



Photo by Sarah Pack

Milk bank technician Tanya Johnson puts labels on bottles of donated breast milk after they were pasteurized.

Donation spike lets milk bank, developed by MUSC, ease formula shortage

BY HELEN ADAMS

adamshel@musc.edu

A 20% to 25% increase in breast milk donations to the Mother's Milk Bank means the nonprofit, developed by MUSC, can expand its offerings at a time when some families are struggling to feed their babies due to a formula shortage.

"Our primary purpose is to help serve the NICU community," said milk bank manager Lindsay Millonzi, referring to hospitals' neonatal intensive care units. "However, right now, with an increase in donations, we are able to also have that service available to families who might need donor milk."

Families interested in buying from the milk bank can apply on its website at <https://musckids.org/our-services/milk-bank> (Note: fill out the "get involved" form and look for the "I am interested in" option) or call 843-792-5415 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. Once families reach out, a milk bank team member will call to go over requirements and the process.

Millonzi explained how the donor milk gets to the bank. It's a rigorous process. "When a mom has an oversupply of breast milk, she will reach out to us through our website or call. And the first step is a 15-minute phone screening where we discuss pertinent information like lifestyle, health and medications," she said.

See **SHORTAGE** on page 11

Weekly COVID update shows worrying trend: 'We just keep going up'

BY HELEN ADAMS

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With COVID cases up another 26% in the Charleston Tri-county area in the latest weekly update, the leader of MUSC's COVID-19 tracking team wants the public to be aware of the troubling trend following the holiday weekend. A lot of people gathered with family and friends, which can help the coronavirus spread. Meanwhile, the widespread availability of home tests means many positive cases go uncounted in the state's tally.

"My main worry is that if we want to live in a society where people are empowered to make their own decisions about taking precautions or not, it only works when they know what the information is. And it's important that they know that we are moving into a period of elevated transmission," said Michael Sweat, Ph.D.



Sweat

"We're up to 26 cases now per day per 100,000 people. Once again, I think this number's a massive undercount. It could easily be 10 times that number."

The previous week, it was 21 cases per day per 100,000 people in the Tri-county area. That was a 26% increase. The week before that, we saw a 121% increase.

"We just keep going up. It's exactly what you would

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AROUND CAMPUS

Trish Gallagher



Trish Gallagher, R.N., has been named new chief nursing information officer. She began her role on April 14. Prior to joining MUSC, Gallagher had an extensive nursing background in pediatric clinical care and brings more than 20 years of EMR implementation/optimization, clinical effectiveness and informatics experience.

She worked at Ascension Health serving as senior director of clinical products working specifically in nursing documentation with the Nursing Center for Excellence.

Christine Vitello



Christine Vitello, R.N., ART 5East and ART 5West nurse manager, was voted MUSC Health-Charleston's 2022 DAISY Leader. The DAISY leader is an annual award that highlights the contributions of front-line nurse leaders. Vitello was recognized for her leadership and establishing a supportive family-like workplace for clinical staff, patients and their families. She's also a strong advocate for nurses on her team.

Karen A. Wager



Karen A. Wager, DBA, professor and associate dean of Student Affairs at the College of Health Professions, was named the inaugural recipient of the Quint Studer Gratitude Prize for Teaching Excellence. Wager, whose career spans more than 35 years in professional and academic experience, teaches management and health information systems courses to students. She was recognized for her excellence in interprofessional education and bringing practical research to the classroom. Wager has received several teaching awards and accolades including a 2008 Governor's Distinguished Professor Award. She will receive this prize at the group's annual meeting June 9 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Other

MUSC has earned the designation of "Top Performer Status" in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2022 Healthcare Equality Index. MUSC is one of 251 health care providers nationwide to receive the "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer" designation. Top Performer status is awarded to health care facilities that attain a score of at least 80 and meet minimum requirements in each of the four criteria.

TREND *Continued from Page One*

expect, looking at the national map. Almost all of the Northeast, particularly the further north you go, they're all in the red now. And it's clearly migrating in our direction," Sweat said. Red areas of COVID tracking maps indicate higher levels of transmission.

"If these trends continue - I think they will - within a week or two, I think we'll be categorized by the CDC's community level metric as moderate and maybe go to high. Watching all this just says to me, the wave is coming. I mean, it's pretty likely that that's happening."

