

Teenage couple celebrate final moments in ceremony

Dying patient finds joy in commitment

BY DAWN BRAZELL

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In just moments, Hollings Cancer Center inpatient nurses transformed the area. They used the pink plastic ice buckets for patients to chill the sparkling cider. A hospital cart became a catering table. A sheet, a tablecloth. And, somehow a white, scalloped two-tiered cake miraculously appeared next to festive gold napkins.

It would become a day Justice Dunlap, 18, would later describe as perfect.

It was thought the teenagers would have their commitment ceremony near the exercise bikes in the waiting area on the seventh floor of the Ashley River Tower (ART) at MUSC. However, Carrie Moore, unit nurse manager of the HOPE unit or the Hematologic Oncologic Protective Environment, would have none of that. She and other nurses set up the space to showcase the view of the Ashley River, arranging an aisle and seating for 25 guests.

Moore found out she had a special skill. Deejaying. She cued up the song that patient Eric Mason wanted for Justice as she walked down the aisle: John Mayer's "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room." It's not the typical song to walk the aisle, but then these were unusual circumstances.

Eric, 19, knew time was of the essence. The moment was everything. During the

past year, he had spent a lot of time with the staff on ART – 7W to be treated for aggressive lymphoma. When he relapsed after a stem cell transplant, his treatment transitioned to comfort care.

Moore says everyone grew to love him. "He was kind and generous and had a wonderful strength during even the toughest times of his treatment."

When the staff learned the one remaining item on his bucket list was to show Justice how much he loved her, the team sprang into action. They called Hannah Coyne, the palliative care chaplain who had spent time with Eric. She already knew of his eloquence, his generous spirit and his care and concern for his family and friends.

She came to see what she could do, discovering it was really important to Eric to be able to share his love and commitment to Justice in a spiritual ritual "in God's eyes" before he died. Could Coyne help him? Of course, she could. They got to planning.

It was Thursday evening, March 14. The wedding would be the next day – a balmy spring afternoon affair. All the staff bonded together to do their parts to pull it off. Honored to officiate the ceremony, Coyne says it was a really joyful occasion in the midst of a lot of sadness.

"This spiritual ritual, looking out over the Charleston Harbor, was a reminder



Photo provided

Eric Mason and Justice Dunlap cut the cake following their March 15 commitment ceremony held at Ashley River Tower 7W.

to everyone present that life is for living – to the end and to the fullest."

Coyne took it all in. Eric decked out in all black with the pop of white of his bowtie. Best yet, the staff had worked to get the right mix of pain medications, so he was able to walk and be freed of all his IV lines. She got a glimpse of the young man before he got sick.

"I believe it's really important for our patients' dignity. It's also a good reminder for us as caregivers that each of our patients has a life and a story before ever stepping into our doors, and part of

our job is to honor that.

And honor it they did. Ask any guest what their favorite moment was, and the answers pour out.

For Coyne it was the "holy moment" of watching the extra long hugs that Eric and Justice shared with their parents after the ceremony. It was saying a prayer of blessing over Eric and Justice at the end of the ceremony to commend them to God's continued care, in life and in death.

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Pharmacy student volunteers
Passion for wrestling
brings home the gold.

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Septima P. Clark Poetry
Deadline for entries
extended to April 15.

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Health and Well-Being
Meet Elizabeth Mack, M.D.
Doctors Day 2019

AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE

Ashley Britell



Ashley Britell, M.D., was named associate chief medical officer for MUSC Physicians after serving in the interim role since 2018. Britell is board certified in internal medicine and has worked as an MUSC hospitalist since

2014. Previously Britell served as a physician advisor and member of the MUSC Health Utilization Management Committee. In her new role, she will focus on case management and care transitions.

Edward Krug



Ed Krug, Ph.D., associate dean for postdoctoral affairs, College of Graduate Studies and professor, Department of Regenerative Medicine & Cell Biology, has been named the 2019 recipient of the National

Postdoctoral Association Garnett-Powers & Associates, Inc. Mentor Award. The award recognizes a faculty member who has engaged in exceptional mentoring of postdoctoral scholars. He will be presented the award at the 2019 NPA



Photo by Anne Thompson

Dr. Mike Yost demonstrates to members of the Medical Technology Consortium how the 3D printer works with MUSC surgeons to save lives. The group was in Charleston March 20-21 for a national conference and invited MUSC researchers to attend.

Annual Conference on April 12 in Orlando, Florida.

