differences in their susceptibility to various autoimmune and infectious diseases, emphasizing that sex is an important biological variable regulating the immune system. My research studies the potential implication of sex-based immunological differences on the pathogenesis of various malignancies."

□ Aubrey Smith

Mentor: Chrystal Paulos, Ph.D.

Project: Defining the Role of Toll-like Receptor Agonists in T Cell-based Immunotherapy

"We recently discovered that Toll-like receptor 9 agonist, called CpG-ODN, dramatically augments the anti-tumor activity of adoptively transferred CD8⁺ T cells. This grant seeks to uncover the mechanisms underlying the effectiveness of this novel therapy. Our findings have the potential to revolutionize various forms of T cell-based therapies for cancer patients."

□ Steven Schutt

Mentor: Xue-Zhong Yu, M.D.

Project: Fli-1: A Promising Therapeutic Target in Graft-versus-Host Disease and Leukemia

"The protein Friend leukemia virus integration 1 (Fli-1) is responsible for development of Ewing's Sarcoma and certain types of leukemia, while also being associated with systemic lupus (SLE) in humans. This association led us to test if targeting Fli-1 in pre-clinical animal models would be beneficial for graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), where we indeed found that targeting Fli-1 using a genetic approach was able to prevent GVHD development."

□ Bradley Krisanits

Mentor: David Turner, Ph.D.

Project: Advanced Glycation End-Products: Lifestyle Contributions to Prostate Cancer Disparity and Intervention

"The HCC fellowship will aid in the successful completion of a clinical trial investigating the benefits of lifestyle change on biomarkers of prostate cancer progression."

See FELLOWS on page 11

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Important upgrade to 2Factor authentication coming soon

Your help needed by May 31 to improve security

Staff Report

Data security is important to everyone today, especially as it relates to securing personal, professional and financial records stored online. The media reports mass breaches to security on a daily basis. According to Steven Cardinal, a senior information security analyst in MUSC's Information Security Office, MUSC successfully blocks more than 500,000 spam and malicious emails every day. Cyber attackers are using various methods to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to sensitive systems where they can steal data and launch attacks against others.

Recently, foreign hackers were able to bypass MUSC's existing 2Factor phone authentication system. MUSC stopped the hackers from doing major damage, but this incident shows the need to upgrade security measures. Therefore, MUSC is upgrading its 2Factor authentication system to protect MUSC's patients, students, faculty and staff from hackers who are more aggressive and getting

savvier every day.

MUSC Information Solutions will be updating the system over the coming months. To accomplish this, all users will need to download an app to their smartphones by May 31. This app is similar to those used by financial institutions and email platforms and will generate a unique 6-digit code to your phone. This improvement coincides with the migration of email to Office 365 Cloud, an additional security upgrade that also will be revealed soon. These measures will replace the current phone call or app pop-up method of authentication.

HOW YOU WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE UPGRADE

In order to continue receiving MUSC information off campus, you will need to complete these three easy steps by Thursday, May 31.

1. Download the free Microsoft Authenticator app. It's available for both Apple and Android devices.
2. Register your smartphone. Leave the