Sweat, a professor in the College of Medicine at MUSC, an adjunct professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a former research scientist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said hospitalizations are another trend to track. "Our hospitalization numbers are not unmanageable right now, but they're growing rapidly."

As of May 24, about 50 people were hospitalized with COVID throughout the MUSC Health system, which includes hospitals across the state. And some of those hospitals are in areas that are seeing even bigger COVID case increases than the Tri-county.

"The Midlands had a 38% weekly increase in COVID cases. Lancaster was 52%. And this one really got my

attention: a 118% increase in Florence. This is a very strong signal in that area that they're likely to have big numbers coming up, even though their case numbers are lower than ours."

Sweat said some of those people are likely to end up with long COVID. A large CDC study found that about 20% of adult COVID survivors under the age of 65 suffered from at least one post-COVID health problem that could be considered long COVID. That jumped to 25% for people 65 and up. The most common concerns involved respiratory symptoms and musculoskeletal pain.

"Long COVID is not something to mess around with. And it occurs among a fair number of people. It's a minority, but it's still a fair number of people," Sweat said.

He encouraged people to get booster shots to reduce their risks - and keep an eye on case numbers to help them make good decisions about their actions. "Summer kicks off a lot of travel. People come and go around the country, enjoying themselves, going to parties and get-togethers and bars. And all of those things are engines of transmission," Sweat said.

"And then as the summer progresses and we get hotter and hotter days, you get more and more closing the doors and having your get-together inside. I think that is likely what causes our waves in the summer."



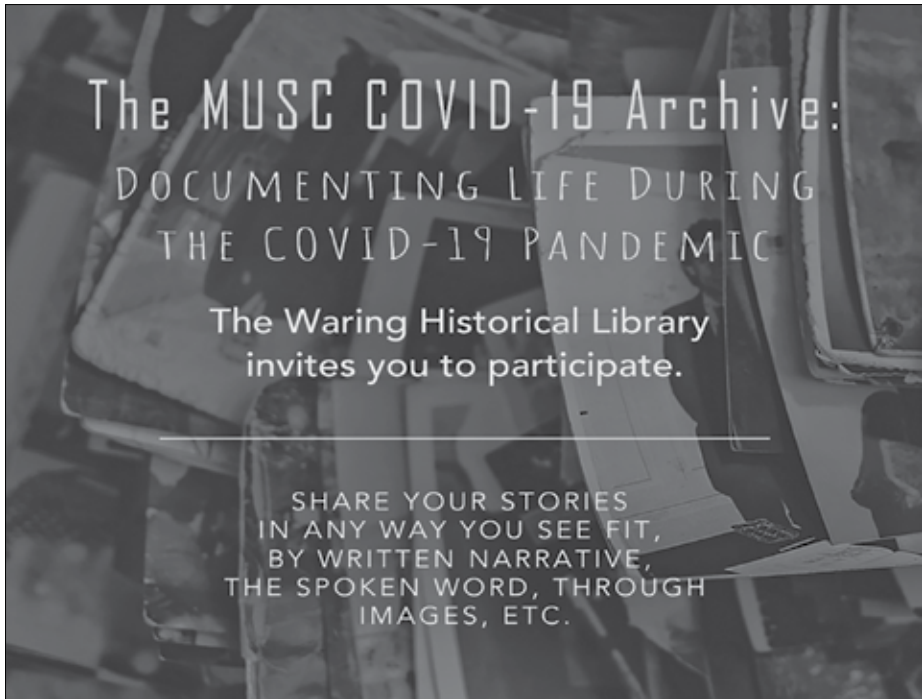
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MUSC-based mass violence center offers resources in aftermath of Uvalde shooting

Staff Report

The National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center, based at MUSC, is offering help in the aftermath of the horrific school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. The center's team has assisted in the wake of multiple previous incidents across the country and has resources at the ready for Uvalde. Its experts know just how difficult the coming days, weeks and years will be.

In addition to the resources listed at the bottom of this report, Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D., director of the NMVRC and a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at MUSC, released the following statement.

"Our team at the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center joins an entire nation in grieving for the community of Uvalde, Texas, and for the families of the 19 children and two educators who were senselessly murdered. It is difficult to comprehend such a heinous crime occurring in an elementary school — a place of perceived safety to children, teachers and parents.

