

Celebrating MUSC's Class of 2020

"I congratulate the dedicated faculty, staff and students who participated in developing creative ways to celebrate graduation. While this is not the usual pomp and circumstance that our graduates deserve, due to this historic and challenging time we find ourselves in, it is our way of ensuring that we honor our graduates and their outstanding accomplishments."

— Lisa K. Saladin, P.T., Ph.D.
Executive VP for Academic Affairs & Provost

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Diploma Pick-up

Doctoral graduate has heart for science, empowering others through involvement

BY CINDY ABOLE

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Some teens know early that they want to be graphic designers, dentists and professors. Others need to try their hands at many things before deciding where to plant their seeds. For Diana Fulmer, it was at science camp that she discovered where she wanted to plant hers. And science, from there forward, would play a major role in her journey — one that would lead her to the Ph.D. program at MUSC College of Graduate Studies and later, offers from the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Columbia universities.

Fulmer excelled at MUSC and in late April was selected as co-recipient of the college's 2020 Distinguished Graduate Award, and this week, she will graduate from the rigorous program.

"Throughout her time working with me, Diana has become an MUSC diplomat, an impressive experimentalist and philosopher as well as an MUSC community service leader and ambassador for women in science," wrote Russell "Chip" Norris, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology, in his nomination letter of Fulmer for this award.

"I'm truly humbled to receive and share this award presented by faculty and staff," said Fulmer. "I've loved my time at MUSC — especially the people and experiences. It has truly been an honor."

Originally from Aiken, South Carolina, Fulmer grew up in a nuclear Navy family — her father was stationed on submarines. Growing up, graduate education wasn't particularly a priority within her family. But for her, it soon grew to be, especially after she attended a summer science camp at Erskine College as a teenager. At camp, she learned about the science of agriculture and cloning plants. A lover of biology, she got to taste the first batch of French fries grown from genetically-modified potatoes. "I couldn't tell the difference," she said, excited.

After high school, she married sweetheart, Nate Fulmer, who shared her vision and value of education. The couple just celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary.

But Fulmer was intent on expanding her education, with an eye ever focused on a career in science. Even after nine years spent in unrelated jobs that included bank computer programmer, drive-in movie operator, video store manager, podcaster and property manager, she has emerged as an independent leader in the field of



Photo by Son Nguenyn

Graduate Studies graduate Diana Fulmer explains the uniqueness of viruses to fourth grade students at Mitchell Math and Science Elementary School. She and other students taught biology and conducted lab experiments as part of S.C. PEACH, a partnership with the school and College of Graduate Studies.

cardiovascular research.

"Honestly, I think having some life experiences guides you to where you want to be," she said. "There was a point in my life that told me graduate school is what I wanted to accomplish. There was no question in my mind."

EDUCATIONAL PATH

Fulmer mapped out her path. The couple moved to Charleston in 2004 and started her educational journey in 2008 at Trident Technical College before moving to the College of Charleston where she would graduate at the top of her 2014 class with a biology degree. The next year, she worked in the neurosciences lab of Patrick Mulholland, Ph.D., who encouraged her to apply to graduate school.

"I loved the collaborative environment at MUSC. Everyone was so helpful and welcoming," she recalled.

During that time, another of those life experiences would serve as a catalyst that would help to inspire and steer her toward MUSC. Her nephew, Atticus Goodahl, was born in 2009 with severe congenital heart disease at MUSC Children's Hospital. Diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, no left ventricle, he spent his first six months in the neonatal ICU and underwent multiple heart surgeries that would keep him alive.

"I observed how MUSC interacted with my family," she recalled. "And it left a really positive impact at the time with everyone. Especially me. I knew at that time I wanted to be part of that."

In 2015, Fulmer began her doctoral studies in the College of Graduate Studies, rotating through different research labs in an effort to determine her preferred area of research. That's when she was introduced to Norris, her primary mentor at MUSC.

Norris' lab studied the development of heart valves, specifically cellular organelles, called primary cilia, which are responsible for how valves grow and develop. Fulmer's work focuses on factors that disrupt the organelles and cell signaling.

Her work was published in 2019 in the American Heart Association's journal, *Circulation*, and later in a landmark paper, *Science Translational Medicine*.

Fulmer's time in the lab helped her hone her mentorship skills, teaching and lecturing. During her five years at MUSC, she also helped 25 students manage their lab projects. According to Norris, this experience influenced her ability to present and communicate scientific ideas effectively. She was recognized with numerous awards — from winning the Eric James Oral

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SCIENTIST *Continued from Page Two*

Presentation Award for first place in the 2018 Perry V. Halushka MUSC Student Research Day to winning multiple poster and oral presentations in 2017 at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden and most recently at the Heart Valve Society Meeting in Spain in 2019.

"Her teaching, mentorship and presentation skills are outstanding," said Norris.

NAVIGATING A DIGITAL DEFENSE

Like many doctoral students at MUSC, and all over the country, the idea of conducting their Ph.D. dissertation defenses would prove challenging during this time of coronavirus. Fulmer was no different. Instead of conducting a live presentation in front of her dissertation committee, Fulmer had to defend online via WebEx video conference.

"Diana impressed us by clear and independent thinking, developing her own hypotheses and pursuing those in her own way; obviously she was well-mentored by Dr. Norris. Under Drs. Norris and Lipschutz' guidance, Diana became one of the most productive students that our department has generated over the years," said Andy Wessels, Ph.D., vice-chair of the Department of Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology and co-director of MUSC's Cardiovascular Developmental Biology Center, who was an advisor.

But what she missed was the human interaction and subtle engagement with a live audience. "I hadn't realized just how valuable it is for me, as a presenter, to rely on small cues from the audience such as a person's nod in agreement or affirmation, a smile and other non-verbal expressions. It gives the presenter immediate feedback. Online, it's very different as you're only looking at a computer screen," she said, she was content with the situation as it allowed her to invite Nate and other family who listened in on her presentation. "It was an interesting experience, but had its upsides as well."

Fulmer is excited about her next step — post graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. Because of the quality of her innovative work, she was interviewed

"Diana impressed us by clear and independent thinking, developing her own hypotheses and pursuing those in her own way... She's become one of the most productive students that our department has generated over the years."

