It is a pleasure to bring you the spring issue of Excellence, keeping you informed on WellStar College’s continued contribution to our local and global community.

In this issue, we share with you updates on our programs and advances in our teaching methods, as we fully implement the use of the health sciences building Prillaman Hall.

One of the most exciting advancements is the development of our Simulation Center which will provide the opportunity to enhance the education and skills of students in the School of Nursing. As many of you in the health professions know, there is a growing interest in the use of simulation as a teaching method that enhances the knowledge and skills of current and future nurses. Our new facility not only allows us to implement the simulation teaching strategy, but also provides the environment that allows faculty members to research the use of simulation and to determine how to best use this methodology in educational programs. We are very appreciative to all those who have provided the resources and equipment to make our simulation program state of the art.

However, the new Simulation Center is not the only advancement in teaching approaches evolving as part of our new building. The new building boasts new Exercise Physiology Laboratory and a Biomechanics Laboratory. In this issue of Excellence, Dr. Stickney, Assistant Professor of Exercise and Health Sciences, shares with you how the psychophysiology component of the Physiology Laboratory is being used to enhance cross-disciplinary outcomes in teaching and research.

As the Kennesaw State University global initiatives and influence continue to grow at an exponential rate, the WellStar College is proud of our contributions to the globalization of educational opportunities at KSU and partnerships with colleagues internationally. We are planning to enhance our study-abroad offers for the coming year. We have faculty who are working closely with partners in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. All of these partnerships and resulting programs are excellent. However, we are particularly proud of our efforts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region). Over the past several months, the international news has been dominated by the images of the people in this region protesting in support of greater democracy and the opportunity for self determination and economic growth. The WellStar College has partners in many of the countries where citizens are advocating for a new reality. While our efforts in the region are non political and focus on educational partnerships, we have been working to assist our partners in advancing their educational offerings through consultation on educational programs and curriculum revision, as well as exploring other educational models and strategies and knowledge sharing.

Faculty from the WellStar College have participated over the past year in conferences, consultation visits, workshops, and cultural exchanges in Egypt, our partnerships with our global colleagues and their institutions contribute to the excellence of our College and to our ability to provide KSU students with a unique and valuable educational experience.

The Dean Speaks  Dr. Richard L. Sowell, PhD, RN, FAAN

Our partnerships with our global colleagues and their institutions contribute to the excellence of our College and to our ability to provide KSU students with a unique and valuable educational experience.

continued on p.2
The Dean Speaks (continued from pg. 1)

Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait, Turkey and Libya. We have made many friends in the MENA region and have been welcomed with great respect and hospitality. I personally visited Libya in January 2011, and I was overwhelmed by the hospitality with which our team was received. Rather than finding people who did not like Americans, I encountered openness to partnerships and a desire for our help in exploring how they could continue to advance their educational programs and have student exchanges with KSU. It is interesting to find that when people deal directly with other people, removing the political issues of governments, how much we are alike and how much we desire the same things for communities and families. For that reason, members of the WellStar College have closely watched the protests occurring in many MENA countries, hoping for the best outcomes for the citizens of these countries, as well as the safety and well-being of our colleagues. While some individuals and groups may see the unrest in countries like Egypt as a reason to pull back from our partnerships, we believe that our friendship and support for our educational colleagues is even more important today than last year. We hope to be a resource to university and civic groups who are now charting the direction for a new future. I am pleased to share that we continue to participate in conferences and workshops in the region both in person and through video-conferencing. The WellStar College has a particular relationship with universities in Egypt. Dr. Ibrahim El Sawy, who is a Vice Dean in the College of Kindergarten at Alexandria University, serves as the Regional Director of Arab World Projects for the WellStar College. Dr. El Sawy’s efforts on behalf of the WellStar College and Kennesaw State University have provided us with opportunities to work collaboratively with many groups in the MENA region and have enhanced the education of our students and the cross-cultural experiences of our faculty members.

In this issue of Excellence, I wanted to highlight the WellStar College’s partnerships in the MENA region and renew our commitment to supporting our colleagues in whatever way possible as they chart new directions for their countries and/or institutions. Our partnerships with our global colleagues and their institutions contribute to the excellence of our College and to our ability to provide KSU students with a unique and valuable educational experience. We hope our support and friendship enrich our colleagues to continue to enhance excellence in their educational programs, their society, and their lives. I look forward to the growth of our working relationships in the MENA region, as we all strive for a better world – one of Excellence.

International Conference on Health Care Systems in Gaziantep, Turkey

Sharing an Academic Model of Care

By Jana Mitchell

The KSU Community Clinic at MUST Ministries in Marietta is a signature endeavor of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services and its Dean Dr. Richard Sowell.

Under the direction of Donna Chambers, Professor of Nursing, the clinic provides health care to under-served population in the Cobb County area. It is a well-equipped facility and features up-to-date care environment. The clinic is a collaborative effort between KSU’s School of Nursing, Social Work and Human Services department, and MUST Ministries. The clinic also provides clinical opportunities for nursing and social work students.

During the Sixth International Conference on Health Care Systems, held from October 20 – 22, 2010, in Gaziantep, Turkey, Dr. Sowell presented a paper co-authored by Drs. Sowell, Kathy Adudell, Professor of Nursing, and Professor Donna Chambers on the KSU clinic’s concept: “Implementing the academic model of care for the under-served.”

