WellStar College of Health & Human Services
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The Dean Speaks
Dr. Richard L. Sowell, PhD, RN, FAAN

As the WellStar College of Health and Human Services looks forward to the new academic year, we are preparing to implement an awareness campaign to highlight the many exciting initiatives we are undertaking.

The health sciences building Prillaman Hall has provided us with opportunities that expand our outreach, our educational programs, and our pursuit of excellence both in the local community and globally. Yet, even more importantly, it has provided our faculty and staff with the opportunity to develop and implement new approaches to education, approaches that combine traditional educational modalities with advanced technologies that will be the hallmark of future education.

The theme of our new campaign, Innovative Health Education, defines the WellStar College and is the result of a yearlong assessment of the College and its initiatives by our faculty and staff, community leaders, and outside consultants. It was determined that the WellStar College has long been innovative in the approach to its academic mission. But now, it is time to take steps to heighten awareness of what the College offers outside the local university community.

Innovative health education can be seen in places ranging from the new Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics laboratories, the Nursing Simulation laboratories, the Brain Biomarker laboratory where research on stroke and head trauma is conducted, to the global video conferencing classrooms. Innovation is evident in the new Forensic Social Work courses that focus on child welfare, and in the new Inclusive Learning and Social Growth program that allows students with developmental disabilities to have a college experience.

While technology is an important aspect in our educational programs, I am proud to report that our faculty and staff understand that technology is not an end unto itself. Innovation is much broader than just adding on-line courses or upgrading teaching technology. The essence of educational innovation is in the spirit of those who design and offer programs that prepare students for their future and expand their world view. It is the willingness to take risks and construct educational opportunities in new and creative ways. Role modeling, risk-taking is as much a part of our innovative spirit as is the cutting-edge technology such as patient simulators in our nursing skills laboratories and the extensive biomechanics equipment in our Exercise Physiology laboratory.

An example of this adventurous spirit by the College members is represented in our work in the Arab world. The third Arab-American Dialogue, addressing workplace access issues for persons with disabilities, is now being organized to be offered in December, 2011, in Qatar, an Arab emirate, in Southwest Asia. At a time that building understanding and collaboration between the Arab world and the United States is essential, the WellStar College is taking a leadership role. Student experiences are being offered in many regions of the world and build relationships with global colleagues, as well as prepare our students to work in a global society (several of these experiences are highlighted in this issue of EXCELLENCE).

The spirit is seen closer to home. The College established the University Health Services that provide healthcare to the KSU campus community. We now operate three health clinics that offer a full-range of physical and mental health services. The innovative aspect of this initiative is that this nurse-managed clinic system is directly linked to the School of Nursing and serves as a clinical site for our nursing students, with the nurse practitioners providing mentoring to students at undergraduate and graduate levels.

The give Back Page provides you, the reader, with an opportunity to sustain the types of programs that have been highlighted in this edition of Excellence. It's your choice! Your donation can be directed to a specific program, as mentioned in this publication, or you may choose to support the overall mission of the College.

Why give? Imagine a world without a nurse to greet you at a hospital, a social worker to shepherd the safety of a young child, a health educator providing diabetes literacy to your neighbors, a nurse practitioner delivering health services to underserved community populations through KSU Community Health Clinic located at a

The essence of educational innovation is in the spirit of those who design and offer programs that prepare students for their future and expand their world view.

The spirit is seen closer to home.
The Dean Speaks (continued from pg. 1)

local NGO that provides food, housing, and social services to those in our community who are in need. Although offering such health services is both a logical and financial challenge, the innovative spirit of faculty members from Nursing and Social Work and Human Services departments has made the KSU Community Health Clinic an asset to all involved. As much practice as the clinical experience for students this site offers, the faculty and staff provide a deeper dimension to student education through role modeling. When some individuals might have found reasons why this type of offering could not be done, a group of our faculty members have determined that it will be done.

Yet, another example of the innovative spirit of the WellStar College is seen in our Inclusive Learning and Social Growth program. I have often said that this program is implemented on our imagination. It provides an opportunity not only for young people with mental disabilities to have a college experience and expand their potential in life, but it also adds a new dimension to the education of our other students who interact and mentor the students.

Dr. Richard Sowell, Dean of WellStar College, and Dr. Carol Holtz, Professor of Nursing, collected data from fall 2010 to spring 2011, from 102 consenting HIV-positive women subjects living in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, who were being treated at the Health Department HIV Clinic called COESIDA. Dr. Carol Holtz, Professor of Nursing, collected data from fall 2010 to spring 2011, from 102 consenting HIV-positive women subjects living in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, who were being treated at the Health Department HIV Clinic called COESIDA. They frequently were unable to discuss and receive psychological health care for these women and needed the understanding and knowledge among healthcare professionals of the neighboring countries. In addition, the newspaper quoted: “This form of experience exchange exists to promote the relationship between partners of the American Union.”

