The Dean Speaks
Dr. Richard L. Tewell PhD, AN, FAAN
A New Strategic Vision – Watch Us Grow

During my first year as the Dean of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services (academic year 2001-2002), College faculty staff and administrators undertook a strategic planning process. The resulting plan provided vision for the College and guided our initiatives. It established our priorities and compelled us to think about where we wanted to go as a College. Our strategic plan was a five-year plan that focused on undergraduate education, graduate education, community collaboration and the development of a foundation for research and scholarship. We felt that our plan was dynamic and would push us to a new level. It was! However, as we reviewed our strategic plan and began the 2005-2006 academic year, we realized that the WellStar College had essentially met all of its five-year objectives in the past 3 years. It is quite rewarding to look back at the last four years and see how much we as a College have achieved, and how the College has grown in size, scope and significance.

That said, the WellStar College recognizes that the future is still ahead, and we have only begun to arrive to reach our potential as a dynamic College in the fastest growing University in Georgia. To that end, we are finalizing a new strategic plan that not only focuses on planning but also on strategic visioning. We have learned that the opportunities for our College are many and our planning takes place in a dynamic environment. For these reasons, our new plan is a three-year plan. The WellStar College has adopted five overarching goals to guide our activities in the next three years. These are: 1) maintain excellence and expand undergraduate education; 2) enhance and expand the College’s involvement in graduate education; 3) achieve recognition as a leader in community collaborations and global initiatives; 4) enhance and expand scholarship and research; and 5) provide leadership in health and wellness in the University community.

Within these goals, significant initiatives and objectives have been identified. In undergraduate education, there are several objectives that are priorities. These include the meeting of the undergraduate nursing program to a 12-month program, thus increasing the number of students we can accept by approximately 30% each year. The American Meritian Certificate Program in Human Services is being reorganized and better integrated into the Human Services curriculum, in the Department of Health Physical Education and Sport Science (HPE). A new graduate program in human services is being planned and implemented.

Additionally, planning is underway to establish a coaching education minor in the department.

The WellStar College has established a challenging agenda for itself in expanding its graduate education offerings. Currently, we offer two different graduate programs in nursing, and a MSW is scheduled to take its first students in the fall of 2006. Our new strategic plan calls for further expansion of our graduate offerings to include new masters degrees in Nursing, Human Services and HPS. Our current program in Advanced Care Management and Leadership provides an ideal foundation to further develop programs focusing on Nursing leadership. A new MS in Health and Applied Exercise Physiology is being developed, and plans for a MS degree in International Sport Sciences are being developed. It is our goal to have six masters degree programs approved or implemented in the College over the next three years.

The WellStar College has been very deliberate in its efforts to establish an aggressive research and scholarship agenda over the last four years. We have developed a foundation that prepares us to move forward and expands our research initiatives. Faculty members are increasing their publication work in refereed publications. A number of faculty have established research programs that are significant. The WellStar Distinguished Scholars offer a cohort of faculty members who have scholarship as a primary focus of their workload. Equally as important is the work of faculty members in all three departments. We have been fortunate over the past four years to recruit and hire faculty that bring with them impressive credentials in scholarship, as well as the potential for even greater achievements in the research and scholarship arena. Last year alone, the College received $683,631 in grants and contracts to fund research and evaluation projects.

The WellStar College manages and operates the University Health Clinic. It is a relatively new initiative that resulted from KSU becoming a residential University two years ago. Not only is the clinic meeting its goal, but the demand for health services on campus has grown so rapidly that we are...
seeking a location for a second clinic. Over the last year, the clinic staff has recorded as many as 1,040 patients visits in a single month. Likewise, the Wellness Center and Employee Fitness Center continue to expand and provide valuable services to the University community in support of student, staff, and faculty wellness, fitness, and well-being.

The WellStar College has long been recognized as a leader in community collaboration. Our new strategic plan is building on this outstanding record. The Center for Community Health Care continues to provide direct services to almost 3,000 individuals each year. Plans are to expand our services and upgrade our patient care facilities. The Center for Community Partnerships will provide the framework for an increasing presence in our local and state community. The College has established new academic partnerships locally and globally. One such partnership (globally) is with the Sports Academy in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Student and faculty exchanges will provide the first step in the development of joint programs that support the MS of International Sport Science. Likewise, the WellStar College is beginning its second year of partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as part of the Universities network. This network is seeking to facilitate positive social change throughout the world using sport as a vehicle of change. Programs have been completed in Albania and El Salvador in the past year. Facilitated by network partners, College representatives accompanied KSU President, Dr. Barry Sigel, this past spring in discussions in Geneva, Switzerland, with members of the International Olympic Committee, the ILO and the University of Lausanne. Great progress was made in establishing linkages that will support future initiatives of the College and University.