Baerbel Rohrer



Baerbel Rohrer, Ph.D., SmartState Endowed Chair of Gene & Pharmaceutical Treatment of Retinal Degenerative Disease and professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Storm Eye Institute,

was named among the Top 10 Inventors in Ophthalmology by the journal

“The Ophthalmologist.” Rohrer holds multiple U.S. and international patents and is a research scientist in diseases of the retina.

Bernard Velardo



Bernard Velardo, M.D., clinical associate professor, Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, has joined MUSC Health’s pediatric anesthesia and adult cardiac anesthesia teams.

EVENTS

Flowertown Festival

Come to the Town of Summerville’s YMCA Flowertown Festival April 5-7 at Azalea Park. Downtown Summerville will be awash in hot pink azaleas, purple wisteria and delicate white dogwoods. The three-day weekend offers festival-goers flowers, delicious foods, KidsFest (Sat.), a Farmers Market (Sat.) and one of the largest arts and crafts festivals in the Southeast. Free admission and parking.

MUSC Earth Day

The MUSC Earth Day and Local Food Festival, hosted by MUSC GoGreen, is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 10 at the MUSC Horseshoe. Earth Day features environmentally conscious companies, organizations and artists that contribute to healthier lives and a healthier planet.

March for Babies

Prematurity is the No. 1 killer of babies in the U.S., and you can be part of the 2019 March for Babies Campaign. TEAM MUSC T-shirts are available, and each shirt is \$15. Join one of the MUSC teams to walk on April 27 for no charge. All monies stay in South Carolina. To purchase T-shirts, contact Gail Heitman, Room 543 North Tower, 2-9591; Haley Godfrey, Room 546A North Tower, 2-6936; Kelly Cave, Room 205E, 2-7545, Main Hospital; or any MOD team captain in the MUSC Children’s and Women’s areas.

MUSC CATALYST news

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The first two floors of Basic Science Building, the library lobby, or the urban farm



Springing forward into wellness with new challenges, events

It is officially spring, and with that comes a special kind of food abundance. Spring seasonal eating means less eating from the preserved pantry and more enjoyment direct from the ground to our kitchen tables and cafeterias.

Some estimates show that the average U.S. meal travels about 1,500 miles to get from farm to fork. However, many studies have also shown that eating food that is grown or produced within a smaller radius, also known as eating locally, has many benefits for your health as well as your local economy and the planet.

First, produce that is grown locally is allowed to ripen on the vine and gets picked when it is bursting with nutrition. That also allows the food to be at peak quality, enhancing the flavor and enjoyment of your meal. Additionally, purchasing meats raised in your region, eggs from nearby farms or seafood from local waters provides you a true taste of

your local landscape.

Furthermore, the shorter the distance food travels, the lower the carbon emissions related to that food by reducing everything from fuel to refrigerants. And by purchasing food grown in your community, you are keeping your hard-earned dollars in your local economy to support farmers, truckers, grocers and the like, who live and work near you and who are true stewards of our local resources.

There are many ways that you can support the local movement with small shifts in what you choose to purchase and from whom. For example, purchasing produce directly from farmers at farmers markets, participating in a CSA (community supported agriculture) and buying regional foods from the grocery store, which are usually labeled with the certified South Carolina seal, are all ways to make a shift. You can also encourage the local food vendors

and restaurants to buy local by asking which items on the menu are from South Carolina.

There are even several opportunities for MUSC employees to support local and earn Imagine U points while they do it. By signing up for Lowcountry Local First's Eat Local Challenge during the month of April, care team members can earn 15 Imagine U points by participating in the Eat Local Imagine U Challenge. This is now easier than ever with the newly mobile-optimized Imagine U platform. (Visit muscd.edu/iu to take the Eat Local Imagine U Challenge).

It doesn't stop there, however. Employees, students and community members are invited to attend the "Herb-ivore More" lunch and learn on Thursday, April 11 from noon to 12:45 p.m. at the MUSC Urban Farm. Nutrition experts will share information about the various health benefits of a

MUSC Health & Well-Being

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



local in-season and mostly plant-based diet in addition to a brief culinary demonstration by chef Brian Fox that will focus on simple ways to incorporate fresh culinary herbs into your meals at home. The "Herb-ivore More" lunch and learn will also provide attendees the opportunity to sample a variety of plant-based foods and herb-infused waters while they enjoy the presentation. They can also take their own culinary herb bundle home.

For information about how you can spring into wellness by supporting local, email emp-wellness@muscd.edu.

COUPLE *Continued from Page One*

For Moore, it was getting to see the couple cut the cake and smash white icing into each other's faces, a cake purchased by one of the first nurses to be involved with his care, Kate Hall.

"It was smiles. It was strength. It was ..." Moore pauses, searching for just the right word. "Love."