The study abroad included homestays with local families, working in two different hospitals, and KSU nursing professors, visiting the cultural sights of the pyramids of Monte Alban, the black pottery of San Bartoyo Coyotepec and the house of Dora Rosa, the rug weavers of Tepoztlan del Valle, the wood carvings of Arrozal, and the folkloric ballet representing the 16 cultures of the State of Oaxaca, staged at the Camino Real Hotel. In addition, students had daily one-hour evening Spanish lessons from the University of Oaxaca Language Center.

Wishing to request funding from the Mexican federal government for psychological health care for these women and needed documentation of their needs. She asked Dr. Sowell and Dr. Holtz to gather the much-needed documentation in order to request the funds. They had the help of Dr. Gabriela Velazquez and Mrs. Vicki Hernandez, a retired nursing professor from the University of Oaxaca. All interviews and data collection were done in Spanish and were translated into English so that the researchers could run the statistics here on KSU campus. Dr. Lewis VanBrakke, KSU Professor of Mathematics, along with his student assistants, will be assisting in the data processing.

Dr. Holtz, Professor of Nursing, completes the 16th consecutive Study Abroad in Oaxaca, Mexico

Oaxaca, Mexico, a city of 400,000 people, was the destination for the 16th consecutive year, for one of the KSU studies abroad, a two-week Nursing program elective course. During the study KSU nursing students observed and practiced with the personnel in the Doctor Auralio Valdivieso Hospital and the Guillerimo Zarate Mijangos Oaxacan Children’s Hospital in Oaxaca.

During a meeting at the Health Department Administration Offices, Dr. Germánio Tenorio Vasconcelos, Secretary of Health of the State of Oaxaca, extended a special welcome to the KSU group: Dr. Carol Holtz, Director of the Program and Professor of Nursing; Dr. Astrid Wilson, Professor of Nursing; and 12 students, Ruth Balas, Lois Dapay, Jennifer Dudley, Amy Dunn, Emily Everett, Justin Haggar, Erica Kent, Jessica Lasitowski, Kelly Moyes, Heather Scott, Hannah Secunda and Charmain Volmar. He especially welcomed Dr. Carol Holtz and emphasized the importance of her arrival in Oaxaca, and the study’s 16th anniversary in addition, the Secretary signed an agreement between both institutions to facilitate access to the local hospitals.

Local media interviewed the KSU faculty and students and took a snapshot of the group. The photo and the featured article appeared on the front page of the daily newspaper, “Oaxaca Dia a Dia” on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. The newspaper wrote: “The study abroad is the result of the committment of the Governor of the State, Gabino Cue Monteagudo, to strengthen the understanding and knowledge among healthcare professionals of the neighboring countries.” In addition, the newspaper quoted: “This form of experience exchange exists to promote the relationship between partners of the American Union.”

If you have suggestions or comments about the publication, please send them to Jana Mitchell, Editor, at jmtitch2@lanssew.edu.

SAVE THE DATE: November 18, 2011

The Children’s Advocacy Centers of Georgia and Kennesaw State University’s Department of Social Work and Human Services will join more than 900 organizations representing more than 130 countries in recognition of World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse on November 18, 2011. This year, we are pleased to have Chris Hanson, Emmy-Winning DニュースCorrespondent, as our keynote speaker. The conference will be held at the KSU Center from 8:30am-4:30pm. Please stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lisa B. Johnson at 678-797-2165 or ljohnso10@lanssew.edu. (Details on pg. 14.)
The fall 2010 issue of EXCELLENCE reported the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the opening of the new, nurse-managed KSU Community Health Clinic. Thanks to Dean Sowell's leadership, the Clinic moved that summer from a trailer location on Highway 41 at MUST Ministries in Marietta to a modern, well-equipped facility in Kennesaw.

For this issue, I wanted to feature an update on the new Clinic and scheduled a visit there. What I learned has changed my perception of the Clinic forever.

I met Jane Conaway, the only full-time nurse there, and Gary Palmer, from KSU Development, at 10:00 am, at the Clinic's front door designated to staff members. It led directly to a small kitchen.

I noticed fresh tomatoes placed on the kitchen table as we sat down and started talking. Looking back, it would have been natural to assume that one of the patients brought them for the Clinic's staff. I had a set of questions jotted down on a note pad. But the questions went out the window shortly after I heard the first answer, and when the conversation topics began to expand on their own.

Jane answered: “At the opening of the new Clinic, people lined up to tell their stories. We see more than 800 patients right now, we are not accepting new patients; we are not able to.”