Growing out of the relationship with the ILO Universities program, the WellStar College is taking the lead in conducting the 2005 International Summit on Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sports. The International Summit will take place October 20-22, 2005, at the Cobb Center Galleria. This conference is the only United States conference recognized as a part of the United Nations' Year of Sport and Physical Education. The 2005 Summit is being co-sponsored by the ILO Universities network, the International Year of Sport and Physical Education, the United States Olympic Committee and the Women's Sports Foundation.

More than 40 nationally and internationally recognized speakers will highlight the Summit. Abdulf Oly, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations on sports for development and peace, will headline the opening ceremony. Keynote speakers will include: Anita L. Desai, President of the 1996 Olympic Games; Anna R. Shaw, Special Olympics Executive Director; Donna de Varona, two-time Olympic gold medalist in swimming, member of the IOC's Women and Sports Committee; Mary Harvey, Director of Development for FIFA and gold medalist in soccer; Donna de Varona, two-time Olympic gold medalist in swimming, member of the IOC's Women and Sports Committee; and Simon Dein, President of the BSDE Foundation.

Research is on the Move at KSU

When a University and College are well known for their quality of teaching and outreach to the community, research is oftentimes lost in the backseat of these great institutions of intellectual thought and exchange. The opposite is not the case at KSU. The College is well entrenched in research with two pillars but three: teaching, outreach, and research. If one pillar is undervaulted, a University and College is challenged to maintain a quality program that will lead to success. The College is a leader in the pages of a book, but also from the pages of applied research through community engagement.

To address these challenges, in 2003 the college's new College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) established the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. The Office of Research has continued with an aggressive push to highlight the outstanding programs of research that faculty at the College have been quietly engaged in. With over 30 full-time faculty across the College's School of Nursing, Department of Human Services, and Department of Health, Physical Education and Sports Science, the CHHS has chosen to highlight a few faculty and their programs of research. These faculty, along with others, have balanced their teaching loads with their outreach and incorporated their applied community-based participatory research programs into their classroom lectures for enhanced learning and real world experience. Their expertise spans exercise and physical activity, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, cancer, patient safety, health disparities, minority and women's health, ethics and end-of-life care, to name a few.
Research

Dr. Timothy Allen is the Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor of Human Services. Dr. Allen's original research with the CDC has been in the area of developing standardized HIV/AIDS prevention intervention classification taxonomies. He was instrumental in developing the Knowledge AIDS Research and Evaluation Network initiative (KARENet).

Dr. Annette Bairan is a Professor of Nursing and trained sociologist whose current research areas are HIV/AIDS and health disparities among Latinos (specifically related to diabetes, cancer, and prenatal care).

Dr. Barbara Blake is an Associate Professor of Nursing whose research is around aging and quality of life among people living with HIV/AIDS. The significance of Dr. Blake's research is based on the HAART era that transformed HIV/AIDS into a chronic disease in developed nations.

Dr. Jane Brennan is an Assistant Professor of Nursing and her current research examines faculty's use of PDA's (Personal Digital Assistant) as a teaching strategy in the clinical area. Findings from this study will be used to evaluate and plan for integration of handheld computers into the nursing curriculum. Additional anticipated studies involve clinical use of PDAs by nurses providing patient care.

Dr. Mitchell Collins is a Professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science. Dr. Collins has been researching chronic myalgic encephalomyelitis in Parkinson's disease and conducting cross-cultural studies of the etiology of the obesity epidemic using an ecological approach. He is currently designing a research protocol that examines the fat content and bone density of Latinos.

Dr. Anne Hicks-Cook is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Services. Dr. Hicks-Cook is located in Social Work and has been researching the social service needs of Hispanic immigrants in the Northwest Georgia area.

Dr. John Fink is an Associate Professor of Nursing whose research focuses on genetics of breast cancer and online teaching and learning. Dr. Fink is currently undertaking collaborative research to characterize genetic variations in the Latino population.