The ceremony opened a moment to see Eric in a new light as if he weren't sick. "He was Eric during that time. Moments like this not only make you a better health care provider, they make you a better human being."

Moore says it was amazing to see how all the nurses, doctors and staff could all pull together in such a special event in a short time.

Justice says she's so thankful to the staff, some of whom even came in on their day off, to make the ceremony perfect. The outpouring was, in part, a testament to Eric's caring nature. He touched people in so many ways, and at the end, they were there for him. Everything just fell into place. Her mother had the perfect, lace dress she could borrow. His aunt crafted a

homemade bow. The cake was beautiful. "It was more than I ever thought it could be. They made the day magical."

The best moment for her: the kiss and seeing Eric so ecstatically happy.

Justice had popped the question just days before. "I asked him if he wanted to do this before it was too late. We had known we wanted to be together in the eyes of God for a long time."

Justice says she will always treasure the memory of how happy he was that day. It comforts her as she now grieves his loss. He passed March 18, the Monday after their ceremony.

The memories keep playing in her head. There was the first time she met him through mutual friends on Facebook. When he told her she had the nicest smile. They talked every day after that until meeting in person in January of 2017 at Surfside Beach. The day was so blustery and cold, they had to bundle up to withstand it. Conversation flowed easily, and they laughed in awe as a dolphin surfaced close to them. It was as if they had always known one another. They were inseparable after that.

When she got the call a year later that



Photo provided

Faculty and staff, some of whom came in on their day off, enjoyed celebrating Eric and Justice's special moment.

he was sick, it never occurred to her to break up. They liked the same type of music and, more importantly, had the same sense of humor. "We were perfect together. He was my other half."

Justice says she's forever changed by the experience. She's now considering becoming a pharmacist to help others, but for now, she's taking time off to grieve and honor their memories.

Grateful to all the staff who became

part of their extended family, Justice can tell she's a stronger person now. She'll always hold in her heart Eric's memories and values. She says he was the most caring and selfless person she's ever met, even when he was in the most pain of his life. He wanted everyone else to be happy.

Justice sees life in a whole different way. "Every single moment is important, even if it's a bad moment."

Presidential Scholars winds down, presentations set for April 9

Call to action: Collaboration, equity, inclusion, advocacy and policy

By HEATHER N. HOLMES

holmesh@musc.edu

The Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholars Program (PSP) is an opportunity for students to work in interprofessional teams and partner with a community organization to help develop projects to serve the organization's constituents.

Scholars are comprised of members of MUSC's six colleges and students from the Charleston School of Law. Faculty scholars serve as advisors to the students and work with the program director, Hazel Breland, Ph.D., to coordinate events for the student scholars to participate in. Events include a community service day, food and/or clothing drives and panel discussions throughout the term of the program. Scholars also have the opportunity to travel to the South Carolina State House to learn about the legislative process and advocacy issues such as healthcare, education and policy.

The theme for the 2018-2019 Presidential Scholars Program has been "A Call To Action: Collaboration. Equity. Inclusion. Advocacy. Policy." Scholars are divided into teams based on self-identified interests. Each team has contributed to this article with an overview of their project.

COLLABORATION

By *Haleigh Shelton*

Within the Collaboration group, we have been working to establish a LGBTQ+ landing page for the MUSC Health website to improve the access of care for this community in the Charleston area. In order to accomplish this goal, we have established a collaboration between the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, MUSC Health administration offices and the Office of Health to provide resources for the LGBTQ+ patient population in Charleston. We have been working to

create and distribute a survey to MUSC providers that will help to establish a list of providers who offer LGBTQ+-specific services. This information, in addition to other resources, will be available on a webpage dedicated to improving access to health care for the LGBTQ+ patient population.

EQUITY

By *Lauren Seidenschmidt*

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a virus which, when not cleared by the body's own immune system, can cause cancer. The HPV vaccine is proven to help prevent six different types of cancer. Unfortunately, South Carolina has some of the lowest vaccination rates in the nation for HPV. With our theme being Equity, we wanted to make sure adolescents equally had access to HPV vaccination information and their parents did as well. This led us to partner with the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to facilitate education to school nurses. By educating school nurses about the HPV vaccine, we can help ensure that students in all ZIP codes have access to HPV vaccination information. In February, team members traveled to Columbia for two days to work at an HPV booth at a school nurse fair. Additionally, our team members traveled to Columbia to join DHEC, MUSC and the College of Charleston to help facilitate an HPV session at the DHEC Annual School Nurse Conference. While there, we passed out informational booklets and prevention pins and collected opinion data from the nurses on HPV vaccination. Moving forward, our group hopes to partner with the Housing Authority of the Charleston and DHEC to host free vaccination clinics for children who may not have access to the vaccine.