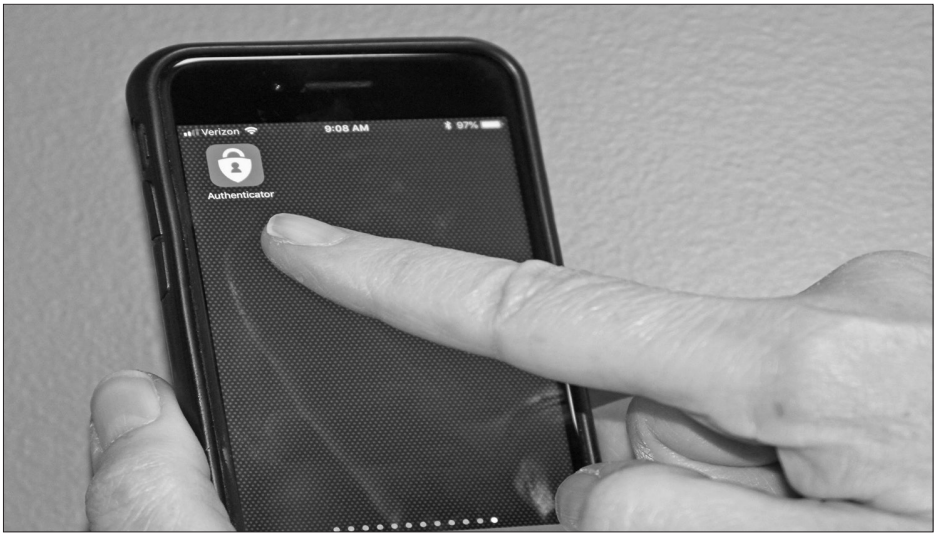


Image provided

MUSC students and employees can now download the new Microsoft Authenticator app (available for Apple and Android devices) that is required to access MUSC email from off-site.

app open while accessing 2factor.musc.edu.

3. Follow the registration steps on 2factor.musc.edu and scan the registration code with the app on your smartphone.

Once you have registered the app, accessing one of MUSC's remote services such as webmail (OWA), VPN or Webapps will require you to open the app on your phone, access the remote service, and, when prompted, enter the 6-digit code displayed on the app. It's that easy.

There is also a bonus: There will be

no more phone calls every time you access email from offsite. The MUSC Information Services and Innovation Station staff will be around campus throughout May to communicate this process and answer questions.

This app upgrade must be completed by May 31. To install the new phone app, visit <https://2factor.musc.edu> for instructions. If you have further questions, contact the MUSC Information Security Office at infosecoffice@muscedu.

2Factor Upgrade FAQ

❑ What is 2Factor?

A factor is just a fancy word for method. One method for logging in to a computer is with a username and password. When accessing a computer from the Internet, we ask for a second method to confirm you are who you say you are, since attacks come from all over the world and passwords are easily stolen and re-used. That method may be something like a code on a smart phone that we know is yours.

❑ Why are we changing now?

Attackers have gotten much better over the past few years and have increased their attacks against hospitals and universities. MUSC must continue to be a leader in protecting our patients, students, faculty, and staff. With a large number of technology projects moving MUSC into the cloud, now is the best time to make this change and ensure those projects may proceed safely.

❑ Is 2Factor hard to use?

We don't think so! Information Solutions will have plenty of resources available to help you setup your smart phone to use 2Factor and show you how to use it. We think you'll appreciate that there will be no more 2Factor phone calls in the middle of the night.

❑ I access my email from my phone. Will I need to use 2Factor?

A. If you have MUSC's MDM installed on your phone, you can keep using your mail app (Apple Mail or Android Touchdown) without having to do 2Factor. If you access your mail using a browser, you will have to use 2Factor, same as if you're on a PC or Mac connecting from the Internet.

❑ What if I have more questions?

Send an email to the Information Security Office – infosecoffice@muscedu – with your questions and we'll provide answers to you.

Using 2Factor

- Log in to your MUSC system –Web Mail, VPN, or Webapps – as usual, with your NetID and password.
- When the system prompts for a 6-digit code, open the Authenticator app on your smartphone.
- Enter the 6-digit code from your app into the system prompt, and hit Enter.
- Use the system as normal.

Registering your phone for 2Factor

If you don't already have it, install the free Microsoft Authenticator app on your smartphone using either the Apple or Google app store.

The steps to configure the app vary depending on if you already have a 2Factor account. Visit <https://2factor.musc.edu> for instructions.

Information Solutions will have resources on and off campus to help you. Watch for live events in your area.

MEET JACQUELINE



Jacqueline Bulanow

Department; How long at MUSC
Medical ICU; 22 years

How are you changing what's possible at MUSC

I've taken the time to work on me and become a better listener. Even though I can only control my own behavior, I believe in the ripple effect. That's why I'm part of a group bringing a class called "Our Community Listens" to MUSC

Family and pets

Husband, Greg; children, Lucinda, Nadia and Claudia; and our cat, Emerald

What do you find most rewarding as a nurse

Earning the trust of the patient, the family members and other care team members

Advice for a first-year nurse

Go to lunch and take your breaks!