Dr. Carol Holts is a Professor of Nursing. Dr. Holts research scholarship areas include advancing the health disparities of Hispanic/Latino populations and the Guatemalan Maya and their access to healthcare and prenatal care. Dr. Holts is currently authoring a textbook on international health for undergraduate students.

Dr. Erica Jackson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science. Dr. Jackson's primary interest is physical activity and cardiovascular health in women, especially underserved populations. There are two research focus areas she is pursuing: 1) cardiovascular reactivity to psychological stress as it relates to hypertension risk in women and 2) increasing physical activity promotion and intervention planning for underserved women.

Dr. Lucia Kamm-Steigman is a Professor of Nursing and a WellStar Distinguished Scholar of Women's Health. Dr. Kamm-Steigman's current area of clinical scholarship focuses on the recovery period in middle women following acute myocardial infarction. Current areas of teaching scholarship focuses on nursing research methodologies that match student learning, personality, and brain dominance styles.

Dr. Angela Laiyer is an Assistant Professor of Exercise Science in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science who is investigating the relationship of regional fat composition, physical inactivity and the development of type II diabetes in Latinos. Dr. Laiyer will be incorporating the use of sophisticated MRI and bone density scanning technology in her area of research.

Prof. Janice Long is an Assistant Professor of Nursing whose program of research began with the development of the IDEAL Project (Initiative for Diabetics Educational Advancement for Latinos). Project IDEAL is an innovative community-based participatory research study that examines the type of diabetes intervention used across Latino sub-ethnic groups of Mexican, Guatemalan Maya, Colombian, and Puerto Rican origins.

Dr. John McLester is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science. Dr. McLester is currently interested in physiological and biomechanical interactions. Dr. McLester's current research interests are in these interactions in situations of imposed constraint, such as load carriage or extreme environmental conditions.

Dr. David Miss is a Professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science, and is serving as a WellStar Distinguished Scholar in Gerontology. Dr. Miss's research on implicit memory (memory without awareness) includes healthy young and older adults, individuals with Alzheimer's disease, and children with ADHD. Conditions of interest include mood congruency effects, methodological issues, long-term retention intervals, circadian rhythm, and false memory phenomena. New work includes investigations of the perseverance of self in Alzheimer's disease and the role of gender in physical well-being.

Dr. Arch彼得 is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Services. Dr. Peters has been researching Juvenile Substance Abuse and Re-entry.

Dr. Lois Robidy is a Professor of Nursing and serves as the WellStar Distinguished Scholar in Ethics. Dr. Robidy's current body of scholarship focuses on nursing education, ethical care, nursing ethics in the health professions, and end-of-life care.

Dr. Richard L. Sowell is the Dean of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services and Professor of Nursing. Dr. Sowell is a nationally and internationally renowned HIV/AIDS expert in case management and the psychosocial issues of AIDS.
WellStar School of Nursing

Hurricane Katrina Response

Hurricane Katrina arrived on the Gulf coast on Monday, August 29, 2005, as a category 4 (almost a category 5 hurricane) with exceptionally strong winds, severly affecting the Gulf coast region of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. A heavy storm broke later in the week. New Orleans was flooded in some parts with over 2 feet of water. New Orleans, a beautiful historic city which is mostly below sea level, was evacuated earlier in the week by most of the middle and upper middle class people who were able to drive out of the city to safer high ground and stay at shelters, with friends and in family homes, or hotels. Unfortunately, most of those who were indigenous had no adequate means to leave the city. They lacked money and transportation to evacuate. Many were stranded for days without food, clean water, baby formula, diapers, etc. For those who were transported to the New Orleans Superdome, life was much better with lack of basic needs provided, including basic sanitation.

On a local level, many thousands of hurricane victims, mainly from New Orleans, were evacuated by helicopters and sent to Cobb County's Cobb Air Reserve Base, in Marietta. Nurses, doctors and mental health professionals were needed to assist people from airplanes that had up to 200 people per flight, coming in as often as at least 8-9 times a day. Lisa Grossman, Director of the Center for Health Promotion and Promotion of the Cobb County Board of Health, helped create a place where students and faculty responded.