Dr. Sowell visited the beginning of Zirve University futuristic concept of a higher education community.

The conference was sponsored by Zirve University. Dr. Sowell connected with people involved in health care from all over the world...China, United States, Middle East and Europe. Dr. Sowell commented: “It was an opportunity to share and to discover how people around the world apply health systems, what they have in common, and what’s different.”

During the conference, Dr. Sowell met with Dr. Joyce Fitzpatrick, former Dean of Case Western University’s School of Nursing and current member of The Institute of Medicine, who served as a key note speaker for the entire conference.

Dr. Sowell also visited Zirve University, a futuristic concept of a higher-education community. Built from the ground by the Turkish government, the university and its major academic buildings are planned to connect around a community - single-dwelling homes, apartments, stores, coffee shops, and student housing. So far, two buildings have been built, and foundations for other buildings are in place. The first academic class was taught last fall. Turkish
and international students, mainly from Africa, study there. Plans are being made for a full-scale curriculum as the university grows.

Within the conference schedule, conference participants had the opportunity to tour the city of Sanhurfa, known as Urfa. Urfa is situated on a plane, about eighty kilometers east of the Euphrates River. Urfa's history is recorded from the 4th century BC, but may date back to 9000 BC.

While in Urfa, Dr. Sowell visited two holy sites. “It was a spiritual and profound experience,” as Dr. Sowell described it. He saw the tomb of the Prophet Job, a shrine held equally in high regard by Christians, Jews and Muslims, and he visited a shrine built on the site where, according to tradition, Abraham “the father of many nations” was born.

A shrine built on the site where, according to tradition, Abraham "the father of many nations" was born.

WellStar School of Nursing Announcement

Dr. Jan Flynn, Associate Director of Undergraduate Nursing Program and Associate Professor of Nursing, was elected as the President of the Georgia Board of Nursing. This is a challenging position and demonstrates the confidence her colleagues on the Board of Nursing have in her ability to lead this important agency. This election as President reflects positively on Dr. Flynn and Kennesaw State University.

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If you have suggestions or comments about the publication, please send them to Jana Mitchell, Editor, at: jmitche2@kennesaw.edu
It’s been a humbling experience, but the manuscript that resulted from my dissertation study has finally been accepted for publication. We were rejected by several journals, and though reviewers never cited it as such, the greatest “weakness” in the paper may have been its negative finding – in our subjects, three months of regular moderate exercise resulted in no improvement in clinical markers of type 2 diabetes. Many other studies had reported significant improvements with similar exercise, so reviewers were very quick to recommend rejecting the paper and offer ideas regarding where we’d gone wrong in our study design – perhaps if we’d have controlled for this or that, they suggested, we’d have found significance. Meanwhile, it was frustrating to see them rushing right over, what I believe, is an important point – the more diabetic or even insulin resistant you are, the more resistant you are to exercise-induced improvements in your condition!

The effects of any given dose of exercise vary dramatically across people, and many factors influence the magnitude of response in individuals. It is becoming apparent that one important factor is baseline clinical status. The literature is filled with examples of how various measures of blood sugar management are enhanced in healthy “normal” people with almost any type or dose of moderate intensity exercise. However, the subjects in our study were all “pre-diabetic” which means that their blood sugar control had not yet descended to the point of diabetes, but it was below normal. Evidence is mounting that, as people become more resistant to the blood-sugar-lowering effects of insulin and are diagnosed as “pre-diabetic” or as having diabetes, the capacity for moderate exercise improve clinical status is markedly reduced. That is not to say that exercise is of no use in people with established diabetes – in truth, people with diabetes derive very meaningful benefits from regular exercise (though the role of exercise in managing established type 2 diabetes may differ from its role in prevention). However, it does seem that moderate exercise is more effective at improving insulin sensitivity and, subsequently, blood sugar control, before we get too far down that road to frank diabetes.

It is important to remember that the most common “pathway” to type 2 diabetes takes 15-20 years to travel (see below), so that by the time one is diagnosed as having diabetes, a sub-clinical state of disease may have been present for a long time. As such, it’s predictable that tissues and systems in the body are likely to be generally less plastic, and that applies to responsiveness to exercise. The old adage, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” seems truly relevant here. If your blood sugar control is good, relatively modest doses of exercise will help keep it that way. If you’re demonstrating some insulin resistance, or approaching pre-diabetes or diabetes, the earlier you engage exercise as an intervention, the more effective that exercise will be in reversing or arresting the progression of the disease.

**Buresh’s Blurb – Spring, 2011 “...an ounce of prevention...”**

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Update - Doctor of Nursing Science (DNS)  
By Tommie Nelms

The Doctor of Nursing Science (DNS) Program at the WellStar School of Nursing is in its second year of operation and is progressing well. The first class of students was admitted in fall 2009. Of the five students admitted in the first class, two remain in the program. The first class of students is in their second year of coursework and is making good progress in beginning to formulate their ideas for dissertation. Both first year students successfully passed their written Preliminary Examination at the completion of the first year of coursework, which affirmed for them that they were gaining the knowledge they need to become nursing scholars and affirmed for the faculty that they were successful in disseminating the necessary knowledge to the students. The five students admitted to the second class in fall, 2010 are in their second semester and are all doing well. All students in the first class opted to attend the program full time, while three of the second year students have opted to attend the program on a part-time basis thus far.