Andy Wessels, Ph.D.

by several highly regarded scientists in the field of cardiovascular research and later, offered postdoctoral positions at every institution she visited, including several Ivys. She'll be working for the next five years with accomplished researcher Jonathan Epstein, M.D., whose work with epigenetic regulation, developmental biology and cardiovascular medicine aligns with her research vision.

But Fulmer won't be relocating to Philadelphia as soon as she'd hoped. The current COVID-19 situation has put her plans on hold as Pennsylvania remains under a stay-at-home order until June 4. In the meantime, she's working a temporary postdoc job in Norris' lab, assisting with cardiac fibrosis and mitral valve prolapse research and setting up projects for incoming graduate students.

Instead of a commencement ceremony on May 16, MUSC will hold a special drive-thru diploma pick up for graduating students. She plans to participate, dressed in cap and gown, and in a decorated car, with husband Nate in tow. On Aug. 8, she'll participate in her college's hooding ceremony and reception at St. Luke's Chapel to recognize the Class of 2020 graduates.

"I have so many good memories and great friendships that I'll miss when I leave MUSC," said Fulmer. "Dr. Norris was a great mentor to me. He gave me the opportunity to present my research around the globe — around the U.S. and Europe. He also gave me the opportunity to work outside the lab and encouraged extracurricular activities and finding a work-life balance, which has made my experience at MUSC so great."



Photo Provided

Despite a busy lab schedule, Diana Fulmer, back row, right, always found time to support community activities planned by the Graduate Student Association, such as volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House of Charleston.



Class of 2020

MPH Virtual Hooding Ceremony

Please join us as we celebrate our MPH graduates

When: Friday, August 7, 2020

Time: 1pm-2pm EST

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Graduate ‘skates’ through dental school with confidence

By CELIA SPELL
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The whirring of plastic wheels on pavement pits David Riggs against himself as the rollerblades beneath his feet carry him at increasing speed around halfpipes, down ramps and across handrails. He spent most of his childhood strapped into a pair of rollerblades, cruising down streets and around skateparks in Conway, Arkansas. But lately, he’s taken to skating his neighborhood streets in Charleston with his 8-year-old daughter, Violet, while also attending the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine.

He graduates Saturday, May 16 and could not be more excited to start his next adventure as a dentist.

For Riggs, skating and dental school went hand in hand. Using skating as an outlet, Riggs felt competitive against himself, which was what he loved about it. “You only get better when you overcome your own fears – that’s how you learn and grow,” he said. “I apply that same mentality to my education, and that’s what got me where I am today.”

Riggs wasn’t always so sure where his career was headed. He changed his major

“You only get better when you overcome your own fears – that’s how you learn and grow. I apply that same mentality to my education, and that’s what got me where I am today.”

David Riggs

three different times in his first three semesters at the University of Central Arkansas. He started working at a hospital while in school and after a year found his way to the operating room working with a maxillofacial surgeon who had taken him under his wing.

Learning to manipulate wax and create implants in the dental lab reminded him of his first job as a kid. As a trade jeweler, 14-year-old Riggs worked with wax, molds and models. He even melted down a fork, centrifuged it and created a ring out of the raw materials. Riggs described it as dentistry in a jewelry lab, and he loved it. And this new dental assistant job stirred up a new desire in him. Next thing



Photo provided

Dental Medicine graduate David Riggs is presented with his white coat by Dental dean Dr. Sarandeep Huja.

he knew, he was back in college finishing his degree and applying to dental school at MUSC.

As class president for the past four years, Riggs felt instantly at home at MUSC. “From the time I had my interview, I felt the faculty’s warmth and welcoming spirit,” said Riggs. “I knew it was the right place for me.” Being class president also allowed him to interact with each student in his class, which helped him feel connected in a way he wasn’t expecting.

Riggs said his friends helped him become the best version of himself. “I was surrounded by brilliant people,” he said. “They really pushed me to work harder and build my clinical knowledge and skills.”

Tall with dark hair and blue eyes and the oldest member of his class at 39, Riggs has a lightness to his voice. You can hear him smile even if you’re not face to face, and his patients appreciate his good nature. He describes his favorite dental school memory as one where the patient pulled a fast one on him. Sitting in the chair with a crown on her tooth, Riggs’ patient pretended to swallow her crown accidentally and choke on it, just to see her dentist sweat. “We had fun – that was our dynamic, and it was great. But she

really got me with that one,” Riggs said of his patient, with a chuckle. “My heart sank into my stomach.”

His clinical focus in dental school was implant dentistry and prosthetics, and his work study for his final two years at MUSC centered directly on scanning and digital case design for prosthetic and implant cases.

Riggs and wife, Paige, have five kids between the ages of 17 and 2. They have an entire room in their house devoted to their kids’ artwork. With one son’s interest in drawing buildings and architecture and two daughters who delight in cutting and pasting, there’s hardly any room left on the wall to display their art. “It’s a great problem to have,” said Riggs. He wouldn’t have it any other way.

Just this past week, Riggs moved his family back to Conway, Arkansas, where he will work for an existing private general dentistry practice. He still plans to open a skate park for both his own kids and the kids in his community, and his oldest son will be a freshman at Riggs’ alma mater in the fall. “Go BEARS!” he added.

And the first thing he is going to do when COVID-19 is no longer a worry is to take his wife on a date. “Because she definitely deserves it!”

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- ✓ Reduce waste on campus
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Changing What's Possible MUSC.edu

MEET AUSTYN POSEY



Austyn Posey, Pharm.D.

College and how long at MUSC
College of Pharmacy; four years

Hometown
McAlester, OK

How are you changing what's possible at MUSC
By improving programs and supporting the needs of students as SGA president

Family and pets
Husband, Zach Posey (also graduating from the College of Pharmacy on May 16)

What is your idea of a dream job
Working as an ambulatory care pharmacist with prescribing rights

Music that is in your player now
Soundtrack to "Hamilton"

A must have food in your pantry
Pasta, pasta, pasta

Favorite quote
"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."
 — Norman Vincent Peale

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Suspension of print version of The MUSC Catalyst News during COVID-19 pandemic

The MUSC Office of Public Affairs and Media Relations has temporarily suspended the printing, delivery and distribution of its bimonthly publication, The MUSC Catalyst News, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your safety and that of our MUSC employees, students and delivery carriers is critically important. We are committed to keeping our readers informed about the latest novel coronavirus news and other important information that affects the MUSC community. We will continue to rely solely on the online version of our publication. Visit "MUSC Catalyst News in Print" at <https://web.musc.edu/about/news-center>.