We know that the impact of this horrific crime is immense. Lives have been shattered, and the close-knit community of Uvalde will never again be the same. We are fully aware that yet another mass shooting on the heels of the two crimes committed in Buffalo and Laguna Woods just last week is a painful trauma cue for the thousands of survivors and communities who have been previously impacted by mass violence crimes.

There are many trained professionals — including our team at the NMVRC

"Through our experience with numerous mass violence crimes and school shootings, we have compiled a number of resources that may be helpful to the community of Uvalde and to anyone."

Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D.

— who are committed to helping the victims, survivors and community of Uvalde. Through our experience with numerous mass violence crimes and school shootings, we have compiled a number of resources that may be helpful to the community of Uvalde and to anyone, anywhere who is affected by this tragedy.

These include tip sheets; information about a free, self-help phone app we developed; and contact information for agencies that may be able to provide you with additional assistance. Please take advantage of these resources to get through the upcoming days and weeks and remember to engage in self-care and love toward oneself and others."

The NMVRC was established in 2017 in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime within the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice. It focuses on giving victims and survivors access to evidence-based information and services, studying ways to prevent mass violence, preparing communities to deal with the aftermath of violence and bringing together agencies so survivors will have the help they need.

For links to resources for educators, parents, caregivers and teens, community and civic leaders, coping and victim compensation, refer to links in the online story at <https://web.musc.edu/about/news-center/2022/05/26/musc-based-mass-violence-center-offers-resources-in-aftermath-of-uvalde-shootings>.



Kilpatrick

Uvalde Leader-News

Thursday, May 26, 2022

News Sports Lifestyle Viewpoint E-Edition Obituaries NIE COVID-19 Classifieds Photos

Southwest Texas Services

Robb shooting claims 19 children, 2 teachers

May 26, 2022



At least 21 people, including 19 children and two teachers, were killed Tuesday after an 18-year-old armed with a semi-automatic rifle barricaded himself in a fourth-grade classroom at Robb Elementary School and opened fire.

Parents were waiting late into Tuesday night for their slain children to be identified, some giving DNA to officials to assist in the identification process. Many of those same parents had been on the school campus shortly before the shootings for an awards ceremony.

Two female teachers were killed in the shooting, and a male teacher was taken to a San

A screenshot shows a report by the Associated Press about the school shootings in Uvalde, Texas.



Second Wednesday of Every Month

Join us in June to hear more about
"In Our DNA SC: MUSC Population Genomics Research Program"

Virtual Lunch & Learn

Declining cost and improved technology have made DNA testing less expensive and more readily available. However, its use in clinical care has lagged behind expectations. MUSC hopes to expand the use of genetic testing in several ways. We've started a genomic screening research project called In Our DNA SC. Please join Dr. Daniel Judge, Director of Cardiovascular Genetics and Principal Investigator for In Our DNA SC to hear more about this study.

Wed, June 8, 2022
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EDT



Use the camera on your phone to scan and register for this free online lunch and learn session.



Dr. Daniel Judge is a professor of medicine in cardiology at MUSC. He is board-certified in both cardiology and advanced heart failure/transplant cardiology. Dr. Judge takes care of adult patients with inherited forms of cardiovascular disease, as well as congestive heart failure. As director of the cardiovascular genetics program, Dr. Judge has extensive experience caring for individuals and families with inherited forms of cardiomyopathy, aortic aneurysm, amyloidosis, and cardiac involvement from other genetic conditions.

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT - REGISTER HERE: musc.co/june

A new reality in surgery

By **BRYCE DONOVAN**
donovanb@musc.edu

Marc Katz, M.D., touches the man’s heart, ever so gently. Then he takes his index finger and thumb, presses them against the spot he’s interested in and ... he pinches.

To zoom out.
Thankfully, the cardiothoracic surgeon isn’t handling a real heart, rather, it’s an augmented reality (AR) model of a real heart, using a holographic headset manufactured by Microsoft and imaging software created by Virginia-based ClearView Surgical. If the surgeon and tech companies have their say, this is the future of surgery – and it’s not that far away.