INCLUSION

By *Aviva Engel and Karley Wilson*



Photo provided

Members of the Equity team of the MUSC Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholars program shared information on HPV at a school nurse fair in Columbia, South Carolina.

The Inclusion team partnered with Camp Rise Above (CRA), a nonprofit organization that provides a summer camp experience to children with developmental disabilities, to help advertise CRA's need for health professional volunteers and raise money to sponsor three campers. CRA lives by its mantra – "Giving children the strength for their journey" – by celebrating their strengths and their unique abilities at these camps. CRA's camps are completely free for its participants and families. We believe that CRA's ability to provide a camp-like atmosphere for children with disabilities is an excellent way to celebrate inclusion.

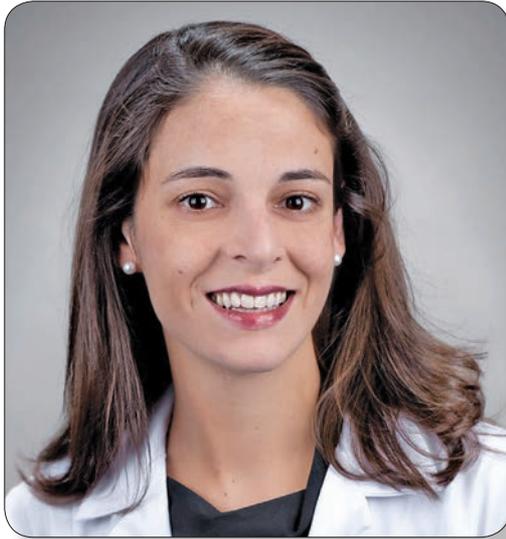
To promote CRA and its dedication to inclusion, the day before Valentine's Day, we hosted an MUSC event celebrating these differences, which we named "LoveABILITY: A day of camp celebrating individuals with different abilities." Our event was hugely successful and included an 'I Heart Media' DJ, balloon artist, adaptive yoga instructor (yoga for all body types and physical abilities) and a cornhole toss. We also provided roses for

a suggested donation and raffled off boxes of Godiva chocolates, a bouquet of roses and a larger than life Melissa and Doug stuffed giraffe, with all proceeds going to CRA. As part of our goal to educate our audience on the special abilities and needs of the campers that attend CRA, we hosted a variety of activities to show adaptations that are used for children with disabilities. The Charleston County Parks provided an example of an adaptive archery activity, I Got Legs provided the audience with an exoskeleton demonstration and a group of MUSC physical therapy students led an electric wheelchair demonstration. Each of these activities provided a different perspective on how adaptations must be made to provide children with disabilities the ultimate camp experience.

It was so heartwarming to have CRA campers in attendance at the event, and a few were brave enough to speak about their memorable CRA experiences. Pediatric neurosurgeon Ramin Eskandari, M.D., spoke about the wonderful

See **SCHOLARS** on page 12

MEET ELIZABETH



Elizabeth Mack, M.D.

Department; How long at MUSC
Department of Pediatrics; 5 years

How are you changing what's possible at MUSC

I want to provide the realm of quality, safety and harm prevention to our patients. Our team seeks to improve situational awareness of risk of health care-acquired harm, innovative strategies in harm reduction and patient-family engagement.

Family and Pets

Husband, Weston; and cats, Elphie and Winnie (named after Broadway characters)

A unique talent you have

I'm a math nerd.

Favorite place in the world

The Galapagos Islands or Namibia

Exciting moment in your life

I'm a Broadway nut and saw Carole King sing opposite "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" lead Jessie Mueller at the 2014 Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall.

Words of advice

"Be kind!"

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Telomeres

Size Matters! What Your Telomeres Might Tell You About Aging and Cancer.

Basim Ogretmen, PhD
Smart-State Endowed Chair
MUSC College of Medicine

At MUSC's Hollings Cancer Center, research into the connections between aging and cancer is led by Basim Ogretmen, Ph.D., Smart-State™ Endowed Chair in Lipidomics and Drug Discovery. His team found that cancer cells have specific ways to resist the way normal cells die. They do so by protecting the tips of their chromosomes (telomeres) from age-related damage.

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BY CAPERS MITCHELL

hayesmi@musc.edu

Students are always busy – just ask Aaron Smith, a fourth-year pharmacy student at MUSC. In addition to his rigorous academic schedule, Smith dedicates his time to bettering the Charleston community. One of his favorite ways to do that is by coaching the Goose Creek High School wrestling team, pushing his wrestlers to be the best they can be.