Dr. Gloria Taylor is an Associate Professor of Nursing and a WellStar Distinguished Scholar of African American Health. Dr. Taylor's current research program focuses on HIV/AIDS and the African American Outreach Initiative. This study will serve to provide important research about the efficacy of HIV/AIDS outreach interventions.

Dr. Jonathan VerGraet is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing. A medical sociologist and health services researcher, Dr. VerGraet is actively pursuing a body of research around the areas of patient safety, health literacy, and health care disparities. He recently co-edited a seminal book on 'Understanding Health Literacy: Implications for Medicine and Public Health' (American Medical Association Press, 2005). Dr. VerGraet is currently developing a research protocol to investigate clinical leadership to improve patient safety and clinicians' response to patients with low health literacy across a five hospital system.

Dr. Jin Wang is a Professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science. Dr. Wang has been researching the psychological processes of competitive state anxiety and the mental strategies for peak performance. As a registered sport psychology consultant for the United States Olympic Committee and Chinese National Olympic Committee, he is presently working with the Olympic athletes to investigate the proper pre-competition routines of psychological preparation for Olympic competition.
Sweetwater Valley Camp Community Health Center

Touching Lives in Our Community

The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and its impact on New Orleans communities has resulted in many of us questioning ourselves: "How can we help?" Kennesaw State University’s WellStar School of Nursing has been able to reach out to those in need through a new collaboration with the Sweetwater Valley Camp Community Health Center. The Center’s clinic personnel were able to help evacuees obtain healthcare and medicines, as the evacuees settled in shelters and hotels in Southwest Cobb County.

Every week, the Community Health Center located in Austellouches lives not only of hurricane victims, but also the residents in Cobb County.

Sweetwater began offering services as a coalition of local churches, businesses, civic groups and individuals in 1968. With the support of businesses, civic organizations, churches, individuals, public and private grants, Sweetwater Camp has grown from a small clothing distribution center to a full-service agency that has provided emergency assistance with food, clothing, rent, utilities and, only recently, medical care to thousands of citizens in the surrounding community.

With KSU’s School of Nursing, input into the design, Sweetwater Camp recently completed an extensive construction project to build out a community health center, a 501C3 health and dental clinic. This large, well-equipped facility has comfortable waiting rooms, dental rooms, classroom facilities for community education programs, labs, x-ray equipment and seven examination rooms. The clinic is open to all patients, regardless of income or insurance status. Similar to the other KSU affiliated primary care clinics in Marietta, the patients are not required to pay a fee for service. If a person is able to pay, there are minimal fees for labs and medicines.

In a collaborative effort with the KSU WellStar School of Nursing, the clinic will serve as a clinical practice site for nursing facility nurse practitioners and undergraduate community health students. The faculty and students will provide primary care and chronic care to a predominantly Latino population from surrounding communities. The clinic will also be staffed by a strong volunteer staff of Spanish interpreters, registered nurses and clerical workers from the local community to support running the clinic on a day-to-day basis.

Future plans include involving Project IDEAL, an educational program for Latinos with diabetes, and AIDS Atlanta for HIV testing. Project IDEAL will benefit from the educational facilities included in the clinic building. Using these facilities for patient education, exercise classes and cooking classes in the demonstration kitchen located in the large community room.

The Sweetwater Camp Community Health Center is a unique example of the melding of academic and community-based efforts in the KSU service area. This organization’s sustained involvement and collaboration with various organizations.

for the critically sick before they were put on a bus for two more hours. We caught a tow that should have been sent to the other tent for an immediate assessment. One lady was hypoglycemic and had not had her medication for three days. She said she was not feeling well and she was shaky and disoriented. So we sent her back to the other hangar. As she turned to walk away, she passed out and fell right to the ground. The tow was used to treat as many of these scenarios as possible. Once they were inside the hangar, every person was assessed by a doctor, fed a hot meal and then bussed to Rock Eagle. I was very surreal to see these people carrying everything they owned in a trash bag. They had nowhere to go, most of them did not even know where Marietta is, much less whom to call in this area for help. Many of them just kept saying that all they wanted was to wash off because they have been wading in water chest high and dead people were flooding by. It was awful. Many of them were in a state, some were sobbing, and some were smiling. I also heard many of them say that they had to leave their pets behind. The most upsetting thing was that some families were split up. One lady was shaking her leaf because her daughter, age 17, was sent to Houston, and she and her husband were home in Atlanta. I’ve had no way of contacting her, no way of knowing if she was alright; she had nothing. It was beyond heart breaking. I was amazed how all the volunteers came together in such numbers and then in an organized fashion helped these people to the best of their abilities. This was an experience I will never forget. It made me extremely grateful for the life I have in my life, and I see how some things in life are so petty when compared to a disaster like this. I was so honored to be able to help. I hope there will be more opportunities like this throughout the disaster relief."
College Acquires Bone Densitometer