Students attend the program from throughout Georgia. Of the seven doctoral students, four are local and three others live in Barnesville, Valdosta, and Alapaha. The nursing doctoral students also come from a variety of practice settings. Three students are nurse educators in “sister” institutions of the University System of Georgia. Two are nurse educators at Kennesaw State University. One is a school nurse in the Valdosta City and Lowndes County School Systems, and another is a data manager within the WellStar Health System.

Students like the hybrid format of the program which requires them to attend class on campus one Friday and Saturday per month and allows them to complete the remainder of the coursework online through GeorgiaView Vista. Given that all the nursing doctoral students are busy nursing professionals, this format works well. Many of the nursing doctoral students have been quite successful at crafting financial aid packages for themselves from various sources such as Federal Traineeship funds, Kaiser Foundation monies, and scholarships from various nursing organizations. Several students teach in the University System of Georgia and have support from TAP, the university system’s tuition assistance program.

Faculty who teach in the nursing doctoral program have been extremely pleased with the progress and performance of the first students admitted to the program and look forward to the program’s growth and the event of the first graduation, which is expected sometime in 2012. As many of KSU’s nursing faculty approach retirement, they look forward to having the next generation of nurse educator scholars prepared and into practice.
Seeing students practice in the fully-equipped nursing skills laboratories and exam rooms in Prillaman Hall, it is nearly impossible to imagine that the laboratories were ever empty. Every piece of equipment is in place; the labs and exam rooms duplicate in detail real hospital settings, including the nurses’ stations.

Each nursing skills lab features more than a dozen hospital beds. Patient manikins, laying on beds and dressed in hospital gowns, are covered with real hospital sheets and blankets. Their heads rest on actual hospital pillows. The manikins are surrounded by authentic hospital furnishings and equipment. The list is long… anything from privacy curtains to over-bed and bedside tables, diagnostic sets, oxygen flow meters and vacuum regulators, vital-signs monitors, infusion and suction pumps, kangaroo feeding pumps, IVs hanging on IV stands, wheelchairs, glove boxes, even tissue boxes. The labs feature equipment such as defibrillators, medication and emergency carts, linen carts, and hospital scales. It all looks the same and works the same (except the mock defibrillators) as in a hospital.

Equally as impressive are the two health assessment labs that are equipped with twelve modern exam tables each, exam stools and lights, laptop tables, laptops, complete diagnostic equipment and even stainless steel kick buckets. There are 12 fully-furnished private exam rooms that now house state-of-the-art simulation equipment. In addition, a fully-equipped pediatric lab features along with simulation manikins a birthing bed, child bassinets and child beds.

The hospital rooms and labs can easily exceed any nursing student’s expectations of a realistically-equipped learning environment.

It also appears as if it all came about over night. Yet, Susan Horn and Jacqueline Wheeler, nursing laboratory coordinators, would not exactly call setting it all up an over-night endeavor. Susan Horn remarks: “We learned how to walk on water.” Although last year in August, they managed to move the nursing lab from the Nursing building #16 to Prillaman Hall in about three days, it was a tedious task to set up the new laboratories to their full functionality, finding the brand new equipment still in boxes neatly arranged on the floor, at their designated places.

Susan Horn comments: “At the onset of the move from the old nursing building, we packed for about ten days, moved in three days. We came in late in the afternoons and at night. During the day, we still taught in the old lab. But to open perhaps hundreds of boxes containing new equipment and to set up the the new labs, we needed help.” Doris Church and Pauline Nelson (both nursing instructors) and nursing student assistants lent a helping hand.

It was close to astonishing to see Bruce Winters, KSU facilities technician, install diagnostic sets onto panels that hid dense wiring behind them, without damaging any of it. Winters used the behind-the-scenes photos of the panels which the construction crew left behind for such purposes. He hung anything and everything including more than a hundred glove collector boxes. Oh, yeah!

“All beds are now perfectly working; all equipment works! Students are very appreciative! The labs are incredibly beautiful,” Wheeler says.

Wheeler and Horn now teach in the new laboratories four days a week. During a semester, they interact with and teach more than four times as many students than in the former nursing building.
Since summer of 2007, when Mary Beth Maguire, Lecturer of Nursing and Coordinator of Nursing Learning Resource Center, began working with simulation technology instruction in the School of Nursing at KSU, simulation potential has improved tremendously and became more user friendly and intuitive.

Why simulation? Mary Beth Maguire explains: “The driving force behind adopting simulation has been the challenge in the Metro Atlanta area to find clinical placement opportunities to accommodate all nursing students. Simulation presents itself as a natural alternative. However, we make sure that the simulation experience is educationally sound when compared to a clinical experience. The clinical is mandated, so the alternative has to be top-notch, cutting edge, and innovative.”

Simulation provides a real-life experience without leaving the school, and it contributes to students’ increased confidence that leads to increased competence. This route is structured and supportive of students. The instructional equipment is true to what is seen in practice, replicating real-life situations, without putting a real-life patient at risk. Through repetition, students become better prepared for working with patients in a hospital.

Maguire adds: “Holistic Nursing, a first-semester nursing course, is thought of as ‘all you wanted to know about clinicals but were afraid to ask.’ Students practice their skills in teams and work within an instructor-supervised simulation in nursing skills labs. It is a remarkable hands-on training. The same potential is true for pediatric nursing, where simulation tools, such as the SimBaby and the SimNewB from Laerdal, can be used to practice skills unique to pediatrics.”