“When I first moved here,” Smith said, “I scrolled through the state tournament brackets, and I looked for anyone who made the state finals and lived within twenty minutes of Charleston. I didn’t know the area that well, but I wanted to work with the kids that had been working hard and wanted to be even better.”

Coming from a wrestling background himself, he understood the need for the younger wrestlers to see what hard work and determination could do.

Smith had wrestled for a long time. Growing up in Ohio, he felt lucky, he said, to be part of an incredible wrestling program, even having the unique opportunity to work with David Taylor, a world-class wrestler. In 2017 alone, Taylor won the U.S. Open championship, came in second

in the U.S. World Team Trials and was the World Cup champion and Paris International champion. Smith gained a great deal from those formative days.

Eventually, Smith found himself in North Carolina and continued wrestling throughout high school and college. After graduating from Appalachian State University in 2014, he came to the MUSC College of Pharmacy and will graduate this spring with a Pharm.D. Throughout his time in Charleston, he’s used his personal experiences to help the Goose Creek wrestlers.

“I got to grow up with people that went on to do amazing things. Their influence gave me the mindset that I’ve brought to Goose Creek. I want to create opportunities for the kids through wrestling.”

Since he began working with the wrestlers, he’s seen them accomplish great things. His first year volunteering as the coach of the team, GCHS finished fifth overall at the state tournament, winning championships. The next year, his team finished tenth, with one state finalist. His third year, they finished third overall, with one finalist and numerous top-4 place winners. This February, Israel Schultz, a wrestler he’d worked with for four years, won a state title in the 5A 120-pound weight class.

“His parents came down from the



Photo provided

Wrestler Israel Schultz hugs pharmacy student and assistant wrestling coach Aaron Smith, right, as they celebrate Schultz’ 2019 state win.

stands at his match and hugged me,” he said, “and we all cried together. They told me that they could never repay me for how much Israel has accomplished.”

In addition, Smith explained that three GCHS wrestlers have signed athletic scholarships that will allow them

to compete at colleges in different levels. One will wrestle for Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina, and two for St. Andrew’s University in Laurinburg, North Carolina. These three wrestling scholarship recipients, he explained,

See **COACH** on page 11

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Calling all K-12 aspiring poets



BY JENNA LIEF

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Do you have a poet in the family? Do your kids like to rap or write? Would they like to be a part of something special? MUSC's Septima P. Clark Poetry Contest will give them a chance to be the next Maya Angelou or Langston Hughes. In its first year, this contest honors Clark, a Charleston native and civil rights activist who was

not only recognized on a local and state level for her activism but received the Living Legacy Award in 1979 from President Jimmy Carter.

This contest is the brainchild of Cristina Reyes Smith, a doctor of occupational therapy in the College of Health Professions. A collaboration between MUSC's Office of Student Programs and Student Diversity,

See **POETRY** on page 11

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Sea Island Habitat Women Build: 'Swing a hammer for a great cause'

Volunteers still needed April 6-13

BY CINDY ABOLE
aboleca@musc.edu

What do a group of women and buckets filled with hammers, nails, drills and nail guns have in common with hours of work and sweat? They're all part of the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity's annual Women Build event planned for April 6 through 13 on James Island.

This weeklong work event ties the Lowcountry community together with the goal of having women volunteers complete a new home construction project for a Habitat homeowner family. No experience is necessary.

With the cost of new home construction in the Tri-county area rising, projects like Habitat for Humanity's Women Build enable low-income people in the community to experience the rights and responsibilities of affordable home ownership.

The event has now been on MUSC Children's Health Heart Health dietitian and program manager Janet Carter's calendar for 10 straight years, after friends invited her to volunteer at a Sea Island Habitat 2010 Women Build event. She was hooked and now sits on the group's Women Build Planning Committee.

"A lot gets done within a week's time," Carter said about the all-volunteer effort. "We start out with a concrete slab, and within a week, most of the house is up – which is pretty incredible. It's a time to be outside and swing a hammer for a great cause."

The commitment, effort and bonding is comparable to a traditional Amish barn raising, where members of a community come out to work unpaid to build a neighbor's barn. Women Build volunteers work under the guidance of Habitat staff members who instruct volunteers on jobs and oversee the event. In addition to women volunteers from across the Lowcountry, other participants include construction professionals, female friends, family members and future Habitat homeowners who come together in this effort and are committed to building stronger, safer communities, according to Carter.