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The fields might have changed, but his drive hasn't

Brazilian-born graduate gave up soccer for medicine, and never looked back

By **BRYCE DONOVAN**
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When Victor Araujo was in high school, he would spend his summers helping his dad. A cardiologist in Salvador, Brazil, Araujo's dad had a gift for listening to people – their ailments, their problems. Generous with his time as well as his knowledge, Jose Araujo was a kind and caring doctor, and his son couldn't help but notice that his patients – patients who were often very poor – felt a connection with him. But even still, they often would leave their appointments and never return.

Victor respected his father's kind heart and work ethic; he, too, felt the draw of health care. But that's where their passions diverged.

"I liked what he was doing and admired that he helped people's health, but deep down, I wasn't very big on the clinical aspect," Victor said. "I'd always been good at figuring out what makes a business work. I knew that's where I could make a real difference in health care."

So during the summer of 2012, Victor suggested that maybe the reason some of his father's patients weren't returning was because the doctor's primary means of follow-up was email.

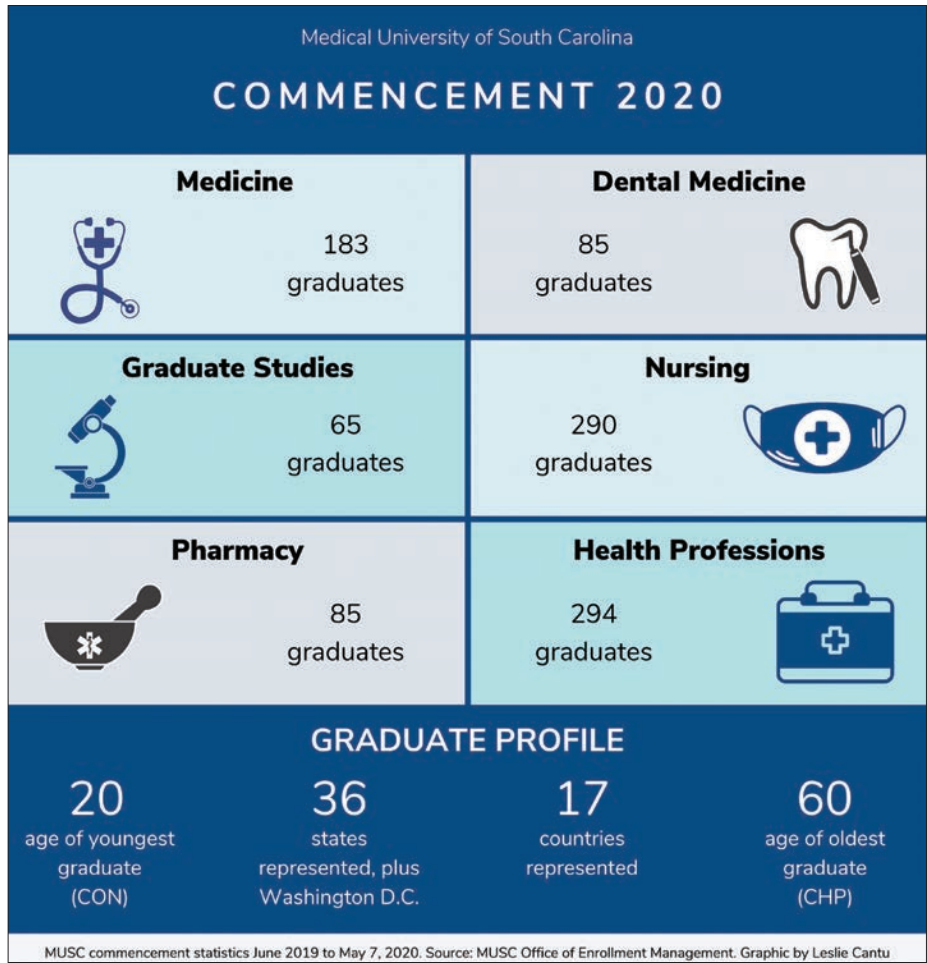
"I had a suspicion that many of these people didn't have access to a smart phone, much less a computer," Victor said. "I remember thinking there has to be a better way."

The teenage Araujo had an idea he thought might work. He knew of a



Photos Provided

Master in Health Administration graduate Victor Araujo, second from left, poses with fellow students at the 2019 UAB Case Competition in Birmingham, Alabama. Below Photo: Araujo, front row, bottom left, with his teammates of the San Antonio Football Club, where he played for two seasons.



computer program that would allow his father's office to make automatic follow-up calls to patients, checking on them and, if necessary, reminding them to schedule a subsequent appointment. It was a simple change but a critical one.

Not long after putting the new system into place, patients began to reengage.

"I remembered my dad saying patients were actually not only calling back to make follow-up appointments but just to thank him," Victor said.

161 other students – will graduate from MUSC's College of Health Professions, having earned a Master in Health Administration, a degree that should give him the opportunity to work within the leadership of a health care facility. Health administrators are the ones at the table when key decisions are made about human, financial and information resources.

Though medicine is in his family's blood, his future in health care was anything but a sure thing. In fact, there

CHASING A DREAM

This month, Araujo – along with

See **SOCCER** on page 11

HEALTHCARE HEROES TRUCK STOPS AT MUSC



Photo Provided

Justin Morris and Jasmine Ballentine pose in front of the Healthcare Heroes truck, which made a stop at MUSC's Horseshoe on May 11. Nurses and clinical staff were invited to take photos beside the truck, which featured rotating billboard messages of support saluting the state's health care workers. The truck, sponsored by the South Carolina Hospital Association, drove to hospitals across the state to salute and thank nurses and hospital teams during National Hospital Week and Nurses Week 2020.



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Triumph out of tragedy

Ph.D. student ravaged by death of daughter finds a way to persevere in face of adversity

By **BRYCE DONOVAN**
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It took a moment to register. Was it her phone ringing? A quick check of the time — just after 5 a.m. Another ring. Caller ID: Unknown number. Not good. Marcelaine Reneau answered with a whisper and what she heard on the other end of that call changed her life forever. Her 32-year-old daughter Saskia had been killed by her boyfriend. There had been an argument, the voice on the other end said. He ran her over in his car. Police said he fled the scene.