According to Margarita Diaz, office manager and interpreter, the Clinic receives about 50 calls a day. The demand for the Clinic is immense. People from many backgrounds come in to seek care… the homeless, who lost health insurance along their jobs, the poverty-stricken, persons coming in from a shelter, and others.

Jane Conaway continued: “We are not just an extension of the School of Nursing and KSU. We provide a humanitarian outreach, and we save lives. Mostly, we treat chronic diseases… diabetes, thyroid disease, high blood pressure, and in emergencies, we can stabilize a person and refer to the hospital. We make a difference here. Some days are overwhelming. We do not have a lot of resources here and have to be creative. We make as much impact as we can. When we see a smile and how grateful our patients are, that’s the pay back.”

Donna Chambers, Nurse Practitioner and Professor of Nursing at KSU, who leads the Clinic, spends as much time as needed with each patient. She asks how their families are. There is no such thing as a 15-minute visit limitation. Other patients waiting to be seen don’t mind, knowing that they too, will receive the same attention.

The Clinic’s fee is five dollars per visit, and those who can afford it, pay it gladly. Those who can’t pay nothing. Some do offer more, even though it’s their last money. Prescriptions are written from a four-door list at the Wal-Mart pharmacy. The Clinic has a small amount of medicine available for those who are not able to afford those payments.

Jane commented, “This is my favorite part… we specialize in health education of our patients. We empower patients to take care of themselves. We give the responsibility for their health to them, and in turn prevent complications. That’s the difference we make here. This helps the health system and keeps people out of ER.” (Feedback from the nearby Kennestone Hospital).

Gary Palmer jumped into the conversation: “They (the clinic’s staff) are the gate keepers. What’s more, they listen and treat people with respect regardless of clothing, who they are, what circumstances they come from, and what car they drive. People are given a voice and some measure of feeling of being in control. Otherwise, people become hopeless.”

“What I see here,” Gary continued, “is very magical, and it sets the Clinic apart from other university clinics. When I drop in, I can see the magic and the passion for helping people. The staff here is well educated, and they haven’t lost sight of the fact that caring counts. They listen to what the patients have to say, but most importantly, they hear what they say. You can tell in their patients’ faces. They know they are being heard. The byproduct for the community is that here, they’ve done their job well; they helped other human beings; they helped save money and reduce cost in the health care system. Not a lot of universities with clinics do that.”

One of the patients, who initially came for help to MUST Ministries and was referred to the KSU Community Health Clinic wrote:

“I grew up like many of you. I went to college, did well and worked my way up the corporate ladder. Eventually I even owned my own business. Along the way, bad decisions stole everything, and I came to MUST a broken man. I checked into the Elizabeth Inn Shelter, went to the Kennesaw State University Community Health Clinic and began improving immensely. I was an overweight diabetic who needed treatment and nutrition counseling. I needed a job.

The KSU Community Health Clinic features state-of-the-art technology and equipment.

Thanks to Dean Sowell’s leadership, the KSU Community Health Clinic now rooms feature up-to-date equipment.

In addition, it is wonderful to have the KSU Nurse Practitioner students who come to the Clinic. They are heavily needed. To stay ahead of the curve, with Donna Chamber’s and Jane Conaway’s input, the Social Work Department steps in to counsel patients. Plans are being made for the Health, Physical Education and Sport Science Department’s involvement in promoting sports activities and a healthy lifestyle. All health departments are part of the Waller’s College of Health and Human Services, as is the School of Nursing.

Dean Sowell tries to make sure that the Clinic has what’s needed.

Gary Palmer concluded: “It was Dean Sowell’s vision that caused the clinic idea to be born. His vision was well ahead. When students come here, KSU is looked upon as a leader in education for Nursing.”

I had all kinds of feelings and images in my head when I left the Clinic. As I drove off, I glanced at the sign that said Kennesaw State University Community Health Clinic, and I knew that the real glamour of being a nurse with a degree meant working in a place like this.

On the next page, a special thank you note to staff and volunteers supporting the clinic.
A special thank you……can’t do it without you!

WellStar College’s faculty members and administrators contribute to the Kennesaw State University Community their time and talents. Kathy Kruszkia, Lecturer of Nursing and Adult Nurse Practitioner, volunteer on Mondays; Dr. Jamie Lee, Senior Lecturer of Nursing, who teaches mental health, sees patients at the Clinic one day per week; Dr. Nicole Marano, Assistant Professor of Nursing, volunteers on Mondays, and she is always ready to fill in for Jane Conaway when Jane has to be away. Dr. Beverly Maddox, Administrative Director of the Academy for Inclusive Adult Education Graduates First Alumni Contributed by Jennifer Hafer

It was a typical graduation scene: friends and family were gathered, diplomas were conferred, congratulations were offered and lots of photographs of the new graduates were taken. There were even a few tears.