She believes it's important to clear up the misperception that Habitat for Humanity homes are free to homeowners. In actuality, Habitat families must meet specific requirements, which includes having a job. Once approved, homeowners pay the mortgage on their homes and commit to "sweat equity" during the home's construction.

"I've met all the Sea Island Habitat Women Build homeowners for the last nine years, and they're all wonderful, sweet and grateful people. Some homeowner families have children and some do not. It's really



Photos provided

Volunteer builders work together to help set up the truss structure of a Sea Island Habitat for Humanity house. Starting April 6, volunteers will work together to construct a house to benefit an area Habitat for Humanity family.

touching to know a family has a nice new home, when under other circumstances, they wouldn't be able to have one. It's pretty neat," Carter said.

The Women Build effort started in 1991 when a group of women from Charlotte, North Carolina, completed the first women-built Habitat for Humanity house for an area family. In 1997, former first lady Hillary Clinton, in conjunction with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project, joined first ladies from Kentucky and Oklahoma to establish Habitat's First Ladies Build program. In 2014, Women Build volunteers built more than 2,300 houses in the United States. Today, there are International Women Build projects worldwide in Costa Rica, Mexico, Haiti



Sea Island Habitat for Humanity's Women Build 2019

When: April 6-13 (Saturday to Saturday)
Where: Heritage Oaks, 1880 Ferguson Rd., James Island, S.C.
Volunteer shifts: All day – 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Mornings – 8:30 a.m. to noon
Afternoons – 1 to 4 p.m.
Volunteer registration: \$35 (includes Women Build T-shirt, snacks and lunch provided)

and Nicaragua. These projects support Habitat for Humanity advocacy programs including challenges that women face such as property rights.

As for the composition of volunteers involved in the Lowcountry area program, various individuals and groups come out, said Carter, who loves being outside. There's a group of women from Kiawah Island, others from New York, nurses with MUSC after-hours care and a team of MUSC dietitians.

"Being able to help out someone who is less fortunate is a great feeling. We all know how great it is to have a nice place to live. We just want others in the community to be able to experience that and call a house a home," she said.

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Thank you to physicians on National Doctors Day



Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine's Dr. Meron Selassie. Right photo: Peds Urology's Dr. Shumyle Alam celebrates with a patient.



Photos by Son Nguyen

National Doctors Day, recognized each year on March 30, celebrates the contribution of physicians who serve the country by caring for its citizens.

For the fourth year in a row, U.S. News & World Report ranked MUSC the No. 1 hospital in South Carolina, as well as ranking high in five clinical specialty programs.

The following are some of the comments sent to MUSC physicians:

Dr. Shumyle Alam (Pediatric Urology)

"I know this journey we started some 10 years ago has not always been easy, but I look back on all the wonderful experiences, the wonderful people and families I have met, and the difference you have made in their lives has made it worth all the headaches! Thanks for trusting me and bringing me along on the road less traveled. I wouldn't want to do it with anyone else." — Lisa Creelman

Dr. Michelle Amaya (Pediatrics)

"Dr. Amaya, it is such a pleasure to work with you. You are always so collaborative and supportive of nursing. You are so well spoken, and I admire your ability to stand firm and be kind at the same time. Not an easy skill. Thank you for all you do for our team!"

— Katy Decker

Dr. Deborah Blakely (Internal Medicine)

"Thank you for your care, Deb! I can tell you truly care about your patients!" — Andrea Linares

Drs. Thomas Brouette and Jeffrey Cluver (Psychiatry)

You two are great to work with. I appreciate the way that you treat not only our patients, but also our staff. You listen to our concerns and ideas and consider things that we have to say rather than dismiss us because we

aren't M.D.s. You are flexible and see each other's patients when needed, and you continue to work with our program despite being pulled in many directions. You are very knowledgeable and educate the staff and patients, but you are also personable and friendly so that you can be 'real' with the staff. You have the genuine respect and support of the ReVisions team, and I feel so fortunate to be working with both of you. Happy Doctors Day! — Cheryl Solesbee

Dr. Shayla Bergmann (Pediatric Hematology-Oncology)

"Thanks for all you do, and we love working with you and watching the lives you have changed and made better." — Erica James

Dr. Jane Charles (Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics)

"We love working with you, and words can not describe your talent and joy you bring helping families."