Your idea of a dream vacation

Being outside, learning something new and getting dirty, followed by a spa pampering

Nurses Inspire, Innovate, Influence.



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Violent crime leaves many suffering in its wake

NCVC provides ongoing care to people whose lives are affected by violent crime

By MIKIE HAYES
hayesmi@musc.edu

With monikers like the Holy City, Friendliest City and Most Polite City, Charleston has earned many special distinctions. But until June 17, 2015, when worshippers at Emanuel AME Church were murdered by a stranger they had welcomed into their Bible study, a site of mass violence was not one of them. While anguish quickly gripped the community, Charlestonians came together and demonstrated remarkable resilience and a united front.

As the third anniversary of the Mother Emanuel tragedy approaches, the church and community continue to heal. Alyssa Rheingold, Ph.D., director of clinical operations for MUSC’s National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center (NCVC) within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, has been part of that process. She was involved in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, helping the church community pick up the pieces, and she continues to offer treatment, intervention and support services through her work with the Mother Emanuel Community Resiliency Project, an initiative the NCVC is integrally involved in with other community partners. Recently, she was invited to speak about her experience at a prestigious national conference.

An expert on providing mental health services like grief and trauma counseling to victims and survivors of violent crimes, Rheingold has spent the last 18 years helping those who have lost loved ones try to return to normal lives. In addition to her work at the NCVC, she is involved in community efforts, serving on a sexual assault protection task force for the City of Charleston Police Department and collaborating with retired Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullins on a number of other grants and activities. She works closely with the Charleston-Dorchester

Mental Health Center and runs a support group for homicide survivors with the Charleston County Sheriff victim services department.

Her expertise in this type of specialized work led to her ability to more seamlessly provide ongoing care to those affected by the Emanuel shootings. In fact, she said, it was the experienced team combined with longstanding community relationships that allowed those leading the effort to meet the horrific challenge.

“When the Emanuel shooting occurred,” she said, “one of the strengths in how our community responded was the fact that our community leaders were all very well connected with each other and had established very good connections through many collaborative activities.”

Within the first few days, the joint team effort of CDMHC and NCVC began working with Carla Jones, a class and program leader at Mother Emanuel and supervisor of MUSC accounts receivable, to determine what mental health services the church needed. Jones had been tasked by the presiding elder to work with mental health experts to ensure the congregation had the necessary resources.

“We worked with Carla and went and met with family members and church members early on to help with the immediate recovery. We attended all the funerals. I felt confident and inspired to work with folks who are just so resilient. The human spirit is so resilient.”

Once the FBI left, the team continued the family assistance center, established support groups and provided early intervention work and ongoing mental health and grief counseling for families, survivors and church members.

“I was proud we had that expertise,” she said. “Experts from all over the country called to ask how they could help, who or what they could do or send in response. It was a good feeling to be able to say to them, ‘We’ve got this.’ We



Photo by Dawn Brazell

Dr. Alyssa Rheingold speaks at Mother Emanuel AME Church about the importance of support groups, intensive case management and trauma treatment.

“Traumatic loss, such as by a homicide or a horrific event like the hate crime at the church, can impede upon normal grief recovery.”

Alyssa Rheingold

already worked with homicide survivors and our community – so we could say ‘Here are things you can expect and things to do to bolster recovery.’”

Rheingold continues to work with the Mother Emanuel Empowerment Center and the Resiliency Project. After experiencing something so visible, so

targeted, she explained, it’s natural that some members of the church would still be suffering.

“Traumatic loss, such as by a homicide or horrific event like the hate crime at the church, can impede upon normal grief recovery,” she said. “It can delay it, extend or protract it and make it more intense for much longer. It’s very common that two or three years out people are still struggling pretty intensely.”

Rheingold’s inexhaustible work earned her a national reputation and an invitation, along with Mullin and former Mayor Joseph Riley, to participate in the Southeastern Psychological Association’s

See **COUNSELING** on page 7



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COUNSELING *Continued from Page Six*

annual meeting. The subject of the panel discussion, Charleston's response to the Emanuel AME shooting, focused on the community's concerted effort to improve mental health services. The audience listened intently as Rheingold shared how Charleston faced its worst day in recent history and how the church and city were able to triumph, giving credit to many.