Tifford said, “Specifically, (program director) Harry Storm and (program coordinator) Jill Sloan are absolutely amazing in their daily plight. Truly, everyone that has worked with Kelsey has been a positive influence. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the excellent professors, the Bursar’s office, the unsurpassed bookstore staff, the friendly Commons staff, the smiling parking lot attendants, and anyone who took the time to be kind and encouraging to our daughter as she has walked the KSU campus these last two years. It is refreshing to know people at KSU are choosing to see the possibilities and minimize any perceived disabilities.”

Program coordinator Sloan said Bizzell and Hunnicutt each brought different talents to the university. Bizzell was an “exemplary scholar,” she said, while Hunnicutt’s gregarious personality helped raise the visibility of the program. “I am very, very proud of you!” she told the new graduates. “You are so brave to be in the leaders in offering something that has never been offered before.”

Bizzell and Hunnicutt were part of the academy’s original three-student cohort, arriving on campus in fall 2009. The program has been so successful that three additional students will be enrolled in the academy this fall and a future collaboration with Georgia State University and the University of Georgia will create a consortium dedicated to replicating the program throughout the University System of Georgia’s 35 colleges and universities.

Plan call for enrolling 25 students in the academy by 2012, and that’s welcome news to Karl Wade, the transition specialist for Cobb County Schools.

“This program has been a long time in coming,” Wade said. “This is a huge accomplishment, not just for these two students, but for all students with developmental disabilities in Georgia who want a post-secondary education, and until today, those doors have never been opened.”

Of the 800 special-education students statewide, Wade estimates there are 250 potential academy students in Georgia alone.

New Biomarkers Laboratory Opens in Prillaman Hall

In January, KSU received a $2.38 million research grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, for Dr. Dambinova’s research. Dr. Kerstin Bettarmann, the co-principal investigator on the Department of Defense Grant and assistant professor of neurology at Penn State, collaborated with Dr. Dambinova in this remarkable research for five years. Dr. Bettarmann commented that: “The biomarker will help us identify people at risk and optimize treatment. The goal is to identify mild traumatic brain injury, because there is no diagnostic test for mild traumatic brain injury.”

Dr. Dambinova’s team has also applied for a $3.6 million grant from the National Institute of Health to fund the vital research.

New Biomarkers Laboratory • Buresh

Kennesaw State University and WellStar College of Health and Human Services announced the opening of the Brain Biomarkers Laboratory in July. This laboratory is part of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, and is housed in the health sciences building Prillaman Hall.

Dr. Svetlana Dambinova, Distinguished Professor in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, leads the laboratory. Her research team includes Dr. Galina Izbykova, a neuroscientist; Dr. Alex Shkuve, Research Fellow and coordinator for the Department of Defense Grant; and Dr. Alexander Panin, Research Fellow and biochemist.

Dr. Dambinova’s work focuses on developing blood tests to aid early diagnosis of the strokes as a consequence of neuro-trauma caused by brain injuries and concussions.

Move that Body and Give Beta Cells a Breather……...

Buresh’s Blurb

In a reduction in whole-body sensitivity to insulin has long been known to be key in the development of type 2 diabetes, and it may well be a basis for a number of other chronic diseases. As you likely know, insulin stimulates the reduction in plasma glucose, but it also strongly influences metabolism in a number of ways. Put simply, an elevation in circulating insulin stimulates fat storage and inhibits using fat as fuel. It’s as if the message is, “there is a lot of sugar available, so let’s ease off of fat burning for now.”

Insulin resistance is characterized by a lowered-than-normal reduction in plasma glucose to any given dose of insulin. People who have insulin resistance tend to have chronically elevated levels of insulin because the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas (pancreatic beta cells) are required to produce and secrete more insulin to get plasma glucose to return to baseline levels. In this situation the capacity to use fat as fuel becomes increasingly compromised and efforts to lose body fat are often unsuccessful. In this way, insulin resistance not only lead to unhealthy levels of blood fats (i.e., cholesterol and triglycerides), and it’s well known that this leads to the developing cardiovascular disease. Insulin resistance often progresses to pre-diabetes and type 2 diabetes as (a) the body becomes critically resistant to insulin so that all of the insulin the beta cells can produce no longer keep blood glucose at normal levels, or (b) the beta cells in the pancreas become exhausted, or a combination of both.

Is there anything that we can do to prevent becoming insulin resistant? Well, a key predictor seems to be inactivity, and one reason is related to how muscle activity increases glucose uptake. When muscle fibers are active, they need a lot more energy, and one way in which this need is addressed is through increasing glucose uptake from the plasma, a mechanism that is wholly independent of insulin! Furthermore, this mechanism seems to be well preserved regardless of one’s resistance to the effects of insulin. This means that regular activity takes some of the glucose-lowering “burden” off of insulin, and this allows for chronically lower levels of insulin. Remember—lower insulin levels allow for increases in fat burning and improved blood fats. Much of the health benefit associated with regular activity may be mediated through the effect that muscle contraction has on reducing the need for insulin to regulate plasma glucose.