Most people have heard of virtual reality (VR), a completely immersive experience that replaces your real-life environment with a simulated one. It’s everywhere these days: movies, video games, real estate. AR is slightly different. Instead of using a simulated environment, AR adds digital elements to your real-world surroundings. It, too, is starting to creep into everyday life. Want to see how that couch looks in

your living room? Open up an app and you can see for yourself. That’s AR.
As Katz manipulates the organ in all different directions, he looks like someone trying to walk in a dark room – hands out in front, gently feeling for furniture or walls. But from Katz’s perspective, thanks to AR, what he sees is a very real looking heart hovering above his second-floor office desk.

How it works is – and this is radically oversimplified – the engineers at ClearView Surgical build exact 3D models of patients’ hearts (though it could be any organ; Katz said the heart is one of the more complicated ones because it is always moving), using the information from CT scans. In turn, these models then allow the surgeon to manipulate the heart in any direction. Need to remove a valve? No problem. What’s behind that ventricle? Let’s take a look. By marrying technology with medicine, surgeons like Katz will one day be able to look at – and touch – a patient’s heart without actually opening them up. The result: zero risk, tons of reward.

Though not yet used in actual practice (Katz and ClearView Surgical seem to



Photos by Sarah Pack

No, he’s not conducting an orchestra, rather, cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Marc Katz is testing out augmented reality in the hopes of one day adding it as a tool to help with complex surgeries.

think we’re still at least a year away), an idea that once seemed like a Hollywood fantasy is now a heck of a lot closer to becoming science nonfiction.
“Imagine all the things this technology will allow us to do,” Katz said. Take the heart apart, turn it upside down, you name it – it’s possible, he said. All without endangering the patient. Katz even thinks the technology could eventually lead to performing mock surgeries, which would allow the surgeon the luxury of experimentation.

Dan Neuwirth, co-owner of ClearView Surgical, said that despite radical improvements in imaging technology over the years, how doctors view the images has remained largely unchanged since the 1950s. For the past 70 or so years, folks in the medical field have looked at those images on film or computer screens. In other words, it’s all 2D. Sure, technology has allowed for simulating three dimensions, but in the end, the image the doctor is looking at is still flat.

Neuwirth and fellow co-owner Daniel Salzberg knew there was a tremendous opportunity, utilizing current technology, to change that. So they approached Katz and a handful of other surgeons across the country and asked for feedback. It’s

a partnership where each side provides necessary value. Katz provides the imaging and the surgical know-how, ClearView Surgical makes the augmented version – so surgeons can manipulate it to their, well, heart’s content.

“With Dr. Katz, we get to tap into the mind of a super accomplished surgeon and together, we can come up with ways to improve patient outcomes,” said Salzberg.

“It really has been a great partnership. Dr. Katz is a very forward-thinking guy in terms of technology,” Neuwirth added.

Neuwirth and Salzberg see this as the tip of the iceberg when it comes to utilizing AR in medicine.

“Obviously this is a great help for really complex cases like Dr. Katz works on,” Neuwirth said. “That’s one end of the spectrum. But we also see this eventually helping out residents with commonplace surgeries as well.”

From a medical standpoint, Katz sees this as a first step in what he hopes will be a wide range of medical applications.

“Imagine being in the OR and taking the images we have and fusing them with three-dimensional images,” Katz said. “It would be like looking through someone’s body like I’m wearing X-ray glasses.”



The software uses Microsoft’s HoloLens 2, a device that anyone can purchase.

MEET LISA

**Lisa Stewart, R.N.**

Department; Years at MUSC
 MUSC Health Wound Care and Hyperbaric
 Medicine; 7 years

Family and pets Husband, Scott; sons, Mike
 and Nic; dogs, Foley, Ashley and Sullivan

What food is a must have in the pantry
 Green peppers and onions

A unique talent you have
 I sew (not many folks do this today).

Last book read "The Rose Code" by Kate
 Quinn

Beach or pool? Beach

Best thing about living in Charleston
 The history

Favorite place in the world Croatia

Favorite movie quote "Frankly my dear, I
 don't give a damn." — Rhett Butler, "Gone
 With the Wind"

Words of advice "Being above the ground is
 better than being below the ground."