Time stopped for Reneau. “It’s that call you dread as a parent. But you never think it will actually happen to you.” Saskia’s boyfriend would later tell authorities that they had a fight, he was angry and was trying to leave. Her death was an accident, he said. “I do believe it was a horrible, terrible mistake,” Reneau said. “Maybe it’s self-delusion. Maybe I believe him for my own peace of mind. But driving off and leaving? How heartless is that? That’s what disturbed me. I felt that that’s what he should be punished for.” He was sentenced to two years in prison.

“There was no real satisfaction in that because it didn’t bring my daughter back,” she said. “It was just a really horrible thing to happen. His life, I’m sure, will never be the same again. But neither will ours.” Left behind were twin 12-year-old girls, their lives completely uprooted. Everything they knew changed in an instant. Suburban Virginia was swapped out for the rural Midwest. They would live with Reneau’s sister and her husband in Kansas.

Reneau, a then-54-year-old nurse practitioner specializing in pain management at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, went into counseling. “I had to come to grips with everything,” she said. “I felt like I wasn’t as sensitive to my patients anymore. I was like, ‘Who cares that your knee hurts? I lost my daughter.’ I thought, ‘I’ve got to get a grip on this.’”

FORGING A PATH

Reneau’s parents met while her father was stationed



Photos provided

Marcelaine Reneau, back row, third from left, with her family on Mother’s Day 2015. This was the last time she was able to celebrate the holiday with her daughter, Saskia, back row, far left. Bottom left photo: Reneau’s late daughter Saskia.



in Germany. She grew up there, going to what she calls “the American schools” before moving to the states at 16 to finish up in Virginia. It was during her senior year that she got pregnant. “Back then, when girls got pregnant, they were dismissed from school,” she said. Eighteen, raising a child on her own and being forced to repeat the 12th grade was more than she could take. She decided to get her GED diploma and move on.



Reneau with her mother celebrating her MUSC Ph.D. graduation.

See **TRIUMPH** on page 15

Partnership, leadership fuel married pharmacy graduates' success

Pharmacy graduates celebrate May 16

By HELEN ADAMS

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James Sterrett, an associate professor in the College of Pharmacy at the Medical University of South Carolina, summed up a lot of people's feelings about Austyn and Zachary Posey as they prepared to graduate. "You just look at them, and you're like, 'I'm proud that they're representing the College of Pharmacy.'"

The Poseys, who have been both campus leaders and academic achievers, are among about 80 pharmacy students graduating from MUSC on May 16. That day marks the beginning of a new period of their life as a married couple. Both have managed to secure residencies – no small feat in a highly competitive profession – to continue their educations. But the catch is that they will have to live separately for the first time in their marriage. Austyn is headed to Asheville, North Carolina, Zachary to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

But they have a plan. "We're going to be exactly 11 hours apart. We've done extensive research on this," Zachary said.

"Smack dab in the middle, five hours from each of us, is Cincinnati. We'll be spending some weekends in Cincinnati," Austyn said. "We're grateful to have the residencies, and we're excited to

learn from them, so we're trying to be creative."

The Poseys are no strangers to embracing change in their roles as students and leaders at MUSC. For example, due to the coronavirus, their final rotations in school have been done from home via technology instead of in person.

"It's been a little crazy," Austyn said. "Definitely," Zachary agreed.

But Austyn also saw some positive changes in their field driven by the pandemic. "With telemedicine happening and things, there's an extra push to get us prescribing rights. Because people are seeing, 'Oh, we can actually do testing for the coronavirus, or when it comes out, we can give vaccines.' People are coming to us in the community at CVS, at Walgreens, asking questions."

The Poseys are used to finding answers. Zachary has been president of their class in the College of Pharmacy for three years, a role that required a willingness not only to lead but also mediate.

"Our P1 year, just because things were so new, and we had a class full of 90 type-A personalities, there was a little bit of a lack of communication. It was causing some tension. I saw the opportunity to improve that communication so those tensions could



Photos Provided

Pharmacy graduates Austyn and Zachary Posey at their White Coat ceremony.

"I liked being that person who people could come to with their issues and help them potentially solve problems and make our class experience better."

Zachary Posey

be eased and our class could get the full benefit of having such a wonderful faculty and staff like we do at the College of Pharmacy," he said.

"I liked doing something even as simple as serving as a sounding board for my classmates. I liked being that person

who people could come to with their issues and help them potentially solve problems and make our class experience better."

Austyn served on the Student Government Association for all of MUSC, becoming campus president during her final year of school. "In those three years, I really saw the SGA evolve. I love the interprofessional atmosphere. Every week, you get to sit down with people from all six colleges and talk about how to help campus life improve."

Under her leadership, during the coronavirus pandemic, the SGA donated money that would have paid for spring activities to the student emergency response fund and the

See **COUPLE** on page 13



Austyn and Zachary Posey were married in Charleston while students attending pharmacy school at MUSC.

North Charleston native on her way to dream career as surgeon

By LESLIE CANTU

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Gathered together for a common purpose around the operating table, with nurses, techs and the experienced surgeons she hoped to emulate, Ka’la Drayton felt a certain familiarity.

“Being in surgery and having everyone at the table, it almost made me feel like a child back home with my grandmother, Carrie Drayton. We would always have Sunday dinner together and come together at the table,” she said.

Her grandmother’s death after her second heart surgery, when Drayton was 11 years old, inspired Drayton to pursue a medical career. The young girl sneaked into the ICU, despite her mother, Kim Drayton, telling her to stay in the waiting room with her younger brother, Abraham Doctor IV. She listened as the surgeon explained what was happening to their grandmother.

“At that moment, I knew I wanted to be the person on the other side of it, trying to do everything I could to prevent this from happening.”

The path to a medical degree was far from clear for the daughter of a single mother in a family where no one had attended college. But Drayton was determined.

Today, she is a graduate of MUSC College of Medicine headed to a general surgery residency at the University of Connecticut.

Faculty and staff who worked with her have been impressed with her drive and determination (“I can’t see myself doing or being simply average. If I’m not going to give my all, then what have I accomplished?” she says) but more so by how the values instilled in her by her grandmother continue to imbue her work.