Skeletal muscle tissue is extremely important in managing plasma glucose, accounting for about 75% of insulin-stimulated glucose uptake. The less we engage the contraction-stimulated glucose uptake mechanism, the more dependent we become on insulin to regulate our blood sugar. The importance of skeletal muscle in aiding insulin in the regulation of plasma glucose was first emphasized in a recent study that found an inverse relationship between insulin resistance and skeletal muscle mass, and this was true in people without diabetes, and even more strongly in people with diabetes. It seems that the more muscle mass that you have, the more “sink” there is for plasma glucose disposal, and this further burdens insulin.

Sedentary lifestyles are a strong predictor of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes, and it really seems that we were never designed to depend so heavily on insulin to manage blood sugar. As our lifestyles have become increasingly sedentary, our skeletal muscle has been given more and more “time off,” which has resulted in the need for the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas working “overtime.” So, what do you say – how about moving that body and giving those beta cells a breather!
“A bit of my heart is still in Uganda!”

Brittany Montgomery

Uganda has opened my eyes to the beauty within this world. My original motivation for going on this trip was to say that I have been out of the country for so long that it was my first trip overseas. I also wanted to be “humbled” by experiencing of possibly seeing poverty first hand. Yet, it has meant so much more to me than simply traveling to someone’s sake. The Ugandan people and their lifestyles are so beautiful inside and out. I have never experienced such welcoming and genuine, unconditional love from strangers in the US, as I did there. I feel so much gratitude for the care I received. It is easy to subconsciously assume that you are of a higher class than the people you encounter, but you are wrong. People you encounter are beautiful inside and out. I have never experienced such welcome as from the Ugandan people. It is palpable through the caliber of resilience, the liveliness, and critical thinking of the people.

The single story of Uganda I struggled with, prior to departure, was that it was haunted by images of a closed-minded population with little respect for human rights. Images of emaciated families ran through my mind as often as pictures of David Bahati authorizing bills and leading demonstrations bent on criminalizing and even killing homosexuals in the name of protecting religion and the country’s children. This beauty, however, is not limited to what is visible to the human eye. It is tangible through the caliber of resilience, the liveliness, and critical thinking of the people.

The news in the US reports little about the good things the people or government and general population are fighting for in Uganda and in the entire African continent. Such as the food riots that took place only weeks before our arrival, organized by the conviction of heartbroken farmers who yearned for an end to the patriarchal status quo of children and women equalling wealth. Progressive change starts at home within the community you serve; Ugandans have mastered this concept. It is one of the United States is still struggling to understand.

For me, the people of Uganda are the “Pearl of Africa.” They are quintessential examples of solidarity I saw the face of real community for the first time during my study abroad experience. It is one that I will shape my own home after from here on forth.

“My memories of visiting will last me a lifetime.”

Tara Hearn

There are many words that can describe my overall study abroad experience in Uganda. However, each and every time I am asked my first choice description word is “eyeopening.” I arrived with preconceived notions and habits that I was unaware I possessed. I departed humbled, more appreciative, and grateful for the experience. Now, I look forward to maintaining the relationships I made in a country where my memories of visiting will last me a lifetime.

“Little blurb on Uganda”

Rachel Pick

Before the trip, I was very nervous, not knowing what to expect. However going with no expectations was probably one of the best things because it allowed me to take in the experiences as they happened. Not thinking if they were better or not living up to what I thought they would be, but rather taking them at face value.

One of my favorite activities was when we were able to interact with children from the Kampala School for the Disabled and the Adapted (soccer) League. The children were absolutely beautiful, so full of laughter and hope. Their disabilities did not define who they were, and that was something we rarely acknowledge here. The interaction between the coaches of the A-League and the players was again a beautiful sight. Mind you, this was not a pity league; these were some of the most talented players I have ever seen. As one of the coaches put it, “Disability does not mean inability.”

Although, organizing against a government and police force that gas and shoot their own people creates a sense of caution in the people, their hearts and lifestyles, they are challenging the corrupt systems that alienate progress in Uganda.

“I can’t tell you how many young people I meet with several moms, brothers and sisters, and just one dad, young people who yearned for an end to the patriarchal status quo of children and women equalling wealth. Progressive change starts at home, within the community you serve; Ugandans have mastered this concept. It is one of the United States is still struggling to understand.