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Dr. Jennifer Woodward
 Vice Chancellor for Sponsored Programs
 and Research Operations
 Professor of Surgery and Immunology
 at the University of Pittsburgh



MUSC Research Cores Day 2022

MUSC's Research Cores provide state-of-the-art expertise to support biomedical research. Whether collaborating with researchers or providing technical services, MUSC Research Cores are essential to discovering what's possible for patients. MUSC has many research cores that are open to investigators outside of the institution.

Join us as we celebrate the technical expertise MUSC Research Cores bring to the South Carolina research community. Research Cores Day will feature presentations, opportunities to connect one-on-one with core staff, and tours of select core facilities.

research.MUSC.edu

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 CMD Greenway
 Guest speakers from 12-1

In celebration of MUSC employees statewide

All year long, the MUSC family works tirelessly to provide excellence in patient care, education and research. To say “thank you,” MUSC leaders organized a variety of events to celebrate our most valuable resource — YOU. Thank you for all you do!



Photos provided

Above photo: In recognition of employees, MUSC Health–Florence gathered for a lunch cookout on May 9. Left photo: Midlands employees enjoy a picnic lunch celebrating Employee Appreciation Week in early May.

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Firefighter-turned-nurse, 'average guy,' named 2022 Nurse of the Year

By HELEN ADAMS

adamshel@musc.edu

Chief nursing officer Patti Hart, who holds a doctor of nursing practice degree, said that at a time when some nurses are burning out, Rosenthal is leaning in. At the Nursing Excellence Awards Ceremony recognizing him and other high-performing nurses, Hart read from the letter nominating Rosenthal. "Noah is always thinking outside the box. He's innovative, and we need that to solve health care problems."

But this creative caregiver didn't set out to become a nurse. "It was a second career for me. I was a fireman at first, and so I really homed in on the medical aspect of the fire service," Rosenthal said.

That brought him to MUSC Health in 2015 as an emergency medical technician. "Then I completed nursing school and started on the medical surgical intensive care unit as a new grad in January 2019. I really appreciated the opportunity that nurses get at the bedside to collaborate for and with the patients and their families to give them the different options and advocate for them."

His new career took off. "I currently serve as the clinical staff leader for the rapid response team, where I have the opportunity to still remain at the bedside and serve a role in the ICU and then serve a role throughout the organization by means of a rapid response nurse."

Rosenthal described what that involves. "The main foundation of rapid response throughout the organization, since its start, has been to prevent emergencies from happening. And so a large amount of our work is utilization of a modified early warning score that EPIC creates."

EPIC is the medical records system MUSC Health uses. "Once that list

is populated, we'll meet with med surg and telemetry nurses proactively about patients who have a high risk of deteriorating, requiring unplanned ICU admission. And so we really collaborate with the primary teams to ensure that patients are getting safe care."

So that's impressive on its own – working to predict problems and prevent them. But according to the nominating letter, Rosenthal does a lot more than that. "Noah is a genuine and uplifting person," who is "leading the charge for nursing recognition" and "connecting the nursing profession to its purpose," Hart said.

For example, Rosenthal has served as a leader in promoting a healthy work environment. "He's helping to lead work on decreasing workplace violence in the organization and the development and implementation of our behavioral emergency response team. As a front-line leader and a co-leader of the healthy work environment team, his insight is invaluable," Hart said.

Rosenthal said he enjoys giving that insight. "I would consider myself a helper. I find it fulfilling to help people, and it makes my day better when I get to help people."

He wanted the public to know something about his fellow nurses these days. "I think it's very evident that nurses are resilient, very selfless people as a group. We're really here for the greater good of people, and we really do care and about the care we provide."

Rosenthal wants them to be recognized for that care. He successfully pushed to increase the number of nurses and nursing teams honored with DAISY Awards for their compassion and skill at MUSC Health.

Rosenthal was among more than 60 nurses honored at the 2022 Nursing Excellence Awards Ceremony. The others were recognized as unit nurses of the



Photo by Sarah Pack

Chief nursing officer Dr. Patti Hart and Nurse of the Year Noah Rosenthal.

year. His honor recognized the impact he has had on the whole organization. Rosenthal said he was humbled by the award and happy to be part of the teamwork that gets the best possible outcomes for patients.

"I'm used to working with the team, and I feel like nursing is just that we kind of collaborate a lot of different disciplines here at MUSC. And we're just part of the team to ultimately impact patients and their families."