High-fidelity simulators, such as the SimMan and SimMan 3G patients, designed by Laerdal, challenge and test students’ clinical and decision-making skills to practice emergency treatment of patients. The School of Nursing offers two 3G SimMan and three SimMan models. In addition, it provides countless simulation devices that also include 30 mid-fidelity “Nursing Anne” manikins, designed for scenario-based training for the care and management of a variety of in-hospital patients; “ResusciAnne” manikins to practice CPR; and several dozen “Nursing Kelly” manikins that are perfect for beginning education for in-hospital healthcare professionals.

The simulators’ usefulness is emphasized in that they can run multiple times in an eight-hour day. An example of this would be one of the undergraduate nursing courses which utilizes over 700 student contact-hours per semester. This is a structured, supervised time when students can practice not only real skills but also critical thinking under the direction of an instructor.

“We also have visitors from master’s and doctorate nursing programs, who come to learn what clinical simulation at KSU is about. Simulation aids to courses such as Complex Health and electives with contact hours and research. With the new Health Sciences building, we have the potential to integrate simulation more fully, using up-to-date Sim technologies and teaching strategies now and in the future,” Maquire concludes.
Validating Practices in Simulation

Dr. Jane Brannan, Associate Professor of Nursing in the WellStar School of Nursing at KSU, has been involved in simulation research for the last two years. The numerous, well-equipped nursing skills laboratories in WellStar College’s Prillaman Hall provide the ideal setting for this type of research.

“Now that we have more space and more opportunities,” Dr. Brannan observes, “we have a chance to build what is generally lacking: validating practices in simulation! Simulation works well as a teaching tool, but we want the develop evidence of its usefulness through research.”

Working with simulators, students are looking at the simulation manikins as real patients. “They learn to quickly recognize signs of acute deterioration, the urgency of the situation, how to deal with the patients and to make decisions about appropriate response and patient care. They learn how to ‘rescue’ patients in different situations. Many students treat the simulation manikins as real patients. In some cases, the students become emotional, suspending reality in learning scenarios,” she continues.

The instructor creates different patient case scenarios, controls the manikin and can actually speak for the manikin. Students are alone in an exam room, with the patient simulator manikin, making their own decisions. They apply in practice what they learned in class and see that it is working. The scenarios are a tool and a part of the simulator. Scenarios can also be designed by the instructor, with many definite outcomes in mind.

The instructor can review each student’s performance on a screen during the simulation as well as at the end of the simulation, when students can see their actions and subsequent consequences. There is also a video of what happens during the simulation. In addition, the simulation manikin keeps records of what happened to it, i.e. blood pressure, pulse, path of oxygen, abdominal pulse and so on.

“Students don’t get this type of experience with deterioration in the hospital setting. With simulation, there are do-overs as they learn how to prioritize and gain more experience before they graduate,” Dr. Brannan emphasizes.

One of the high-fidelity simulators, known as “Harvey,” designed by Laerdal, has been a proven simulation system to teach bedside cardiac assessment skills. Harvey realistically simulates nearly any cardiac disease at the touch of a button by varying blood pressure, pulse, heart sounds and murmurs.

What’s ahead? Dr. Brannan points out that, as part of a simulation process, the primary research focus will be the electronic medical records (EMR). Students will learn how to pull data from EMR. This is a giant step ahead in teaching. Every hospital has an EMR system already in place, but due to hospitals’ policies, nursing students are not allowed to use it in real clinical settings.

WellStar College of Health & Human Services Announcement

Distinguished Scholar Receives a Prominent Award

The WellStar College of Health and Human Services is proud to announce that Dr. David Mitchell, Distinguished Scholar in Gerontology and Professor of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, was the recipient of the 2010 KSU Foundation Distinguished Research & Creative Activity Award. The recipient of this award receives $5,000 in cash and a $5,000 professional development stipend.

Dr. David Mitchell is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in his discipline. He has an exceptional scholarship record, with over 50 publications (the majority in the top tier journals in his discipline), as well as nearly 40 invited national and international presentations, addresses, and workshops. The impact of his research is evidenced by the over 1,000 citations of his research, as well as the recognition of several of his articles as “classic” in the field of memory research.

For example in 2004, his dissertation was recognized as one of only 39 “great dissertations” in psychology between 1898 and 1996 (to be on the list, the dissertation must have been cited at least 100 times). He is not a solitary scholar, actively mentoring students and early-career faculty and co-presenting or co-publishing with them. As one his colleagues noted: “He demonstrates a passion for the pursuit of the advancement of knowledge.” Another prominent researcher in his field wrote: “The breadth of his work in this field is extraordinary; he has developed and maintained an important program of research that has been consistently of high quality over two decades.”

Dr. David Mitchell previously received the 2007 KSU Foundation Prize for Research & Creative Activity in the WellStar College of Health & Human Services, and the 2008 WellStar College Distinguished Research and Creative Activity Award.

Congratulations Dr. David Mitchell!!