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During Maymester 2011, seven KSU undergraduate nursing students and one student from the College of Science and Mathematics traveled to Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates, for a study abroad. Ms. Christie Emerson, Lecturer of Nursing, and Ms. Amy Bowes, KSU Education Abroad advisor, accompanied the students on their amazing journey to the Middle East.

Abu Dhabi is the largest and most populated of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates, with over 80% of its landmass. It is a fascinating place where the domes and minarets of traditional mosques sit comfortably in the shade of gleaming futuristic skyscrapers.

Abu Dhabi culture is closely linked to its Islamic Religion. Local Emirati people are proudly Muslim, which can be seen in all aspects of Arab life, from the clothes worn to the regular call to prayer. The group visited various cultural sites in Abu Dhabi. They also took a day trip to Al Ain, a fertile oasis city located approximately 100 miles east of Abu Dhabi. The last two days of the program were spent exploring Dubai, another of the United Arab Emirates, known for its ultra-modern architecture and many cultural sites.

The 15-hour direct flight from Atlanta to Dubai was not without its problems. The excited travelers were scheduled for the 9:30 pm departure on May 12, but were delayed at the gate and on the runway for five hours. The flight was finally cancelled at 2:30 am. At 4:00 am they were given hotel vouchers and told to meet in the lobby at 11:00 am the following morning to find out what arrangements had been made for them to travel to the UAE. Fortunately, an extra flight was added to accommodate the travelers from the cancelled flight. They left Atlanta 17 hours later than expected, a little tired, but with spirits high.

Upon arrival in Dubai, the group took a bus for the 90-minute ride from Dubai to Abu Dhabi. The biggest challenges initially were acclimating to the 8-hour time difference and the extreme heat. The daily high temperatures ranged from 100 to 114 degrees. Luckily, the air-conditioning in most buildings was excellent.

The students spent ten days in observational experiences at the Sheikh Khalifa Medical Center (SKMC) in Abu Dhabi. SKMC consists of a 568-bed tertiary hospital and 14 outpatient specialty clinics, all of which are accredited by the Joint Commission International. The patient population at SKMC is multicultural, with patients from approximately 60 different nationalities. The nursing staff at SKMC is also multicultural, which offered students a fascinating opportunity to focus observation on cultural aspects of providing health-related programs to members of vulnerable populations.

Across the UAE, Emirati citizens make up only for about 20% of the total population; the other 80% are expatriates from various countries.

Christie Emerson,
Lecturer of Nursing,
Accompanies Her Students
on an Unforgettable
Journey to the
United Arab Emirates

Contributed by Christie Emerson

KSU students with students from higher College of Technology

KSU group's hosts, Linda Clark, COO of SKMC Medical Center in Abu Dhabi (first row, 2nd from right), invited our students to a dinner at Ms. Amna Alansari’s (Linda Clark’s friend, center first row) residence where authentic Middle Eastern dinner was served.

Courtney McClusky, undergraduate nursing student, perched on a window ledge in the observation area of Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.

Rebecca Mabry, undergraduate nursing student, showing off her newly-applied henna.

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Other cultural sites that were visited in Abu Dhabi included the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and the Heritage Village, a living exhibition of the lifestyle and traditions of Bedouin and other cultures from the region. Another activity enjoyed by many of the students was shopping in souks, traditional Arabic markets.

The group took a day trip to the oasis city of Al Ain at the end of the second week. Here they visited the Sheikh Zayed Palace Museum. The palace was Sheikh Zayed’s residence in Al Ain between 1937 and 1966. The royal palace and private residential areas are an honest reflection of his country’s culture prior to its dramatic development during the past 40 years. While in Al Ain, the group also toured Oasis Hospital, the birthplace of professional healthcare in the Abu Dhabi Emirate and the surrounding region of Oman.

Before returning to Atlanta, the students spent two days and one night in Dubai, the most modern and progressive emirate in the UAE. Some of the highlights of this city included the Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building, Deira Spice Souk, and the Dubai Museum, along with some final souvenir shopping before leaving.

This study abroad was a unique opportunity for KSU students to experience the health care culture in Abu Dhabi. They were able to experience health care that is largely influenced by Islamic values. When asked how they believe this study abroad will make them different, Alisha Mikaleen said: “I believe that I not only learned about the culture of the UAE, I learned more about the culture of people in general.” Rebecca Mabry responded: “I feel as though I am much more tolerant of those who might not have the same beliefs and religion as I do.” Lastly, Lacie Seeksie said: “I find that I think differently about many things and especially the people around me.”
SAVE THE DATE • Nichols’ New Book

SAVETHEDATE
Children’s Advocacy Centers of Georgia and Kennesaw State University
Will join more than 900 organizations representing over 130 countries
In recognition of
WORLD DAY FOR THE PREVENTION
OF CHILD ABUSE
NOVEMBER 18, 2011
featuring
Chris Hansen
Emmy-Winning
Dateline NBC
Correspondent

Kennesaw State University Center • 3333 Busbee Drive • Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

The book, “Advancing Core Competencies: Emphasizing Practice Behaviors and Outcomes” helps MSW students master the competencies and practice behaviors with licensing-type exam questions that apply to specialized fields. It includes websites and online courses such as MySocialWorkLab, MySocialWorkLab with Pearson eText, all with instant access — for Advancing Core Competencies: Emphasizing Practice Behaviors and Outcomes.