Through an endowment from GE Medical Systems and support from the university, the WellStar College of Health and Human Services Office of Research and Graduate Studies has acquired a GE Lunar Prodigy Bone Densitometer. The unit is housed in the recently established WellStar Center for Women's Health. The significance of this new clinical and research-oriented technology will enhance the college's ability to advance its research enterprise by having the technology to develop fundable proposals to aid in supporting faculty and the student learning process. The densitometer enables researchers to measure, and students to learn more about bone density in the spine, hips and arms for the purpose of studying bone health. This is particularly important for clinical investigations related to osteoporosis, a disease that affects 44 million Americans. In addition to bone measurement, the densitometer also has the capacity to measure fat tissues such as fat. The ability to accurately quantify body fat is paramount for obesity research. And, obesity is now the second leading preventable cause of death behind smoking in the U.S. Unlike other body fat methodologies, the densitometer can determine regional body fat levels similar to the abdominal fat. This is important because other methods have been established between high levels of fat in specific locations and the risk for certain diseases, for example cardiovascular disease. Currently, Dr. Angela Laster and Dr. Mitchell Collins, Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, are initiating several projects related to bone density and obesity among Latino populations with an emphasis on the risk and development of Type II diabetes and osteoporosis.

Kennesaw State University
Hosts and Chairs
Cobb/Cherokee County
Heart Walk

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in both men and women in the United States. The American Heart Association (AHA) is the nation's largest voluntary health organization working to prevent, treat and defeat heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases. These diseases claim over millions of people of all ages and kill more than 930,000 Americans each year. Kennesaw State University joined the AHA in its saving efforts by proudly hosting and chairing this year's annual Cobb/Cherokee Heart Walk that was held on Sunday, October 9.

More than 20 teams across campus plus 15 community teams participated by walking and raising funds for the annual event. In August, some of the KSU teams got creative and hosted a dunking booth where the campus community had a chance to dunk a dean, vice president and campus police officers. Dean Richard Sovell, Heart Walk Chair, was one of the first volunteers for this event. He stated, "While getting dunked by students and faculty is usually not a frequent part of the dean's role, the opportunity to generate interest in the Cobb/Cherokee Heart Walk and the support of my fellow deans made this experience a lot of fun. Being able to laugh at yourself and raise money for a good cause combines two important activities."

The Heart Walk is a fundraising event that supports lifesaving research, community service, and public and professional education programs in the community. Research that the AHA has funded led to such major advances as CPR, pacemakers, bypass surgery and clot busting drugs.

How can you help reduce your risk of developing heart disease?

At home, work in the garden, mow grass with a push mower, rake leaves, go for a walk and work up to at least 30 minutes, walk the dog, and park further away when shopping at the mall or grocery store. At the office, brainstorm ideas with co-workers while taking a walk, avoid while talking on the telephone, walk to speak to someone instead of emailing or phoning them, join
your employee wellness program if one is available, take the stairs instead of the elevator, schedule exercise on your calendar and treat it as any other important appointment, and walk around your building for a break during the workday or during lunch.

For more information on living a healthy lifestyle, please call the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness at (770) 423-6394.

Announcing the China Summer Study Abroad Program for Allied Health Pre-Service Professionals.