Dr. David Mitchell, Distinguished Scholar in Gerontology and Professor of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science.
Diane Clinton McKenna was awarded January’s Employee of the Month by Staff Senate. Diane was nominated by an anonymous Employee Fitness Center member. The person stated: “Diane is dedicated to providing all KSU employees with the best possible experience. She regularly develops innovative incentive programs to entice faculty and staff to get involved in an exercise regimen. In fact, she not only hired people to provide new exercise experiences, but she also offers a wonderful boot camp experience several days each week. She volunteers to work individually with faculty and staff to help them design an individualized exercise program. If a faculty member is not able to attend the Center during regular hours, she makes arrangements to meet with the person early in the morning or late in the evening. She also offers fun incentives each season to help faculty and staff stay with the program.” Sherry Grable, Director of Center for Health Promotion and Wellness, commented: “I overheard one faculty member say that ‘she has breathed new life into this Center.’ Each week Diane continues to find new ways to help us reach our goals. We are very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and positive colleague. I believe that the efforts of this staff member have resulted in a significantly-healthier and happier faculty and staff.”

As employee of the month, Diane was awarded a $100 gift from the KSU Foundation, a $25 gift card to the KSU Bookstore, and a reserved parking spot for one month.
HPS Faculty Represented KSU during a Sports Conference in Egypt

By Jana Mitchell
The Egyptian Sport Federation invited KSU sport science faculty, Drs. Cherilyn Hultquist, Jennifer Beck and Tiffany Esmat, to participate in a conference: Sport of Arab Universities - Prospects and Aspirations. The conference took place in Cairo, Egypt, in October, 2010. Faculty members and researchers from various Arab universities participated. During the conference, our faculty presented the outcomes of current research on women's participation in sport, recreation and exercise. All professional presentations were informative and well received by the audience.

The visit also offered opportunities to meet representatives of Egyptian National Council for Sport, Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and faculty and administration of several Egyptian universities. Discussions were held about potential training courses in sport and exercise participation via video conference for students, as well as onsite training for sport administrators.

Another interesting aspect of the visit was our faculty's meeting with editors of Egyptian sport publications, Al-Ahram Weekly sports magazine, El-Achbar sports magazine and Rosa Yousef publication, to talk about possible visits of our students to observe the Egyptian sports media and their daily operations.

Dr. Hultquist reported: “We have established many connections with Alexandria University faculty of Physical Education for Girls, University Sport Federations and Clubs, and Egyptian sports media. Egyptian faculty expressed interest in future collaboration, and we have received invitations to attend faculty/student development workshops and professional conferences related to sport and exercise. KSU and the WellStar College have a very good reputation with faculty of Arab Universities and the media.”

Dr. Hultquist added: “We were hosted by Dr. Ibrahim El Sawy who took incredible care of us and kept us very busy every single day with meetings, presentations and workshops. Ibrahim also accompanied us to unforgettable site-seeing visits to Alexandria, Cairo, and Giza pyramids. The people we met were welcoming, hospitable and kind. There was a sense of warmth from everyone we met. This is an amazing culture!”

The positive results of this trip were consistent with several other trips to Arab countries by Dean Sowell and various faculty members, and Dr. Ibrahim El Sawy is currently discussing future projects with KSU faculty.
Continuing with Determination - Project IDEAL Going Strong in Diabetes Prevention  By Janice Long

WellStar Congregational Health Ministry has been selected for a Poster Presentation at the 24th Annual Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium in September. The title is "Diabetes Prevention for Hispanics/Latinos Using Community Health Workers (Promotores de Salud) in Faith Based Settings: A Collaborative Approach."

Hispanics/Latinos living in the United States are at high risk for type 2 diabetes. Community Health Workers (Promotores de Salud) are in a unique position to address the health promotion needs of disparate populations. Studies have demonstrated an increase in knowledge, self-efficacy and skills about lifestyle choices that can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. The challenge was to implement a community-based, culturally-relevant, cost-effective, and sustainable intervention to reduce the incidence of type 2 diabetes in our Hispanic/Latino population through the intervention of Community Health Workers (Promotores de Salud). WellStar Health System collaborated with Kennesaw State University’s Project IDEAL (Initiative for Diabetes Education Advancement for Latinos), a program that started in 2008, and the Health Ministry of two local Catholic parishes to develop a Community Health Worker (Promotores de Salud) program. Promotores candidates were selected from the congregation and attended a comprehensive training course. Health fair screenings were conducted by volunteer nurses and student nurses to identify participants at risk. Those with elevated blood pressure, BMI, glucose, and/or cholesterol were personally contacted by a Promotora and invited to attend a 12-week education and support program. Classes were led by the Promotores and health professionals from WellStar and Kennesaw State University.

Follow-up screenings were offered quarterly at parish health fairs and data was compiled on participants. Although the numbers are small, the data demonstrate that the Promotores de Salud succeeded in improving the acceptance of the health messages and resultant behavior changes in our under-served Hispanic/Latino community.

Global Health Video Conference

Building on the success of live video-conference sessions conducted in late 2009, which were committed to building bridges of understanding and promote peace through innovation, Dr. Carol Holtz, Professor of Nursing, and Ms. Walaa Compton, Director of International Academy for Women’s Leadership at WellStar College, in collaboration with Dr. Nematallah Gomaa, Professor of Nursing at Ain-Shams University in Cairo, facilitated a third video conference session between International Health Policy class students at WellStar School of Nursing and senior nursing students at Ain-Shams University in November, 2010. The live video session involved presentations from facilitators on health issues in Egypt and USA. Part of the video conference was a presentation by an Ain-Shams graduate nursing student on health issues facing women in Egypt. During the session, KSU and Ain-Shams nursing students exchanged questions and answers on top health concerns in both countries and the scope of nursing education. The session was concluded by identifying similar and different health challenges and the session’s impact on students’ perception of each respective culture. The feedback from the nursing students was overwhelmingly positive. They specifically praised the opportunity to connect and break stereotypes on both sides of the screen.