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MUSC 193rd Commencement Address: ‘Dare to be courageous’

Editor’s Note: Dr. Aundrea Loftley, assistant professor of medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Medical Genetics, was selected to give this year’s Commencement address on May 21. Following, are her inspiring words in full.

BY AUNDREA E. LOFTLEY, M.D.
easona@musc.edu

Class of 2022, thank you for entrusting me with the honor of speaking to you on this day.

Those who know me well are very familiar with my lifelong obsession with butterflies.

By the way, this obsession has nothing to do with the fact that there are almost 20,000 butterfly species; they get essential nutrients by drinking from mud puddles; they use their feet to taste, and they are unable to fly at temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit. A resident Charlestonian, I can relate to not functioning well when it’s colder than 55

degrees.

While all these facts do intrigue me, my fascination with butterflies lies within the deeper meaning of how they go about living their lives and how they come to be.

When I was a little girl, I would practice sneaking up behind every butterfly I would see, with hopes of catching the butterfly, not to put it in a jar but to simply prove I could be graceful enough to lay hands on one of nature’s most beautiful creatures. This became a thing, a practice, and I became very good at it. So good, my family gave me the nickname “Butterfly.” When I would let the butterfly go, I would often see the colorful scales from its wings, tattooed on my fingertips. Now, that butterfly had not started its day with the intention of being captured by a 10-year-old creature far bigger and stronger than itself.

Despite this, I never encountered a butterfly that didn’t fly away and resume



Photo by Anne Thompson
MUSC Health-Charleston’s Dr. Aundrea Loftley, an MUSC alumna and clinician, addressed the Class of 2022 on May 21.

its previous work after being released... unbothered, unashamed and undeterred. Looking back on these encounters many years later, I have come to recognize the

flight and resilience of the butterfly as being the most significant part of each

See **COURAGEOUS** on page 9

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COURAGEOUS *Continued from Page Eight*

encounter. You see, the butterfly had the courage to carry on about its duties despite encountering an obstacle, and it was the butterfly's courageous spirit and resolve that fascinated me. From these encounters, I learned that courage is the spirit of tenacity that lives in all things, including small things.

This story has so many parallels to experiences we all face in life. Many of you, while working hard to obtain the degree you will hold in your hands today, experienced obstacles...challenges...and maybe even setbacks. But these challenges were not great enough to stop your flight. These challenges, even a global pandemic, were not strong enough stand in the way of your trajectory.

Courage...What is courage, and to whom does courage belong?

Webster defines courage as mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear or difficulty.

As Maya Angelou spoke to the 2008 Cornell University graduating class, she defined courage as the most important of the virtues, and she said, without it, no other virtue can be practiced consistently.

In my own life, courage has meant having the resolve to do hard things even when a clear path is not visible. These have been the "test first, lesson later" moments in my life. The times I had to remember my grandmother's advice to "Always look up." The times in which my faith and hope for what was possible had to be stronger than any of my doubts. What does this mean for each of you?

This means having the courage to be innovative.

Each one of you has a brilliant, beautiful mind and each of you has been blessed with unique attributes and talents. The journey that lies ahead will require you not be afraid to harness these gifts and use your new platform to help create new pathways.

In your new lives, you will find yourselves in situations that will require you be both the visionary and the catalyst for change. Do not be intimidated but rather be humbled and energized by the charge. Build the bridges that are needed to help facilitate connections between



Photo by Anne Thompson

MUSC Class of 2022 graduates begin to celebrate receiving their degrees at the North Charleston Coliseum. Approximately 726 graduates participated in the ceremony.

the current state of things and what you wish to see in the future. Create the paths that have not yet been traveled but are necessary to help improve access to resources that would otherwise be unavailable to those who need them the most. Just remember...when building these bridges and forging these paths, you must always have the best interest of those whom you serve at heart and in the forefront of your minds. Have the courage to be creative and innovative.

Have the courage to be persistent.

Being successful, in any and every field, means working hard each day to become better at what you are doing. The primary goal is not to achieve mastery because the disciplines you have chosen will be ever evolving. The goal is to remain steadfast in your commitment to learning and growing because this growth mindset will lead to improved proficiency and execution of your craft. Most days will be great and will meet your mind's expectation of what you had imagined your life would be. Some days will be challenging, and the reward in those days will lie within the lessons learned.