Myra Haney Singleton, Ed.D., associate dean for student affairs, recounted just a few examples of Drayton’s contributions and leadership. She was named a Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholar, and through the program worked on getting free HPV vaccines to low-income residents of North Charleston, her hometown. She was selected to be a member of the Paul B. Underwood Jr. Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, for students and faculty who demonstrate excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, dedication to service, and are advocates for patient-centered, humanistic care. She served two years as director of Student Mentors for Minorities in Medicine, worked in the College of Medicine’s summer prep program for minority and rural students seeking medical school admission and volunteered at local churches, schools and health clinics.

Singleton remembers one moment in particular. Drayton was in the habit of stopping by her office to chat, and one day when she came by, Singleton was



Photo by Sarah Pack

College of Medicine graduate Ka’la Drayton has wanted to be a doctor since she was 11 years old.



Drayton says she’s never satisfied with “average,” and she’s thankful for her family and friends who supported her and for the MUSC faculty and staff who guided her.

Photo Provided

in conversation with a student who was struggling. The student recognized Drayton and said hello, and something sparked in Drayton.

“Ka’la said, ‘I know what you’re dealing with. I know what you’re going through,’” Singleton recalled. “She said, ‘I will help you.’ Ka’la started tutoring, she started mentoring, coaching, advising.”

Another time when Drayton stopped in, Singleton

was talking to a prospective student seeking advice for admission. Singleton asked Drayton to offer advice from her perspective, and Drayton immediately dropped what she was doing and printed an entire study plan for the MCAT, the notoriously difficult medical school admissions test.

See SURGEON on page 14

SOCCER *Continued from Page Six*

was a time — just three years ago, in fact — when it looked much more likely that his livelihood would take place on a soccer field rather than in a hospital.

Growing up in Salvador, Brazil, Araujo was no different than any other boy. He loved soccer.

“In Brazil, kids learn to walk, play soccer, talk. In that order,” he joked. “It literally is everything there.”

But unlike most other boys, his parents put education above everything else.

A healthy respect for textbooks didn’t slow his abilities on the pitch. In a country of more than 200 million people, Araujo and his soccer skills still stood out from the crowd. At the age of 10, the midfielder was recruited to play on a team sponsored by one of the two major professional soccer clubs in Salvador. From there, it was more club-level play and eventually, when high school came to an end, a full scholarship to play NCAA Division I soccer in the U.S. at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Before he committed to one dream come true, another tantalizing offer was placed before him — a contract to play professionally in Europe. This proved an opportunity too tempting to pass up. So Araujo opted for every Brazilian boy’s dream and put his education on hold in pursuit of becoming a professional athlete.

For three years, he had varying success with the Royal Racing Football Club Montegnee and Eupen, two clubs in Belgium’s second division. Though his game was solid, and on the rise, he felt he might still benefit from being a bigger fish in a small pond. So he headed to the states with a new offer — a full ride to Trinity University in San Antonio, one of the best academic universities in Texas. In his three years on the team, he became an All-American, scoring 20 goals and tallying 18 assists in 43 starts. Once again, the professional leagues courted him. This time, it was for an MLS feeder team, the San Antonio FC. The club signed him in 2015.

The pay was low but the opportunity great. As do many young struggling professional athletes, Araujo needed to get a part-time job to supplement his income. And that’s when his business savvy once again came into play.

SHARING A DREAM

Like most young people in the U.S., Araujo loved social media. He often posted photos to his Instagram account, showing him playing soccer, having fun, living a great life in America.

“I got lots of messages from people in Brazil who wanted to experience what I did,” he said. “We don’t have college sports there. So when they saw that I could get an education and play soccer, that was really appealing for them. They said, ‘I want that too.’”

Araujo, who still had one year left in school, partnered with a friend at Trinity — another young man



Victor Araujo spends Christmas 2019 with his family in Brazil. Among his large family, Araujo has two sisters — one who lives in Brazil and another who is studying abroad in Australia.

Photo Provided

from Salvador, Brazil — to build on a venture he had a few years prior. The goal, to help those kids attain their dreams. They would go back to Brazil in the summers and teach kids soccer and English. They’d help them to improve their corner kicks and SAT scores at the same time. Then, if all went to plan, they’d broker scholarships, arrange travel and help the kids obtain visas. Slowly, it started to work.

At first, it was just a couple of kids. But quickly, it started to grow. And what started as a side hustle became a full-on business venture.

“When we started getting calls from moms thanking us for giving their kids an opportunity to get an American education, we knew we were making an actual difference,” he said.

And as his company began to grow, so did his skill on the soccer field. That is, until his second season with the San Antonio club.

REIMAGINING A DREAM

When professional athletes retire, they often say quitting isn’t the hard part. Being honest about their declining abilities, that’s where it gets difficult. For Araujo, saying goodbye to pro soccer was tough, but being honest with himself that he might not ever become the player he’d hoped was much tougher.

In 2016, he suffered a major knee injury during a game. Rehab was a bear, and it took its toll on him. As is usually the case with being forced to slow down, it also gave him time to think.

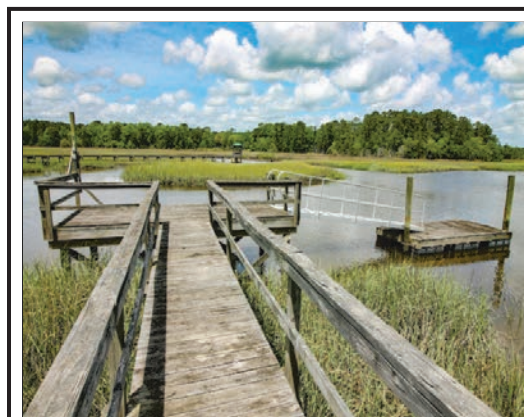
“I always admired my dad,” he said. “Not just as a doctor, but as a dad. He really helped give me direction. Growing up, he always preached the importance of a good education. And when I got hurt, he was right there again to remind me of what mattered most.”

Araujo was one of the lucky ones. Soccer didn’t define him. Thanks to an upbringing that stressed growth of the mind as well as body, Araujo made peace

with giving up the sport he most loved. Once he made the decision, he was fully committed to his building on his education. He wanted to get back to being that boy who helped his father all those years ago. He would go to school to become a health administrator. It would build perfectly on his biology and business majors from Trinity University.

Araujo did his research on respected MHA programs

See SOCCER on page15



<https://bit.ly/2yX1BIA>

Nurses celebrate Magnet redesignation, excellence with fun Nurse’s Week 2020

Nurses Week, May 6 through May 12, is a time to recognize MUSC Health nurses, and the nursing professionals, for the dedication and compassion they demonstrate every day.