By Walaa Compton

The Promotores receive continuing education and support from WellStar’s Congregational Nurse, Project IDEAL, and the volunteer Health Ministry nurses at St. Thomas the Apostle. One program specifically requested by the Promotores was CPR training. The first CPR class will be held in July, in Spanish, taught by WellStar’s Congregational Nurse.

Promotores are beginning to expand the scope of their intervention beyond diabetes. In partnership with WellStar’s Genetic Counseling program, and funded by a grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Promotores will provide resources to increase the knowledge of and referral to genetic counseling services for this under-served population.
Undergraduate Program Prepares for Reaccreditation

By Jackie Jones

The Undergraduate Program of the Wellstar School of Nursing has begun the process of preparing for reaccreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The CCNE is an autonomous arm of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accreditation agency. It is the only accrediting agency that exclusively evaluates baccalaureate and graduate nursing degree programs.

Although a voluntary process, accreditation is critical to the reputation and prestige of a nursing program. Accreditation is designed to ensure ongoing quality, integrity, and quality improvement of a nursing program. The Undergraduate Program received initial accreditation from the CCNE in 2002. At that time, it received accreditation approval for the maximum time allowed, 10 years. Preparing for reaccreditation is a significant undertaking that involves an extensive self-study in which we examine our program for both quality and effectiveness. The CCNE has established four Standards with multiple key elements under each Standard. These Standards and key elements serve as the basis to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the nursing program and to hold the program accountable to the community of interest (broadly interpreted to include the nursing profession, consumers, employers, higher education, students, and their families). The Standards relate to our Mission and Governance, Institutional Commitment and Resources, Curriculum and Teaching-Learning Practices, and Aggregate Student and Faculty Outcomes. The Undergraduate Program must demonstrate significant compliance with each of these Standards and all key elements in order to achieve accreditation. From this process, a self-study report will be written and sent to the CCNE for review. After reviewing, a team of nursing peers, CCNE site visitors, will come to KSU and conduct their own evaluation of our program. Overall guidance for the process of self study is being provided by Dr. Tommie Nelms, Interim Director of the WellStar School of Nursing and Professor of Nursing, and Dr. Janice Flynn, Associate Director of the Undergraduate Nursing Program and Associate Professor of Nursing. Additionally, a task force has been created to spearhead the preparation. The members of the task force are nursing faculty Drs. Jackie Jones, Becky Shabo, Doreen Wagner, and Astrid Wilson. However, all nursing faculty will be involved with this critical process of reaccreditation. Many in the campus community may be asked to contribute information as we seek to gather the data and information needed to prove compliance with various standards and key elements. The support and assistance of the KSU community will help to ensure the success of our reaccreditation efforts.

Nursing Faculty Serves as Mentor

Dr. Mary Ann Camann, Associate Professor of Nursing, is working with nurses at the Kennestone Hospital in Kennesaw, on a project to assess the impact of caring moments and narrative reports on the outcomes of patient and staff satisfaction and patient outcomes. The Kennestone nurse manager researchers are Geri Jackson, Nurse Manager of 7N NeuroScience; Angela Robinson, Charge Nurse 5S, Bariatric/Medical Surgical; Darlene Moore, Nurse Manager 7 South Ortho/Neuro; April Mount, Nurse Manager 7 N – Ortho; and Kathy Young Executive Director, Acute Care.

Distinguished Teaching Award Nomination

Dr. Mary Ann Camann, Associate Professor of Nursing, was nominated by her colleagues for the CHHS Distinguished Teaching Award. Her teaching has incorporated elements of cognitive flexibility theory that has supported development of curricula that guides the transfer of information from one situation to another and the application of knowledge to various nursing practice situations. Students often lack the ability to see how information can be applied in various situations and with various types of client groups.

Dr. Cammann’s teaching approach is focused on development of learning moments that incorporate traditional educational methods with web-based materials, case applications, video case clips, and development of a tool kit of information sites and continuing education sites to assist students in their transition to nursing practice. This approach has also guided a project funded by the Mu Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau to elicit input from graduating students who are beginning their nursing practice and from managers of healthcare organizations to further refine the classroom to practice continuum. The integration of story-telling about clinical situations has also been developed as part of the learning process to promote the development of clinical wisdom.
Nursing Exchange Camp, 2011
By Barbara Blake

In November 2010, Drs. Janice Flynn, Associate Director of Undergraduate Nursing Program and Associate Professor of Nursing; and Barbara Blake, Associate Professor of Nursing in the WellStar School of Nursing, traveled to Woosong University in Daejeon, Korea. Woosong University is a private university established in 1995. The principal goal of the university is to train and develop globally-competent professionals for employment in Korea and around the world.