— Erica James

Dr. Allison Chapman (Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine)

"Thank you for continuing to collaborate with our care team to provide excellent care!" — Allison Broomall

Drs. Scott Curry (Infectious Disease) and Puja Elias (Gastroenterology & Hepatology)

"It has been amazing from the beginning to work with and for Drs.' Curry and Elias. Remarkable physicians, professional, personable and caring, their patients speak highly of them as well as their colleagues. They provide a great service to humanity, all while being amazing to work for. Thank you docs!" — Aisha Vanderhorst

Drs. Eugene Chang, Mary Sterrett, Barbara Head, Rebecca Wineland, Christopher Goodier, Scott

Sullivan, Sarah Shea, Ryan Cuff, Donna Johnson, and Charles Rittenberg (OB-GYN)

"You are very skilled and amazing doctors! Thank you for all that you do here in PWC and everywhere else you go. I am grateful for my time in PWC where I have learned so much!" — Courtney Morgan

See **DOCTORS** on page 10



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POETRY *Continued from Page Seven*

CHP and Charleston's poet laureate, Marcus Amaker, the contest is a special K-12 community outreach that Amaker says will bring in an audience that might not see MUSC as a space for arts events.

Why should kids get involved? Amaker, who has been writing poetry since the age of 10 and expresses it as a "vessel of truth and a way into depth," believes that participating could provide this same energy for other kids with a gift for prose. So, if you have a child at home who has shown a fondness for writing, this poetry contest might be a great place for him or her to start a new hobby and an opportunity to be involved in a community-based event at the same time. For those who have experience with poetry, this is a great outlet to show their skills as well.

This contest is open to the youth of the community, with categories for elementary school (K-5), middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12) students. Children can expand their artistic and writing skills and be involved in something fun and

different. To make it even more exciting, there will be prizes for first-second- and third-place winners within each age group.

Dante Pelzer, Ph.D., assistant director for student diversity, thinks this program is a wonderful way to introduce kids to the Medical University without the "ouch factor." He hopes the MUSC family will get their kids involved.

"Children often associate MUSC with illnesses, needle sticks and people being sick. So this poetry contest is a wonderful opportunity to engage them in a different and fun way that goes beyond health care. MUSC is in the community and of the community."

The deadline to submit poetry pieces is April 15. In late April, MUSC will announce the winners and invite them to read their poems and celebrate their artistic expertise at a May 3 on-campus event that is open to the public.

So submit submissions now. You don't want your Mayas and Langstons to miss out. For information, call 843-792-2693 or visit musclibguides.com/spcpoetrycontest.

COACH *Continued from Page Six*

were the first from GCHS in well over 30 years. "We're literally giving these young men opportunities they may not have had if they didn't have wrestling," he said.

But even more than championships, titles, scholarships and new opportunities, Smith has been able to cultivate a community around the sport. Having grown up in a wrestling family, he understands the importance of building camaraderie and community.

"My dad wrestled, and many of the people he coached helped me when I was in youth wrestling."

Smith hopes that that same mentality continues to influence his wrestlers. Many of the wrestlers who have graduated come back to support the team, even families with kids in college.

Smith hopes to maintain that special esprit de corps at GCHS and enjoys

playing a key role with all involved. "I want to preserve the family environment and stay connected with the families," he said.

Smith would like to continue to be an advocate for the Charleston community. "I don't think of my work as volunteering. I do what is right, and I do what I love. People volunteering their time in my life got me to where I am, and I want to continue to do that for others."

For his many volunteering efforts, he has won the MUSC College of Pharmacy's "Most Outstanding Volunteer" award for the past two years and is in the running again this year.

For Smith, the most rewarding aspect of his volunteer work is seeing his wrestlers accomplish new things. "I'm most proud of getting these kids to college. Not all families have the resources for college, so I'm glad I can make a difference and contribute to their success."

DOCTORS *Continued from Page Ten*

chronic bronchitis, you asked, "Has anyone told you that you have asthma?!" That set me on a course of long-term treatment which has helped me breathe easy...and improved my quality of life. Thank you!" — *Kathleen White*

Dr. Vincent Pellegrini (Orthopaedics)
"After bilateral THAs, thanks for giving me back my life and being there through it all. Even with a few bumps, it was worth it all!" — *Nan Lewis*

Dr. Marty Player (Family Medicine)
"Thanks for how you acknowledge the concerns in the health of your patients." — *Glenda F Behrens*

Drs. Andrea Rinn & John Cox (Pulmonary & Critical Care)
"Thank you for continuing to shape my NP practice!" — *Emily Crockett*

Dr. Jimmy Roberts (Pediatrics)
"He is a great pediatrician and always has great insights! Thank you!" — *Care Team Members*

Dr. Julie Roach Ross (Pediatrics)
Thank you for your constant efforts to provide excellent care for the smallest patients!" — *Allison Broomall*