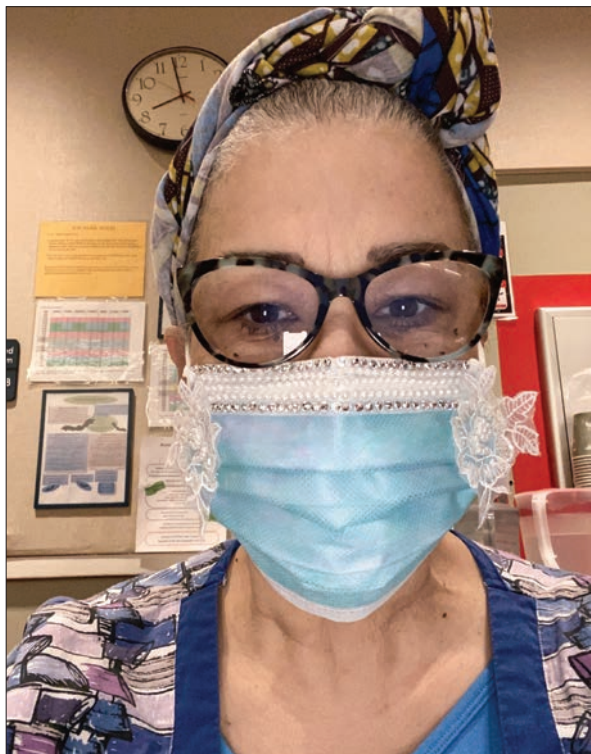
During this challenging time of COVID-19, nurses are appreciated now more than ever, as Nurses Week takes on new meaning in 2020. The pandemic has highlighted the inestimable value of nurses every day.

For MUSC Health nurse teams, it’s been a stellar time of good news with the

redesignation of the Magnet Recognition Program by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and culminating in Nurses Week.

The celebration included fun activities and competitions with Hawaiian Shirt Day (May 6), Crazy Sock Day (May 8), Mask Decorating Day (May 9-10), Fun Scrubs Day (May 11), Favorite Nationality Day and a special celebration of Florence Nightingale’s birthday on May 12.

Congratulations, nurses!



Top left photo: 8East nurses celebrate Florence Nightingale’s Birthday on May 12. Bottom left photo: IOPs Wanda Brown got creative during Mask Decorating Day on May 8.



Cardiovascular ICU Nurses enjoyed a Italian-themed potluck for Favorite Nationality Day. Right photo: Valerie Harris sports her best look on Hawaiian Shirt Day on May 6.

Letter from MUSC Chief NURSING OFFICER

Dear MUSC Health nurses,

During National Nurses Week, I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to Nursing Excellence. The past several weeks have not been easy ones, as the COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenging moments for all of us. And yet, during this time of difficulty, you continue to demonstrate compassion, collaboration, commitment, innovation, resilience and flexibility to meet the needs of our patients, families, community and fellow care team members.



Hart

This ongoing dedication to excellence is what led the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to bestow upon us redesignation in the Magnet Recognition Program with six exemplars. We are among the select few organizations in the nation who not only obtained the initial designation but have also achieved redesignation. Achieving Magnet designation for a second time is a direct result of the phenomenal work you do each day, including the tremendous outcomes that outperform other Magnet organizations and your continuous efforts to ensure patient safety. Even during these extraordinary times, I continue to see nursing excellence throughout our organization.

I am truly proud of you all, and National Nurses Week couldn’t have come at a better time to celebrate you! Most importantly, know that I appreciate everything you do, your teamwork, dedication and perseverance! I am so proud to work with all of you!

Thank you,

Patricia Hart, DNP, R.N.
Chief nursing officer
MUSC Health, Charleston Division

Photos Provided



COUPLE *Continued from Page Nine*

MUSC COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to help employees.

That's in keeping with Sterrett's view of the couple. "They just have strong morals, strong ethics. They do the right things for the right reasons," the associate professor said.

Their shared values were part of what drew them together when they met during a biochemistry class during their first year of pharmacy school. Austyn said Zachary's blue eyes didn't hurt, either.

Zachary said the chemistry was strong enough for them to put aside some advice they'd been given. "We both had several friends in years above us all give us the same advice: Whatever you do, don't date someone in your class because you're going to see them 24/7 for the next four years of your life. We immediately decided that that was a bad idea. We needed to break those rules. And luckily for both of us, we did."

They dated for two and a half years, then married last summer. Austyn likes having a life partner who knows what her job is all about. "That level of understanding is just wonderful."

Zachary agreed. "That's been honestly one of the best things. Being able to come home and say, 'I saw the craziest thing today or the coolest thing. This, this and this happened.' The person you're telling it to actually



Zachary and Austyn Posey's engagement photo.

Photo Provided

gets what you're saying."

Both also value what their MUSC pharmacy degrees will allow them to do – play an important role in patients' lives. "They may not have the ability to tell a physician or someone else what they're dealing with, or don't necessarily want to tell the physician or someone else, but they trust their pharmacist," Zachary said. "We have the ability and knowledge to have big impacts on patients' lives on a daily basis."

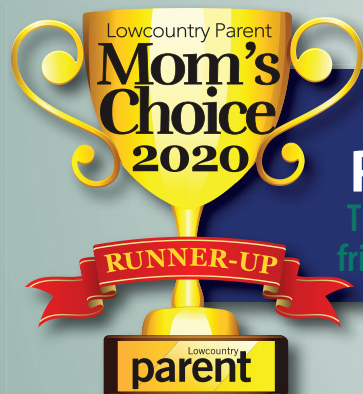
Being able to take the language that we learn in school, the scientific language, and be able to break it down to a common person's level of understanding –

that's just magical," Austyn said.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the College of Pharmacy's commencement ceremony has been canceled. But the students will be celebrated, nonetheless, although in an unusual way. They'll receive their diplomas in a drive-through celebration on the MUSC campus. Then it's on to their residencies in two different states.

Sterrett predicts success for them both. "They've been able to support each other through the whole process. It set them up perfectly to apply for and get accepted for residencies, which will advance their careers as well."

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SURGEON *Continued from Page Ten*

She’s also, Singleton said, the only student to receive the Dr. Thaddeus John Bell M.D. Endowed Scholarship, a scholarship for African American students in any of MUSC’s six colleges, for two years in a row. In fact, in a rare move for a scholarship namesake, Bell himself called Singleton to talk about how impressed he was with Drayton’s work.