On those hard days, it will take persistence and perseverance to come back to what had seemingly been too hard to understand or too great to tackle the day before. It will take persistence and perseverance to confront what may have knocked you down. But I am

confident, despite the challenges you face, each of you will rise to the occasion. Each of you when knocked down, will dust off your knees, get back on your feet and walk into the purpose that has been placed on your lives. Have the courage to be persistent and persevere.

Have the courage to be an advocate.

You all have worked hard and now have the opportunity to use your new platforms to help positively impact our society. People will look to you for solutions and yes, you will be the ones to provide guidance on how to navigate complexities. You will render solutions to problems that were once thought to be unsolvable, all while refining the techniques that make innovation possible. This is the part of your role that will come naturally because this is what you have trained for.

While doing this work, it will be equally important to tailor innovation to meet the unique needs of the communities you serve. Remember, in all that you do, regardless of the setting, there are people...communities who are on the receiving end of the decisions you make. So, do not settle for trends that have been reconciled as "the way it is." It will be important to ask why AND why not, remain intellectually curious and seek to better understand how we may bridge gaps in disparities, improve access to high-quality services and keep the community engaged in our efforts. Have

the courage to be an advocate for those whom you serve.

Lastly, have the courage to sow seeds.

One of my favorite past times is container gardening. There is something therapeutic about planting something small, nurturing it and watching it grow over time. I can thank my father and his Vidalia, Georgia, farm roots for this.

Each of you carries with you many seeds. These seeds represent all the life experiences and lessons you encountered on your journey thus far. These seeds also represent the promise you must keep to those who will come after you. You must promise to share what you know and sow these lessons as seeds in the soil so that the next generation can remember where they have come from and can thrive on the bounty of the harvest because they too will have much work to do in their lifetime. After all, our success is made possible by virtue of all the sacrifices of those whose shoulders we stand upon today. Have the courage to sow seeds and lift others up as you climb.

Now back to lessons about the butterfly: Did you know most butterflies only live for two to four weeks? Despite their short lifespan, the average butterfly travels approximately 4,000 miles. Can you imagine doing all that in a few weeks!

What if we all had the spirit of the butterfly...the courage to endure an arduous transition from caterpillar to winged beauty all because of our commitment to fulfilling life's purpose? What if we could have the courage to love our colleagues, neighbors and those whom we serve like we only have a few weeks to do so? What if we lived each day with the fire and desire to accomplish goals, big and small, because we placed immeasurable value on the gift of time? This class, the class of 2022, will teach us how to do these things, and because of your impact, your lives will be richer...and our world would be better.

So... what is courage, and to whom does courage belong? Courage belongs to each of you.

Congratulations COURAGEOUS Class of 2022, the world awaits your innovation, persistence, advocacy and stewardship.

Kids Eat Free at MUSC this summer

Returning for its 8th year, Kids Eat Free at MUSC optimizes health by providing adequate nutrition to children when school is out for summer break.

We are proud to be the first hospital in South Carolina to participate in a summer feeding program, and since its initiation in 2015, we have served over 27,000 meals to children in our community.

Kids Eat Free is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Summer Food Service Program and ensures that children have access to a healthy, balanced lunch in our cafeterias at no cost to the families or the enterprise. This year, with our continued partnership with the Lowcountry Food Bank, we will be serving at two locations – the Keith Summey Medical Pavilion, at 2250 Mall Drive in North Charleston, and at the Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital on the downtown MUSC

campus.

Food insecurity contributes to the rising cost of health care, and MUSC is proud to be a part of the solution. Participation in hunger-relief programs within health care’s existing infrastructure provides an opportunity to improve population health by increasing access to nutritious meals for those most in need.

During the summer school break, the Kids Eat Free at MUSC program will offer fresh, delicious cold lunches from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at both locations. The meals provide balanced nutrition and include grain, protein, fruit, vegetable and dairy

components. Chef Emily Cookson of the Lowcountry Food Bank has been cooking up mouth-watering recipes all

year long, sourcing fresh and local ingredients, and we’re ready for the kids to enjoy her talents. Our hardworking MUSC volunteers are again at the heart of this project, providing nourishment and good company.