"The reason things worked so well," she told them, "was because leaders collaborated very well. They took responsibility. They provided leadership from the very first moment and were on top of things rather than being reactive."

CRIME IN SOUTH CAROLINA

While statistically the Mother Emanuel tragedy was an isolated event, Rheingold said that South Carolina, alarmingly, is no stranger to crime. In fact, she added, it's a leader in violent crime, having surpassed the nation's violent crime rate every year since 1975. That includes crimes such as murder, domestic violence, physical and sexual assault, home invasion, convenience store robberies and gang violence. The

list is long and criminals are active.

South Carolina is ranked 5th in the nation for domestic violence and in the Top 10 for homicides. 2015 saw violent crimes catapult South Carolina to the No.11 spot, with Charleston County responsible for 1,788 — the third highest number in the state. In addition, Dorchester and Berkeley County reported an additional 1,181, totaling nearly 3,000 reported violent crimes in the Tri-county area. Seventy-nine of these were murders.

Victims of deaths by violent crime, Rheingold said, include not only the person murdered, but also the survivors. Rheingold explained that a murder leaves behind seven to 10 close relatives, as well as friends, neighbors and colleagues. In the case of the Emanuel Nine shooting, many reports claim there were nine victims. In reality, she said, there were five survivors in the church that night who are also victims — plus family members, the congregation, friends — all victims. As such, the number of individuals dealing with the unexpected, violent loss of a loved one is far greater than people might realize.

Rheingold said that close to 1:10 people in the United States have lost

loved ones to violent deaths, and these survivors are at a significantly higher risk of developing significant trauma-related psychological distress including post-traumatic stress, depression, prolonged grief reactions and substance abuse. It's important, she said, to intervene early and provide mental health counseling to bolster recovery.

Last year, the NCVC helped approximately 1,000 victims of crime or other traumatic events in the Tri-county area, offering comprehensive services to this particularly vulnerable population. Recently, Rheingold received a \$730,000 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant that enables her to expand this valuable work. This is the 15th consecutive year she has been awarded the competitive VOCA grant.

TAKES A SPECIAL TYPE OF PERSON

As a young professional, she didn't set out to work with this underserved population, but it has become her passion.

In graduate school, she focused on anxiety disorders. While finishing her Ph.D. in clinical psychology, she applied

to the yearlong Charleston Consortium Internship Program, a joint endeavor between MUSC and Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, because it offered rotations concentrating on post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma. This allowed her to work with the Crime Victims Center and VA PTSD clinic. It was then she decided to shift her personal trajectory and continue to work more with this population. She stayed on at MUSC as a postdoctoral fellow to do child and adult trauma research and ultimately became a faculty member.

"During my work, I fell in love with this population," she said of homicide survivors and victims of crime in general. "This population is very underserved. Nearly 18 years ago, our center was asked by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office to co-lead a support group. I hadn't worked with that population before, but I thought, 'I'll give it a try.' The homicide survivors touched my heart because they are in such need of services and are often overlooked."

See **COUNSELING** on page 11

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Three leaders honored for diversity work on campus, community service

Physician, student advocate, department leader celebrated

By KATHERINE LAWRENCE

hayesmi@musc.edu

MUSC recognized Ebony Hilton, M.D.; third-year medical student Keeland Williams; and Michael Denham, chief of perioperative services, with the 2018 Earl B. Higgins Leadership in Diversity Awards, presented at the Wickliffe House April 4.

This year marked the 23rd annual presentation of awards since its inception in 1996. The awards are a tribute to the late Earl B. Higgins for his work as the director of Affirmative Action and Minority Affairs. The awards now serve to honor the memory of his efforts by recognizing exemplary leaders in promoting diversity and inclusion through on-campus and community initiatives.

Higgins was a warrior for recruitment, retention and enrichment programs and continually took strides to better represent diverse students, faculty and staff within MUSC's programs, said University chief diversity officer Willette Burnham-Williams, Ph.D., who served as the ceremony's emcee.