The purpose of the visit from the KSU nursing faculty was to meet with Woosong’s School of Nursing Director, Dr. Anna Hyun-Joo Lee, and her faculty to discuss future collaborations such as student and faculty exchanges. The Department of Nursing at Woosong University has only been in existence since 2009, and one of its primary goals is to improve the quality of life for Koreans by maintaining and improving the health of global citizens. It is the University’s intent that Woosong’s nursing graduates contribute to Korea becoming the “hub for Asian healthcare.”

One of the outcomes of the November trip was a recent visit of 14 nursing students from Woosong and the director of nursing Dr. Lee. The visitors arrived on January 21, 2011 and were at KSU for four weeks. During their visit, students attended the Intensive English Program that is directed by Dr. David Johnson, Director of the program and Associate Professor of English. In addition, the students took part in nursing courses and special nursing lectures. The nursing courses and special nursing lecture topics included ethics, diabetes, research, mental health, simulation, nursing in faith communities, gerontology, cultural competency, and study abroad.

The Korean students also spent time visiting local sites such as the Atlanta aquarium, Coca Cola museum, and Stone Mountain. The KSU nursing faculty and students made this a wonderful and successful trip for the Korean visitors. The Korean students learned about American culture by coming to KSU; at the same time, we learned more about the Korean culture because of them being at our university.

HPS Faculty & Students Attend the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Annual Conference, Greenville, SC
By Cherilyn Hultquist

KSU’s Health, Physical Education and Sport Science (HPS) department was well represented this year in Greenville, SC, for the 39th annual meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (SEACSM), February 3-5, 2011. The department’s exercise science faculty, 6 graduate students and approximately 20 undergraduate students attended.

Throughout the conference, attendees had their pick of oral communications, tutorials, symposiums, poster sessions, and featured key note speakers on topics including exercise physiology, clinical physiology, immunology, performance factors, exercise and disease, exercise psychology, body composition, and biomechanics, to name just a few.

Dr. Cherilyn Hultquist who also serves as an At-large Member for SEACSM was, because of this elected position, in charge of the audio/video component of the conference and was also able to sponsor some students’ attendance by selecting them as part of the KSU AV team. During the conference, Dr. Tiffany Esmat, Assistant Professor, served as the faculty advisor for the KSU Student Bowl team. The Student Bowl is an annual event where teams of students compete with each other in a “Jeopardy-style” quiz bowl, where the winning team goes on to represent the chapter at the national ACSM meeting. This was the first year that KSU competed. Among the 20 teams that entered, KSU finished 4th overall and 3rd when compared to other undergraduate teams. Topics included exercise physiology, pathophysiology, nutrition, exercise testing and prescription, and clinical physiology. Dr. John McLester, Associate Professor; Dr. Cherilyn Hultquist, Assistant Professor, and current graduate students set up a booth at the graduate student fair to advertise and recruit into our Applied Exercise and Health Science graduate program. HPS faculty is extremely proud of this achievement of our top HPS students.

In addition, Drs. Hultquist, Esmat, and Hornbuckle, along with several female undergraduates, attended the annual women’s breakfast which served as a networking and social event for female members of the chapter.
Medshare, Ghana and KSU
By Ardith Peters

Last October, KSU went to Ghana with Medshare, a highly-regarded NGO which ships surplus medical supplies and biomedical equipment to hospitals and clinics in developing countries. During this fact-finding trip, Dr. Ardith Peters, Associate Professor of Human Services, represented the University and the WellStar College to Medshare Board members and staff. Her task was to establish connections with Board members and executives and assess the feasibility of more long-term projects with Medshare. The trip was very successful in opening up new opportunities.

Most recently, a large delegation led by the Regional Minister (Governor) of Brong Ahafo visited KSU during the delegation’s stay in Atlanta. The Brong Ahafo region will be opening a new university next year, and there were many opportunities for partnerships. The only other institution of higher learning, besides KSU, that the team visited was Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

2011 Bobbie Bailey Awards
By Susan Whitlock

On Monday, February 7, the 21st Annual KSU Bobbie Bailey Awards for Athletic Excellence were presented to 38 top local high school female athletes in celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Speaker Molly Fletcher of Atlanta, and formerly the President of Client Representation with Career Sports and Entertainment, encouraged the recipients to recognize the platform of opportunity that athletic participation has presented them and to carefully build that platform. Known as an executive coach and motivational speaker, Ms. Fletcher noted how successful athletes quickly recover from adversity, and how successful people are inquisitive of and learn from other successful persons. The Bobbie Bailey Awards are sponsored by the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, the KSU Foundation, and the Georgia Association for Health Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The KSU Health and Physical Education Majors Club assists and ushers for the event. National Girls and Women in Sports Day was founded in 1988 to honor the memory of Flo Hyman, an Olympic athlete of the highest character who worked tirelessly to enhance opportunities for women in sports. The awards were conceived by the HPS Majors Club in honor of Dr. Bobbie Bailey, who is a long-time friend and benefactor of Kennesaw State University and who has supported KSU students by providing scholarships. The 2011 event took place at The Bailey and Family Performance Center, with over 300 in attendance.

The entire group - 38 top local high school female athletes in celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Speaker Molly Fletcher of Atlanta

Meeting the Mayor of Accra.

Fishing Harbor.

Beach front, Coconut Grove Beach Resort.