Similar to the USDA’s regulation of school lunches this past year, we will not require financial justification for kids to be served; all children 18 years old and younger can participate in the program. Visitors, siblings or community members who meet this age requirement –



MUSC Health & Well-Being



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

regardless of their reasons for being at MUSC – can be served. Participants will be asked to eat on-site in the cafeterias, where the meals are served, in the company of their families or our MUSC volunteers.

Unique to this year, Kids Eat Free volunteers will also be providing referrals and additional resources to families to assist in creating more sustainable access to food.

To volunteer to serve or learn more about the program, please email nancel@musc.edu.

BRIHTE Leadership Academy is recruiting

The David J. and Kathryn Cole BRIHTE (Building and Retaining Inclusive High-Potential Talent and Excellence) Leadership Academy is currently recruiting for its 2022-2024 cohort of scholars.

The academy is a two-year leadership program designed to identify and prepare high-potential, diverse talent, among MUSC’s workforce.

Utilizing the NCHL Health Leadership Competency model, the method, which allows the organization to create an innovative approach utilizing a longstanding

model of “grown your own,” assists MUSC’s pipeline to excellence and inclusion.

The program is managed by Willette Burnham-Williams, Ph.D., interim chief equity officer and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Applications are being accepted until 5 p.m., Monday, June 20. For details and to apply, visit <https://web.musc.edu/about/leadership/institutional-offices/diversity/programs/brihte-leadership-academy>.



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SHORTAGE *Continued from Page One*

“As long as the mom meets the criteria, she will then complete a donor packet consisting of more health and lifestyle questions. Once that’s been completed and sent back to us, mom’s OB-GYN will be asked to complete a form, recommending her as a donor.”

Then, they set up the mother with a blood test – paid for by the milk bank.

“Finally, one of our team members, along with the director, will review the whole chart, from the phone screening, the paperwork, the OB-GYN form, the lab work, make sure everything is within our guidelines. Once mom is approved, we send out a donor packet. And in that donor packet, it will let her know where to donate.”

There are depots all over the state for milk drop-offs. But Millonzi said vetting the women who contribute through them isn’t the only thorough aspect of the milk bank’s system. “Once the milk is on-site, it’s carefully processed and pasteurized by the lab technicians. Following pasteurization, the milk is tested for bacteria to ensure safety and

quality.”

Milk that passes the test is then ready for when a hospital – or, now, a qualified family – puts in a request.

Millonzi said the milk bank, which is supported by MUSC Children’s Health, the South Carolina Neonatal Consortium, the South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative and Healthy Me, Healthy SC, has to stay flexible in terms of how much it can offer to the public because hospital demands and mothers’ donations vary from month to month. Its managers also have to keep costs in mind.

“We’re a nonprofit. We don’t make money off selling milk. The money we get goes to equipment, paying staff, running tests on the milk, buying bottles and supplies, and we provide free breast milk bags to our donors. There’s a lot that goes into it.”

Millonzi called the generosity of the women who donate their extra breast milk to help other families awe-inspiring. “Without them, this wouldn’t be possible. They love the idea of South Carolina moms helping other South Carolina families and babies.”



Photo by Sarah Pack

Lea Caldwell, right, helps a technician scan and package up milk to be sent off to an area hospital from the Mother’s Milk Bank.

The milk bank, the only one in South Carolina, is accredited by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America, one of 31 milk banks across the country that are part of the association.

Millonzi said the formula shortage has raised awareness about how precious breast milk is – and how important the milk bank’s mission is. “Some moms are donating now because they realize

other families are having trouble finding formula due to the shortage. We’ve had several say, ‘This situation has made me realize that I have the ability to help and give to this cause. Whereas I wouldn’t have really thought about it before.’ We’re just so appreciative of our donors. Not just right now, but through all the years.”



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS (I LOVE DAIRY)

ANTIBIOTICS

CREAMERY

MILK

BLOCK

DAIRY

ORGANIC

BUTTER

ENZYME

PASTEURIZE

CHEESE

FAT

PROTEIN

CHURNING

GOAT

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CLARIFY

GRADE

SOFT

CLOTING

ICE CREAM

UDDER

COW

LACTATION

YOGURT

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