While the awards originally showcased

one chosen university employee, the Earl B. Higgins selection committee expanded the list in 2006 to include a student category, and last year, the committee decided to round out the awards by including MUSC Health.

Patrick Cawley, M.D., MUSC Health CEO and vice president for Health Affairs, University, complimented the efforts of the three recipients, each of whom has made a major impact in the areas that were so important to Higgins.

"Tonight is about the people who are doing great things and making MUSC a better place, which ultimately creates a base for greater justice," he said.

EBONY HILTON – UNIVERSITY AWARD RECIPIENT

Ebony Hilton is an assistant professor of anesthesia and perioperative medicine and proud to be MUSC's first black female anesthesiologist. Among the many worthwhile diversity initiatives she has been involved in, Hilton co-founded GLOSS, a mentoring program for middle school girls. GLOSS stands for Girls Loving OurSelves Successfully. She also founded SCRUBS, Students Creating Relationships and Unrooting

Chief of Perioperative Services' Mike Denham, center, is joined by members of his leadership team.



Photos by Anne Thompson

2018 Earl B. Higgins Leadership in Diversity Award winners Keeland Williams (student), from left, Dr. Ebony Hilton (University) and Michael Denham (MUSC Health), are recognized with other candidates at an April 4 reception held at the Wickliffe House.

BarrierS, an interdisciplinary mentoring program serving Meeting Street Elementary School.

Hilton was nominated by Scott Reeves, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, who detailed her many noteworthy achievements.

"Since 2015 she has exemplified all the characteristics that are outlined in the Earl B. Higgins Achievement in Diversity Award," Reeves said. "Just a brief perusal of her CV will clearly document her clear dedication to increasing the pipelines of underrepresented minorities, particularly

young women, into the field of medicine, starting at the elementary school level and extending through high school and college."

His praise showed the immense respect he has for Hilton's ability to improve and enhance diversity through excellence in service to patients, families and visitors.

"This criterion," said Reeves, "is evidenced by her participation in educating my department along these lines at our anesthesia grand rounds with her lecture, The Cost of Being Black: The Influence of Race on Health

See **HIGGINS** on page 9



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HIGGINS *Continued from Page Eight*

Disparities, as well as other remarkable works.”

“And I will tell you from my own personal experience,” added Burnham-Williams, “Ebony Hilton, particularly to the young woman that she mentors and to her patients and their families, is representative of how far one can stretch themselves, yet she does it with compassion, intensity and a love that is simply unyielding.”

Hilton was humbled by the honor she received.

“I don’t feel deserving of this award,” she said. “Thinking back to Dr. Higgins, and what he had to endure – to be born in the middle of Jim Crow, and what he had to overcome – I can’t say thank you enough. When I go to these schools and talk to these kids,” she said of the GLOSS and SCRUBS programs, “it is from a place of love and care. I was born the middle of three girls, from a split home. There were no doctors, lawyers or teachers in our neighborhood, so all we had to look up to people on television. To all of the people who have supported me along my journey, thank you.”

KEELAND WILLIAMS – STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Keeland Williams, a student in the College of Medicine and vice president of diversity and inclusion for the MUSC Student Government Association, was nominated by Mitchell Hammonds, coordinator for student communications in the Office of Student Programs and Student Diversity.

“It is with great admiration and respect for Mr. Williams that I nominate him for the Earl B. Higgins 2018 Student Leadership in Diversity Award,” Hammonds said in his letter.

“I’ve known Mr. Williams since he began his journey here at MUSC,” Hammonds continued, “and have had the distinct honor of working with him in several capacities that allowed me to see his commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive environment for all lives touched by our institution. His leadership and service have contributed significantly to all five areas of diversity and inclusion embodied in this award.”

Hammonds said that Williams has

dedicated himself to advancing the lives of LGBTQ individuals, so much so that Williams made what he considers to be one of the greatest achievements in advancing the diversity and inclusion of every student on MUSC’s campus.

As an SGA representative, Williams recognized a void in the representation of minority students and the potential the student body had to advance the university’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, Hammond said. Williams researched other institutional structures and held MUSC’s first town hall for student diversity and inclusion, which provided robust dialogue among his peers.