The book builds upon the students’ prior knowledge gained from previous social work courses and presents an overview of generalist practices and principles related to the core competencies. It provides a detailed understanding and explanation of the each EPAS standard and is followed by questions that test students’ (1) Understanding of Knowledge and (2) Mastery and Assessment of Knowledge of Skills.

Dr. Quentin L. Nichols' second book contribution to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Core competency Practice Behavior workbook for Advanced Courses is scheduled to be released by Pearson Education, one of the largest publishing companies in social work education.

A Tribute to the Nurse Practitioner Program for Foreign Physicians
Shashank Kumar Jha, a physician from India, entered the Nurse Practitioner Program for Foreign Physicians at KSU in May, 2009. He graduated this summer with a 4.0 GPA.

Dr. David Bennett, Associate Dean in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services and Professor of Nursing and Dr. Genie Dorman, Professor of Nursing, pioneered this program with the goal to educate international physicians as registered nurses and nurse practitioners licensed to practice in the United States. Mr. Shashank Kumar Jha was thankful to have this opportunity and wrote:

I am 1994 Medical graduate from India. I did Family Practice all my career till 2004. I went to the USA in 2007 for MD and tried to get into MD residency program till 2008, but as my year of Graduation from Medical school was more than 5 years, I couldn’t get any. Luckily I found this MSN-I track and met Dr. Bennett. I got admission in May 2009 and completed the program in record 26 months, which included History & Political Science challenge exam. My Graduation Ceremony was on August 2, 2011. I am now ready to appear for my AANP licensing exam in September. I also got an offer to teach Pathophysiology for the same FNP program as a part-time faculty at KSU. This program has helped me tremendously in doing what I am good at, and that is patient care with compassion and competence. I thank Dr. Bennett and this program from the bottom of my heart, Shashank Kumar Jha.

Foreign Exchange
Four students and one faculty member from the Hogeschool van Amsterdam (HVA) traveled to Kennesaw State University in July to take part in a joint International Sport Organization course. The unique course combined the expertise of the instructors and allowed students from different cultures to interact with each other. Since establishing our relationship in 2003, Kennesaw State University has continued the partnership with the Hogeschool van Amsterdam through a variety of student and faculty exchanges. KSU has hosted two students to study for one semester in the sport management program while HVA has hosted two KSU students studying sport management and exercise and health science.

This past spring, the HPS department sent its first student to study in the Healthy and Active Lifestyle program at HVA. As we finish the second consecutive summer course, the Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science Department looks forward to continuing this relationship with the Hogeschool van Amsterdam.
KSU Faculty Awards

During the KSU Faculty Awards Ceremony on August 10, KSU faculty was recognized with announcements of awards recipients and semi-finalists for the KSU Foundation Distinguished Teaching, Research and Creative Activity, Professional Service and Professor Awards.

Dr. JC Bradbury, Chair in the Health, Physical Education and Sport Science department, was honored with KSU Foundation Prize for Publication or Creative Activity with his publication entitled “Peak Athletic Performance and Aging: Evidence from Baseball.” Journal of Sports Sciences, 2009 (April), Vol. 27 (6): 599-610.

Dr. Barbara Blake, Associate Professor of Nursing, and Dr. Jin Wang, Professor of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, were finalists for the KSU Foundation Distinguished Research & Creative Activity Award.

Judy Slater, Associate Professor of Social Work, was a finalist for the KSU Foundation Professional Service Award. Congratulations to the WellStar College’s award winners and finalists demonstrating accomplishments in the areas of scholarship and professional service during a successful year!

WCHHS Clendenen Fellowship Awards

Congratulations to the WellStar College’s 2011 KSU Clendenen Fellowship Award recipients: Brian Keith Brooks, Lecturer of Nursing, who will continue to pursue his Doctorate in Nursing, and Diane Keen, student in the MSN program.

FUNDING

Social Work and Human Services

Dr. Ardith Peters, Associate Professor of Human Services, and Dr. Irene McClatchey, Temporary Assistant Professor of Social Work, co-wrote and were awarded a grant for $18,000 from The Halle Foundation to be applied to the Department of Social Work and Human Services study-abroad program in Germany.