Drayton has excelled academically as well. Between her first and second year, she worked in the lab of Russell Norris, Ph.D., on a team that investigated how genetic variations in the heart valve cells of a developing fetus could later lead to mitral valve prolapse. She earned an author credit on the resulting journal article that was the cover story in Science Translational Medicine in May 2019.

During her fourth year, she worked with Michael Yost, Ph.D., in the Department of Surgery’s Human Centered Design program. When she first showed up in Yost’s office to talk about how she might participate, Yost said, he realized “This person is absolutely perfect for surgery and research.”

She’s a self-starter — a crucial quality for someone in this program staffed by busy people who have no time for coddling — and a team player, Yost said.

The program put out a call to the surgery department for problems needing solutions. Submissions ranged from difficulty seeing well during certain surgical cases to how to help low-income patients who need expensive surgeries. The team then selected problems that members thought would have a significant impact if they could develop a solution.

Through the process, Yost said, Drayton learned a systematic method of identifying opportunities, evaluating what solutions already exist or could be adapted and then looking at possible solutions. She also got a taste of working in a multidisciplinary team. Academic medicine, Yost said, is — or should be — about innovation. Doctors working in academic medical centers are expected to lead the way in developing new techniques and solutions rather than simply relying on methods they learned in residency.

“I would love to see every medical student go through this exercise,” Yost said. “She’s well-positioned to be a



Photo provided
Dressed as an astronaut, Ka’la Drayton learned she matched to a general surgery residency at the University of Connecticut on Match Day, March 20.

“As soon as I’m inside the OR, I’m focused on exactly what the problem is, and we can’t stop until we fix it.”

Ka’la Drayton

leader.”

Not only is she a great student and collaborator, but she’s also “a genuinely nice, good person,” he said.

Drayton’s journey began in North Charleston. Although she had decided she wanted to be a doctor, she had no idea how a person might go about doing that. Luckily, two of her teachers at Alice Birney Middle School — now Northwoods Middle School — saw her potential and pushed her to apply to Academic Magnet High School. There, surrounded by similarly ambitious and high-achieving students, Drayton’s world opened up.

She devoured every opportunity that arose, including shadowing friends’ parents who were doctors. She kept in contact with those people through her studies at the University of South Carolina, where she graduated cum laude

with a degree in biological sciences.

After college, she decided to pursue a Master of Health Information Technology degree at USC. She had always enjoyed computers and building apps, and she loved learning about data collection and technologies that she might one day incorporate into a medical practice, as well as getting an introduction to bioengineering and artificial intelligence. That program along with a job she held as a medical scribe turned out to be great segues into medical school.

And always, she had her family in her corner as her biggest supporters. Singleton remembers that the first she heard of Drayton was when she got a call one day from a woman who said, “My daughter wants to be a doctor. Can someone help her?” From that first cold call, Singleton reached out to Drayton and outlined recommendations to follow prior to applying.

Later, while reviewing applications, Singleton was floored by Drayton’s.

“It was amazing. She did everything. She went above and beyond the recommendations,” Singleton said.

That drive to succeed continued throughout her time at MUSC, Singleton said. Drayton said she came in expecting

medical school to be difficult — and it was. But her expectations meant she was prepared to work hard and then push herself to work even harder. She never wanted people to assume she was capable of merely average work just because of where she came from, she said.

When it came time to choose a specialty, Drayton considered both surgery and pediatrics. Ultimately, she knew surgery was her passion. She likes the hands-on aspect and that she must face a specific problem and figure out how to fix it.

“As soon I’m inside the OR, I’m focused on exactly what the problem is, and we can’t stop until we fix it,” she said.

She decided on a general surgery residency so she can experience all types of surgeries before deciding if she’d like to specialize further.

She is both nervous and excited as she prepares to leave her home state and begin her career. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, she won’t get the chance to walk across a stage in full graduation regalia, shake the university president’s hand and accept her diploma. She had hoped her mother, brother and grandfather would be there for that moment. Nonetheless, she knows how proud they are of her. Her grandfather, William Drayton, is a man of few words, she said, but she can see the pride in his eyes.

Drayton is thankful for her family and friends who have supported her and for the MUSC faculty and staff who have guided her.

“It’s been nothing but love from everyone I’ve met,” she said.

She also has advice for students following in her footsteps.

“Always keep the faith. Never let disadvantage or roadblocks hold you back from your true potential. Everyone is put on this earth to do great things, and I know for a fact everyone is going to achieve those things. It may not be in the time frame you wanted, but you don’t set those times. You just stay the course and do what you feel is right, and eventually, it’s going to happen,” she said.

Singleton said she has no doubt that Drayton will succeed wherever she is.

“She has a light that illuminates every area she walks in.”

TRIUMPH *Continued from Page Eight*

The next few years were tough. There were several jobs along the way. While working as a paralegal, she asked herself the tough question: Is this how I want to keep living my life?

The answer was a resounding no, so once her daughter was old enough to go to school, Reneau decided to do the same. At 25, the single mother reinvented herself. She applied to Riverside School of Professional Nursing in Newport News, Virginia. In 1993, she graduated as a registered nurse with a job working in the ICU at Riverside Regional Medical Center.

"When you're the newbie, you get the night shift," she recalls of that first nursing job. "And part of my duties was to bathe the patients. I know it sounds weird, but it was actually something I loved because I felt like that was where I could give some tenderness. I could be gentle. That's a very vulnerable time for people. It just reinforced that I was doing something I loved."

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES

Though her surroundings changed many times in the decades that followed, her career path did not deviate. There was another daughter. A stint back in Germany. A son. A move to San Antonio.

It was there, in Texas, that she shifted from working in the ICU to the ER.

What stuck with her the most from that time was the undocumented immigrants who came in desperate, sick and oftentimes unable to communicate.

"That really gave me an insight into what it's like to live like that," she said. "I held a baby who almost died in my arms from meningitis. The mom couldn't speak English, but she trusted me to take care of her

*Photo Provided*

Marcelaine Reneau traveled with Saskia to Jamaica to celebrate her daughter's 30th birthday.

child. That job was a good reminder that nursing is an awesome profession."

In 2004, she moved to Hawaii. While working in Oahu, she went to school at night and earned her Master of Science in nursing.