“Through his leadership,” Hammonds explained, “the Student Government Association voted to instate a sixth executive officer position – vice president of diversity and inclusion. Mr. Williams was then elected by his peers to fill the position and has begun working with administrators and his peers to elevate minority student voices on campus. This achievement will surely have a lasting impact on the university and has great potential for increasing the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in health care.”

Along with his work on the SGA, Williams dedicated time to the Alliance for Equity, CARES Clinic, SM3 medical student mentor program and served as an MUSC student ambassador, where he promoted the university’s values and brand to prospective students.

While his time spent at MUSC has taken many shapes, his mission to lessen the equity gap has remained the same.

Burnham-Williams characterized Williams’ SGA vice presidential win as historic.

“He has the distinct honor of being the first SGA executive VP for diversity and inclusion in the history of the university,” she said.

Humbled and gracious, Williams accepted his award.

“None of my accomplishments could’ve been possible without the support of MUSC students, faculty and staff. I believe the strength of a true leader is derived from their supporters. The MUSC family has been a fortifying pillar that has empowered me and



Photos by Anne Thompson

Deborah Higgins, far right, sister of the late Dr. Earl B. Higgins for whom the awards are named, presents Dr. Ebony Hilton, center, with her award as her nominator, Dr. Scott Reeves, Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine chairman, applauds.

enabled me to weather any storm. Their love and respect will sustain me as I continue challenging the system for the sake of my patients and my peers.”

MICHAEL DENHAM — MUSC HEALTH AWARD RECIPIENT

Michael Denham served his country for two decades in the U.S. Navy. In 2015, he began his journey at MUSC as chief of perioperative services. He was nominated for the Earl B. Higgins health award by Anton Gunn, MUSC Health chief diversity officer and executive director of community health innovation.

“In his two years as chief of perioperative services, Mike Denham has built the most diverse team of direct reports at MUSC Health, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, veteran status and educational background,” Gunn said.

Denham’s considerable leadership experience has prepared him, Gunn said, to engage all of the care team members in his organization.

“Mike has demonstrated incredible leadership in the area of diversity and inclusion at MUSC Health. In general, he is a great leader, but when it comes to building an inclusive environment for the care team members in the perioperative area of MUSC Health, he

is the absolute best,” Gunn said.

“Truly exemplary,” said Burnham-Williams, as she invited Denham to join her on stage to accept his award.

Denham was quick to share the credit for the award, as he talked about his care team members seated in the audience. He called his leadership team to the stage to demonstrate that it was because of them that he deserved the award in the first place.

“I spent 20 years in the United States Navy. I received a lot of medals. I spent 10 years outside the Navy at other medical centers. I’ve received many awards. But I can truly say tonight that this is the proudest award I have ever received. But this night is not about me, it is about every individual on my leadership team.”

Higgins Diversity Award Nominees

University — VeLonda Dantzler, Dr. Ragan DuBose-Morris, Dr. Donna Johnson, Dr. Cristina Reyes Smith, Dr. Thomas Smith and Dr. Tajuan Wilson; Student — E. Nicole Maclin (Health Professions), Kiera Miller (Pharmacy), Floyd Nicholson (Dental Medicine); and MUSC Health — Joe Nowicki

New well-being program challenges U to start, set goals

Imagine U, our new enterprisewide employee well-being program, has launched, and we are so excited about taking health and wellness to a whole new level. I'd like to share some really positive updates about your commitment and participation so far:

- 3,281 MUSC employees have completed the My Life Check® module.
- 2,053 MUSC employees are in process of completing the My Life Check® module.
- Total employee engagement: 5,334.

As we continue to focus on getting even more of our MUSC family involved by June 30, please help us spread the word about the three easy steps to get started in the program:

1. Know Your Numbers: height, weight, blood pressure, total cholesterol and fasting blood sugar. If an employee uses MyChart, the numbers can be

found there, if those tests have been performed by an MUSC provider since the launch of MyChart. Employees who don't use MyChart should contact their care providers directly. If an employee hasn't had those tests done, he or she may register for a free screening. Please visit <http://www.musc.edu/ohp/employee-wellness/worksite-screening.html> or email musc-empwell@musc.edu for dates and locations.