WellStar School of Nursing


WellStar School of Nursing Welcomes New Faculty

Camille Payne, PhD, RN, is a BSN graduate of the Medical College of Georgia, MSN graduate of the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and a PhD graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. Her research interests include nursing education and curriculum, as well as nursing faculty issues. She has more than 25 years of experience in various levels of nursing education.

Dr. Payne is a member of multiple nursing organizations, and has served as a committee member or officer in several nursing organizations at the state and national levels. She has previously served on the Education Committee for the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, and is a past president of the Georgia Association for Nursing Education. Currently, she is President of the Society for Clinical Nurse Specialist Education.

Laura La Cagnina, MSN, RN, SANE, MLDJ-R, PLNC, from Marietta, GA, has practiced as a Registered Nurse since 1994. Her experience in course and lecture development is in the areas of fundamentals and critical care. Ms. La Cagnina has lectured on topics of forensic nursing, legal and ethical issues and nursing documentation.

Judith L. Held, MSN, RN, from Valdosta, GA, has a Master’s degree in Nursing Education from the University of West Georgia. Her research endeavors focus on qualitative studies using narrative, grounded theory and auto-ethnographic methodologies. She has designed and implemented student-centered nursing education courses focusing on nursing foundations, adult health and nursing leadership.

Mary Katherine T. White, RN, MSN, CPNP, from Atlanta, GA, has experience as Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and has previously taught Community Health Nursing in the WellStar School of Nursing.

Marcella (Penny) Ziegler, RN, MSN, CPHQ, from Kansas City, GA, has worked over 25 years as a Registered Nurse in a variety of progressively-responsible positions. She has experience in education of adult and college-level students, strong background in management, medical-legal case analysis, pediatric emergency and trauma and intensive care nursing.

Social Work and Human Services Department Welcomes New Faculty

Steve King, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Social Work.

Omar Sums, Ph.D., Temp Assistant Professor of Social Work.

Health, Physical Education and Sport Science Department

Lyndsey Hornbuckle was appointed to American College of Sports Medicine Health & Fitness Summit Committee (January 2011).

Lyndsey Hornbuckle was accepted to American College of Sports Medicine Leadership & Diversity Training Program (April 2011).

Prillaman Hall Construction Project Receives Awards

The annual South Atlantic Chapter Construction Management Project Achievement Awards program recognizes outstanding achievement in the practices of construction management. The awards program is designed to recognize and promote professionalism and excellence in the management of the construction process.

During the SAMA awards event on June 21, 2011, KSU and Whiting and Turner contracting company received two awards for the construction of Prillaman Hall health sciences building which was completed in 2010. The awards were for 1. Best Construction Project in the $30 million+ category, and 2. Best Overall Construction Project in the Southeastern United States (this CMAA District includes Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Florida). Prillaman Hall tied for the later award with the Georgia Aquarium for their Dolphin Expansion Project.

KSU Grant • Funding

The KSU Foundation awarded the $85,000 grant in June in support of nursing student and faculty retention. The Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia, Inc., College of Health and Human Services, developed and wrote a grant to submit to Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia, Inc., the Departments of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, and the College of Health and Human Services, in support of nursing student and faculty retention. The Kaiser Foundation awarded the $85,000 grant in June.

WellStar School of Nursing

The annual WellStar School of Nursing awards are funded to allow for faculty retention. It also provides subsidies for faculty members enrolled in doctoral study for release time to pursue their doctoral degree. A faculty development program has also been funded to allow for faculty retention.
PUBLICATIONS


CONTINUING EDUCATION

Kennesaw State University is committed to facilitating continuing education for life-long learners. Courses are available in leadership, service, and professional development for the health care community, blending the success of academic and clinical practice. Academic support for these programs draws on the expertise of the university faculty, as well as expert practitioners from the local health care systems.

Nurse Refresher Course
Online, March and September

Nurse Refresher Course
On-campus, May and December

To Register, go to: http://www.kennesaw.edu/chhs/coned

PROGRAM CALLS

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Awards


Presentations


NURSING FACULTY

Dr. Kathie Adudell
Dr. David Bennett
Dr. Charles Bobe
Dr. Jane Brannan
Dr. Gonie Dorman
Dr. Jan Flynn
Dr. Patricia Hart
Dr. Janice Long
Dr. Nicole Mareno
Dr. Lynda Nauright
Dr. Tommie Nelms
Dr. Vanessa Robinson-Dooley
Dr. Lois Robley
Dr. Astrid Wilson
Dr. Anne White

BSN Students

Kristin Cox
Vicky Kronawitter
Heather Payne
Lacie Szekes
Lisa Reyes-Walsh
Suzanne Young

DPS Students

Annette Jackson
Rebecca Green

SPECIAL PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT


The third edition includes several faculty and student authors from Kennesaw State University.

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