"Believe it or not," she said, "that was my first traditional university setting. It was incredible. I said to myself, 'One day I'm going to be a professor, and I'm going to work on campus until they roll me out.'"

TRIUMPH OVER TRAGEDY

Two years later, she was back in Germany. While there, she earned her Master of Nursing degree. For the next eight years, Reneau worked on a military base in Heidelberg, Germany, until the prospect of being closer to her kids and grandkids — many of whom were back in the U.S. — brought her back. This time, she landed in Charleston.

While working at the VA hospital, she decided to try for her Ph.D., in the hopes of finally landing that teaching position she had dreamed of since leaving Hawaii. She was accepted into MUSC's College of Nursing program. Less than one year into the three-year program, she received that fateful call about her daughter's death.

"It was a nightmare," she said.

Though she was shattered emotionally, by some miracle, her schoolwork didn't suffer. She toughed it out and continued her studies without taking any time off.

"A tragedy like that can ruin a person. Tear a family apart. But I did some serious counseling because I wasn't going to let that happen," she said. "I needed to be able to function and be a good mom to my other kids."

It took time, but about a year and a half later, Reneau felt as though she had finally gotten back the compassion that helped her be a successful nurse in the first place.

This month, Reneau will join 127 students receiving various degrees from the College of Nursing. She also recently accepted a job as an instructor at MUSC, teaching in the very college she's receiving her diploma from.

"Now I've got that job they're going to have to pry away from me," she said. "I guess you could say I've finally achieved my goal."

SOCCER *Continued from Page Eleven*

and at the top of his list was MUSC. Though he had never been to Charleston before, his girlfriend had. "She told me how beautiful it was," he said. She also knew he'd love the Brazilian-like hot and humid weather.

"What appealed the most to me about MUSC was that it was in a medical facility. It's not just you go to class and learn about things, but it's set in the real world," he said.

So he applied and was accepted in 2017. As soon as he was on campus, he poured himself into everything he could — his studies, friendships, extracurricular activities.

"I wanted to participate in everything," he said.

And that he did. During his time at the College of Health Professions, Araujo served as coordinator for the student-run CARES clinic, worked alongside MUSC chief operating officer Tom Crawford and was nominated for numerous awards. He's fluent in Portuguese, English and Spanish and is getting stronger with French every day. He's already got a job with a medical consulting firm based out of Washington, D.C. Though not required of his job, he's also concurrently taking a supply chain management course at MIT, always looking for ways to improve his mind and add to his skills.

And though he enters the workforce at a difficult time for health care in our country, he realizes that it's one where the difference in good leadership can make a significant impact.

But the truth is he's already succeeded. He's beat a lot of the odds — overcoming language and cultural barriers, isolation from friends and family — and now he's armed with the necessary skills to make his mark in health care.

"I'm really excited to see how I can improve, innovate and grow in my career. I came to this a little later in life, but I'm starting to find my niche, and I am really excited to see what sort of difference I can make."

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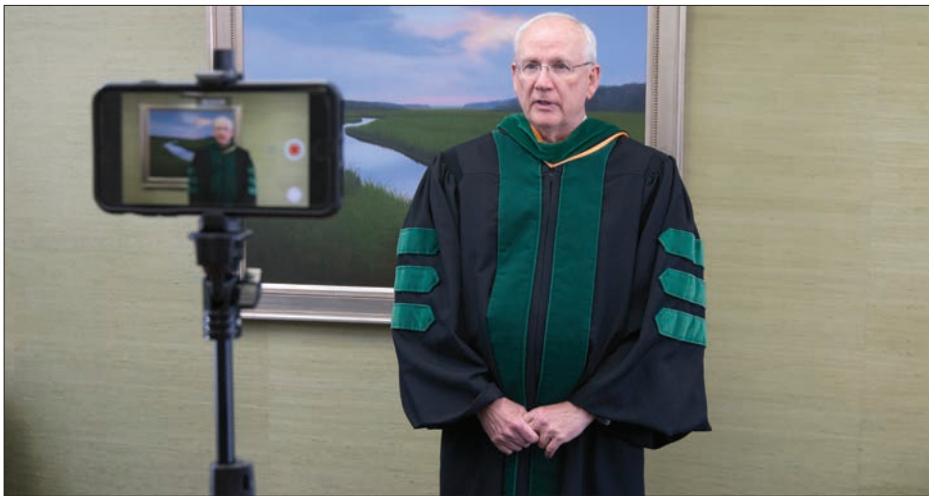
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Unprecedented times: Colleges adjust, revise plans to celebrate graduating students during COVID

By MIKIE HAYES
hayesmi@musc.edu

For 190 years, MUSC held commencement ceremonies to recognize its graduating students. Historically, the event marked a special occasion that celebrated the culmination of the students' outstanding efforts. Without fail, students from MUSC's six colleges would gather with their classmates and proudly walk across the stage to receive their much-deserved diplomas. But not this year. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the traditional graduation caps, gowns and hoods have been exchanged for masks, gloves and distance. The senior traditions, milestones and festivities they greatly look forward to from Year 1 forward were canceled as

college and university planners worked through situations they'd never before dealt with. Because of COVID-19, the colleges were forced to scramble, adjust plans and create alternative events and virtual recognitions that would replace large gatherings, ceremonies and celebrations. Unfortunately, graduation came at a time when an abundance of caution and adherence to social distancing guidelines became the new normal. Throughout Commencement week, gatherings for traditional oath ceremonies have transitioned to virtual events and celebrations and prerecorded greetings from deans, faculty members and graduating students. And while the students won't get their ceremonial walk across the stage, Enrollment Services is offering an alternative event complete with a drive-



College of Medicine Dean Ray DuBois self records his message to 183 medicine graduates.

thru diploma pick-up celebration for participating graduates. This event will be held at the Harper Wellness Center on the morning of Saturday, May 16.

Lisa K. Saladin, P.T., Ph.D., executive vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, applauded the hard work and resourcefulness of the college's faculties and staffs and university departments that have supported these unconventional activities.

"I congratulate the dedicated faculty, staff and students who participated in developing creative ways to celebrate graduation. While this is not the usual pomp and circumstance that our graduates deserve, due to this historic and challenging time we find ourselves in, it is our way of ensuring that we honor our graduates and their outstanding accomplishments," Saladin said.

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