Dr. Eric Rovner (Urology)
"Thank you for being an excellent doctor and a teacher. You are always teaching and explaining things to your staff every day. I've learned a lot from you over the years I've been here. Thank you again for my koala socks!" — *Vanessa Campbell*

Dr. Bruce Sabin (Medicine)
"Happy Doctors Day!" — *Stelina Tibodeau*

Drs. Meron Selassie (Pain Management), Michael Hillegass (Pain Management), David O'Brien (Orthopaedics) and John Schmidt (Orthopaedics)
"Thanks for ALL that you do! Proud to be part of such an awesome team here at MUSC" — *Ali Pridgen*

Dr. Raksha Soora (OB-GYN)
"Thank you for being such a wonderful and caring physician!" — *Ali Pridgen*

Dr. Nicoletta Sora, (Endocrinology)
"Thank you for all that you do, going over and beyond for your patients daily. Thank you for always fostering a learning environment, and never being too busy to answer a question. You are such a patient advocate, and truly one of a kind! I appreciate you today, and everyday!" — *Patricia Miller*

Dr. Shelly Ann Williams (Neonatology)
"Thank you for providing compassionate care for our patients and supporting care team members as well!" — *Allison Broomall*

Dr. Sarah Stapleton (Internal Medicine)
"Thanks for all you do for all of your patients. You truly go above and beyond to provide the best care, and today we say thank you!" — *Paula Sutton*

Dr. David White (Pediatric ENT), Dr. Cory Furse (Pediatric Anesthesiology), Dr. Marc Hassid (Pediatric Anesthesiology), Dr. Mike Sabbagh (Pediatric Anesthesiology), Dr. Andrew Savage (Pediatric Cardiology)
"Thank you for your leadership! You treat all care team members with respect and dignity, promoting teamwork. It has been a pleasure to work with you." — *Tammy Thompson*

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SCHOLARS *Continued from Page Four*

opportunities that CRA provides for children who may not be able to attend a traditional summer camp. We raised more than enough money to send three kids to camp and sparked interest among the students and employees of MUSC regarding volunteer opportunities at the camp. For more information about Camp Rise Above, please visit its website at campriseabove.org

ADVOCACY

By Timothy Nicolette

As the Advocacy group for presidential scholars, we partnered with Caitlin Kratz, program administrator of the Medication Assisted Treatment Program at the Charleston Center. Through our partnership, we strived to promote awareness about opioid misuse and overdose as well as increase training for the proper use of Narcan – opioid reversal medication. The opioid crisis has resulted in an increasing number of deaths each year, with South Carolina among the most heavily affected states in the country. Narcan is one of the only options to prevent death due to opioid overdose. Unfortunately, many are still unaware of its availability or how and when to administer Narcan to someone in need. Considering medical professionals are at the front lines of the opioid epidemic, we decided to target medical students by organizing a lunch and learn seminar as an outlet for Kratz to train interested students and faculty on the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and the proper administration of Narcan. To maximize the effectiveness of the seminar, we printed and distributed dozens of handouts that outlined the signs of an opioid overdose and step-by-step Narcan instructions that could potentially save countless lives. The seminar was well attended and, according to data collected via a survey, the attendees felt more confident in identifying an opioid overdose and administering Narcan. Though the seminar only represented a small step in



the right direction, we have established a long and lasting partnership with Kratz and the Charleston Center that will continue to advocate life-saving education for the opioid epidemic. It is our hope that our work will prevent future deaths caused by opioid overdose and shed light on the ever-growing opioid epidemic.

POLICY

By Jessica Giannotti

The Policy group has committed itself to serving the Charleston community this year through the Charleston Clemente Course Health Awareness Certificate (HAC) program. The Clemente Course is a national humanities educational program for disadvantaged individuals. Our group helped to pioneer an online curriculum in insurance and low-cost health care for the HAC program, a partnership between the Charleston Clemente course and MUSC. We partnered with experts to create videos, handouts, action steps and discussion questions. These materials will reach the Charleston Clemente Course pilot health care course, planned for approximately 20 participants this spring. The vision for this program is a national health care literacy program.

SCHOLARS DAY

Scholars Day gives the students an opportunity to present their projects and includes an interactive poster session that enables the students to talk about their work in more detail. This year, Scholars Day will be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 3:30 p.m. in the Drug Discovery Building, Room 110. All are welcome to attend and learn more about each of the projects.

Lastly, a very special thank you goes out to Dr. Hazel Breland who has been the director of the PSP for six years and a PSP faculty scholar since 2011. She has worked tirelessly to coordinate the program and give the student scholars the tools they needed to succeed in their work. We thank her for all that she's done to build the program and for being a great leader.

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