In the maternity department, La Hospital.
The Dialogue Continues: The Second Arab-American Dialogue for Persons with Disability  
By Jennifer Wade-Berg

Kennesaw State University’s Wellstar College of Health and Human Services in partnership with the Libyan Paralympic Committee hosted The Second Arab-American Dialogue for Persons with Disability in Tripoli, Libya, from December 13-15, 2010, at the Bab Elbaher Hotel. Experts from the field of disability represented the following Arab nations: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan, Bahrain, and Qatar.

Dr. Karla Wade, Dr. Jennifer Wade-Berg, and Dr. Ibrahim El Sawy, faculty members with the Wellstar College, represented the United States. The discussion focused on three key areas: the role of family support, the role of media and public awareness, and the role of civic, community, and nongovernmental organizations in the sport-disability movement. “We were very excited to attend and share our experiences and challenges with our Arab colleagues. The First Arab-American Dialogue was held on the KSU campus where we began our exploration of ways to integrate people with disability into broader society. For our second meeting, we continued the dialogue by discussing the role of three key stakeholders and how they impact the disability movement. Through the sharing of models and best practices, we were able to then move toward crafting an agenda for action,” said Wade-Berg.

Other recommendations included the establishment of an official website for The Arab-American Dialogue to be supervised by the Libyan delegation. Khalid Mohamed Rgibi, President of the Libyan Paralympic Committee, stated: “The Second Arab-American Dialogue contributed to moving us one step further in supporting the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities.”

KSU Community Health Class at PRIDE Atlanta 2010  
By Barbara Blake

In a display of public advocacy, undergraduate nursing students enrolled in the fall 2010 Community Health class participated in Atlanta’s PRIDE festival and parade held on October 10. Marching alongside members of the Metro Atlanta chapter of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC), the 80-member group donned ‘Stay Negative’ T-shirts in recognition of the disproportionate impact that HIV/AIDS has among members of the gay community.

The three-hour march took place in Midtown Atlanta where the School of Nursing (SON) students joined the ranks of numerous other WellStar SON alumni. Encouraged by the frenzied atmosphere of the crowd and buoyed by the significance of the public health message they were conveying, the students voiced unanimous appreciation for the event. Mindful that the soon-to-be nurses would encounter HIV-infected and affected clients in their future practice, this alternative learning experience showed them the gratitude Atlanta’s gay community has for healthcare workers who advocate on their behalf.

This group marks the third time that our community health nursing students have actively participated in a mass gathering geared toward HIV prevention and AIDS awareness.

Nursing students (with their families and friends) walked in the Gay Pride Parade held on Sunday, October 10.

KSU Nursing Students Serve on the Georgia Association of Nursing Students Board

The Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) is made up of all School of Nursing Associations (SNA’s) from schools of nursing throughout the state of Georgia. Each year, GANS hosts a state conference that brings together approximately 600 nursing students to conduct a state House of Delegates and to attend a number of personally- and professionally-enriching activities. This conference alternates between Athens, GA, and Columbus, GA. The state board, which includes similar leadership positions as found at the school level, SNA meets monthly throughout the year to plan statewide activities and the conference. Our nursing students from KSU are very active in GANS, with three members of the state board from KSU!
AWARDS

David Mitchell. Distinguished Research and Creative Activity Award, Kennesaw State University, 2010.

PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


Peter St. Pierre. Teacher of the Year for Colleges and Universities by the Georgia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (Nov 2010)


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PRESENTATIONS (continued)


Hart, P. & Davis N. (October 2010) Effects of nursing care and staff skill mix on patient outcomes within acute care nursing units. Podium presentation presented at An Evidence-Based Practice Toolkit for Bedside Nurses: Nursing Research Conference. Atlanta, Georgia.

Spiva, L, McVay, F., & Hart, P. (October 2010). The lived experience of mature nurses: Discovering ways that influence the mature nurse to remain practicing at the bedside. Podium presentation presented at An Evidence-Based Practice Toolkit for Bedside Nurses: Nursing Research Conference. Atlanta, Georgia.


K. Kulavic, C.N. Hultquist, and J.R. McLester. Motivational factors and barriers to physical activity among traditional vs. non-traditional college students. Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Meeting, Greenville, SC, Feb 2011. Kimberly Kulavic’s presentation was a finalist for the Master’s level student awards for Outstanding Research by a Masters Student.


Dr. John McLester, Dr. Cherilyn Hultquist and current graduate students set up a booth at the graduate student fair to advertise and recruit into our Applied Exercise and Health Science graduate program.

J. H. Jones, Health Literacy: Communicating Effectively with Patients with Low Levels. Poster presentation at the Georgia Association for Nursing Education’s annual 2011 conference.

Drs. Hultquist, Esmat, and Hornbuckle along with several female undergraduates attended the annual women’s breakfast which serves as a networking and social event for female members of the chapter.


PRESENTATIONS (continued)


Porter, K.J. (November, 2010). New PSC Teacher Preparation Requirements. Oral presentation at the annual conference for the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Savannah, Georgia.


St Pierre, P. E. (January, 2011). Plato was Right. A presentation at the 24th annual Sharing the Wealth Physical Education Conference, Jekyll Island, GA.

St Pierre, P. E. and Buresch, R. (November, 2010). PETE Standard 2 – Considering its Application, and some Real-World Implications. A presentation at the annual Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Conference, Savannah, GA.


St Pierre, P. E. and Buresch, R. (November, 2010). PETE Standard 2 – Considering its Application, and some Real-World Implications. A presentation at the annual Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Conference, Savannah, GA.


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