Upcoming screenings

Register at <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/y7smevc6/> for the following dates:

- ❑ May 7 – BSB 611
 - ❑ May 15 – Main Hospital, Room 147
- Register at <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/ohp/employee-wellness/worksite-screening.html> for the following dates:

- ❑ May 23 – CSB 628h
 - ❑ May 31 – Colbert room 109
2. Complete your My Life Check® on MyQuest by launching the assigned Health Risk Assessment module. (The survey will take no more than 3 to 4 minutes.)
- ❑ Click "Get Started."
 - ❑ Use company code MUO002, and create a profile to begin your assessment.
3. Set your personal goals: All MUSC employees have been assigned a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) in MyQuest. To set your personal goals, log in to MyQuest beginning July 1, use your heart health score (obtained from Step 2), set your health goals and participate in challenges to improve your well-being and earn exciting incentives.

In the coming months, you will hear more about opportunities to put plans into action through free learning events

MUSC
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& Well-Being

By Susan L. Johnson,
Ph.D., MUSC Office of
Health Promotion



and a variety of incentivized activities. Be sure to come out to the Employee Appreciation event on May 9 from noon until 3 p.m. and visit our booths on the Horseshoe and in the Greenway to learn more about Imagine U and participate in our mobile screening event. Thank you for your commitment to Build Healthy Communities and improve the health and well-being of our MUSC family, starting with yourself.

Email musc-empwell@musc.edu.

YES *Continued from Page One*

raised more than \$30,000 in funding for 15 projects, including the Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics' Escape Project, which distributed about 200 child safety kits to families who have children diagnosed with autism or autism spectrum disorder. The kit includes ID bracelets, window alarms, a safety tip sheet and other items to help keep children safe.

A second project is the Naloxone Project through the Institute of Psychiatry's Pharmacy Services. The department has tried to make Naloxone nasal spray available for individuals who are prone to opioid overdoses. Naloxone can temporarily stop a potentially fatal overdose while waiting for emergency medical services to arrive. To date, this effort has saved 30 at-risk patients.

A highlight of the employee luncheon was the launch of the 2018 YES Campaign video featuring the Center for Academic Excellence's Tom Smith, Ph.D., and his wife Ellie Smith, an RN at MUSC. The couple credits MUSC as an employer that provided opportunities for them to grow professionally. They

also praised the MUSC care team for the care and expertise they provided to their daughter Perry, who battled a brain tumor as a toddler. "I give back because I believe it starts with us," Tom said in the video.

The program ended with words of encouragement by Paul.

"As Dr. DuBois said earlier, I am very pleased to be part of this," he said. "I'm confident that MUSC will meet our campaign goal because of the success of years past and the confidence I have with each of you in this room. This is where it takes a village to lead by example."

The MUSC YES Campaign continues through June 30. Employees may donate their gifts through payroll deduction, PTO donation or as a one-time gift or pledge. All gifts made to the YES Campaign are tax deductible. Donate at <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/giving/yes/> and click "YES" or contact Whitney McLuen at 843-792-1973 or mcluen@musc.edu.



MUSC's Dr. Tom Smith and wife Ellie Smith are featured in the 2018 YES Campaign video. The couple have given back through the YES campaign in gratitude for the care of their daughter.



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GRADUATION *Continued from Page One*

and their patients during experimental clinical trials at the National Institutes of Health. Tisdale and his research team successfully cured an African-American woman of sickle cell disease. To date, his team has enrolled more than 100 patients with sickle cell disease, testing curative approaches developed in his laboratory. These trials include new approaches to bone marrow transplantation from related donors as well as genetically manipulating a patient's own bone marrow followed by transplantation. In the majority of cases, they have achieved success.

Tisdale did his internship and residency at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and was chief resident at the Nashville Veterans Administration Medical Center. He joined the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in 1994, where he has been a hematology fellow, senior staff fellow and clinical investigator. In 2011, the College of Charleston presented him with the Alumni of the Year Award and the Pre-Medical Society's Outstanding Service

Award in Medicine. He is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Society of Hematology.

Tisdale will receive a Doctor of Medical Science, honoris causa honorary degree.

Also receiving honorary degrees will be:

- Shawn A. Jenkins, M.B.A., former chief executive of software company Benefitfocus and major donor to the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion: Doctor of Humane Letters.

- Max D. Ray, Pharm.D., former director of MUSC's Division of Clinical Pharmacy and currently dean emeritus of the College of Pharmacy at the Western University of Health Sciences: Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

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COUNSELING *Continued from Page Seven*

Rheingold explained that people don't want to think about what it would be like to have a loved one murdered. Often, even with all their pain, survivors have no one to turn to.

"It's such a horrific thought," she said. "No one wants to put themselves in those shoes. The suddenness and horrific nature of that type of loss is difficult for people to wrap their heads around. They don't know what to say, so often, they say nothing. And, for professionals, it's a hard population to work with — there is such intense raw pain. As a clinician, you have to be able to sit with it. So I think providers shy away from working with that type of raw pain."

She was personally drawn to it, she said, mostly because she wanted to help people who are in such need.

"It provides me with meaning and purpose to help people who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to grow and recover from the lowest points in life into one of strength and resilience. I've sort of always been interested in helping underserved folks — folks who need but don't often get care."

Rheingold calls the VOCA grants "a huge win for our state and our community," as they've increased her ability to reach and help more victims and allow the NCVC to serve those who otherwise wouldn't have

been able to access care.

The grant supports the NCVC's wide range of programs, including the office-based mental health clinic; English- and Spanish-language community-based outreach programs; a clinic for homicide survivors; a clinic for sexual assault victims; and an outreach program that serves Hispanic victims of crime. Services are available at MUSC, in the community, in churches and libraries, at schools, via telehealth — wherever it's safe, she said. Plus, the program has state vehicles and a team of volunteers who can pick up patients and bring them into the clinic, which makes a big difference, she said.

Rheingold does a combination of research and clinical work and wears a number of hats. But it's important to her to always maintain a small caseload, so she gets to work one on one with patients.

"That piece is most rewarding for me — seeing victims come in with such significant distress and being able to connect with them and help them on their journeys. Saying goodbye is hard, but at the same time, I know they're on their way. They will always be impacted by what happened to them; it's part of their life stories. But to see them grow and recover and have a more positive hopeful future journey, that in itself fuels my reserve pool. Working with this population, taking home all these stories, can be really tough. But it's what gives me the day-to-day strength to do it."

FELLOWS *Continued from Page Three***POSTDOCTORAL & CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

□ Simon Grelet, Ph.D.

Mentor: Philip Howe, Ph.D.

Project: Transfer RNAs in Cell Plasticity and Tumor Progression: **Uncharted Biology and Novel Therapeutic Avenues**

"The aim of Dr. Grelet's project is to decipher how tRNA biology regulates cancer invasion and stemness, two traits of the tumor cells that are deemed to be essential during tumor metastasis and tumor relapse. Such molecular insights might open new therapeutic opportunities that will be evaluated within the study."

□ Zongyang Lyu, Ph.D.

Mentor: Shaun Olsen, Ph.D.

Project: Structural Biology of the Essential Cell Cycle Regulator Cdc34

"I study structure and function of

protein complexes in the ubiquitin pathway and develop inhibitors for cancer therapeutic targets."

□ Yongxia Wu, Ph.D.

Mentor: Xue-Zhong Yu, M.D.

Project: Targeting STING in Immunotherapy for Hematologic Malignancy

"The goal of this proposal is to define the biology of stimulator of interferon genes (STING) in immune response against leukemia after bone marrow transplantation (BMT). We will validate STING as a potential target in immunotherapy for controlling leukemia relapse and reducing the side effects associated with BMT."

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WOMEN UNITED



Photo provided
Lisa Montgomery, bottom row center, MUSC executive vice president for finance and operations, was presented with the 2018 Women United Role Model of The Year Award by the Trident United Way at the April 24 luncheon. Several MUSC colleagues, associates and friends who have inspired her were also present at the awards presentation.

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For more information on the YES Campaign contact: Whitney McLuen, Campaign Coordinator at 843-792-1973 or mccluen@muscc.edu

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