Maymester 2006 (May 9-26, approximately) will offer an exciting educational experience for HPS majors (Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education, Sport Management), Human Services majors and Nursing majors at KSV and across the State University of Georgia system. Dr. Ping Johnson, Ph.D. and M.D., Associate Professor of HPS and a former clinical research and medical doctor in Hamanology at Anhui Provincial Hospital and a native of Hefei, PRC, will guide students through an amazing educational experience as key universities and medical facilities throughout eastern and central China. Students will travel to Shanghai, Sozhou, Hefei and Beijing. Students will participate in arranged student discussions, faculty lectures and actual on-going classes in distinguished universities, medical facilities, health agencies and schools, such as Sozhou University (School of Physical Education and Sports Sciences), Anhui Medical University (Public Health Administration), Anhui College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Anhui Provincial Hospital, Provincial Department of Health, Hefei local schools, Beijing Sports University (College of Physical Education), and the prestigious Peking University (formerly known as Beijing University). Students will also visit many historical and culturally significant sites and natural wonders during their travel in China. To name just a few of these sites - the famous Yellow Mountains, Xi'an terra cotta soldiers, the Great Wall of China. In Beijing students will visit the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, Tiantan Square, Ming Tombs, Mao Tse Tung's Memorial, various temples and many other significant Beijing sites. One of the highlights will be a tour of the venue sites of the 2008 Olympic Summer Games. Additionally, students will be able to interact with some of China's finest student athletes (Olympians) as they study and train at the Beijing Sport Universities. Due to the economic strength of the American dollar, each student will be able to participate at a very reasonable cost. In addition to the benefit of the once-in-a-lifetime learning experience, students will receive six semester credit hours for completion of the summer study abroad course. Please encourage students to enroll in this unique offering by HPS and the WellStar College at KSV. For further information about the trip, contact Dr. Ping Johnson, at pjohnso2@hancock.edu.

HPS/WCHHS
International Initiatives

In conjunction with the recently developed International Office of International Sport Education and the existing established international networks of HPS faculty, the HPS Department is currently developing some newly defined global outreach program initiatives. We have established student exchange programs with the Hogeschool of Sport Science and Physical Education in Amersfoort, Netherlands. The Peking University, Beijing Sport University and Suzhou University in China, the University of Lausanne in Switzerland, the University of Mgbilson in France, the National University of El Salvador and the University of Santa Catarina in Brazil are very interested in working with the HPS Department on developing a graduate degree program in international sport science and further student/teacher exchange participation in the College. The HPS Department has been heavily involved in the academic and research aspects of the October 20-22, 2005 International Summit Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport. One of the outcomes of the Summit will be the building and solidifying of relationships with professional colleagues throughout the world in a shared mission to seek strategies for the improvement of the health and well being of individuals through sport and physical education participation. The HPS Department and the WellStar College of Health and Human Services are positioning the university to become a global partner in social, economic, community and individual development through the medium of sport and recreational activity in selected participating countries.

Project IDEAL: A Model Project for the Latino Community

Project IDEAL (Initiative for Diabetes Educational Advancement for Latinos) is an applied research project of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services and the WellStar School of Nursing. IDEAL has been funded by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation and provides risk assessment and screening for diabetes on behalf of Mexican, Jamaican, Mayan and Puerto Rican Latinos living in the Cobb/Cherokee area. Project IDEAL further assesses the impact of diabetes on Latino individuals and their families and their restoration and offers an intervention of education, case management and follow-up support for three to six months. Classes are provided to Spanish through KSV's case manager analysis, faculty and student volunteers. Exercise classes, another part of the IDEAL intervention, have been developed and are supervised by the Wellness Center at KSV's WellStar College of Health and Human Services. Other collective for programmatically outcome research has been in place since January 2004, and a total of 273 Latinos with diabetes have participated in the program with approximately 100 of these individuals participating regularly.
Service to the Community and Region

For the past two years, diabetic screenings and educational programs were provided to more than 600 Latino patients. Venues for weekly clinics and screenings in Atlanta included the Colombian Festival, the Colombian Consulate, the Mexican Consulate, the Puerto Rican Health Fair and the Día de La Mujer Latina at Plaza Fiesta. Other screenings included the HOMBRE Center in Canton, the LaSalette Catholic Church, the El Faro Evangelical Church, the Festival of the Maya in Canton and Catholic churches in Marietta and Cartersville.

American Humanics Programs Expands

Dr. Arich Pethers has been appointed Director of the KSU American Humanics Program. This program offers intensive academic training in non-profit organizational leadership to students interested in managing non-profit human service organizations. National certification is awarded to graduates through the National American Humanics Organization. While most of the students involved are Human Services majors, the program is also of interest to students in other majors and who will be working in non-profit organizations or developing programs to serve underserved populations. Participants currently include students from psychology and communications. The American Humanics Student Association provides students with the opportunity to develop leadership, fundraising and volunteer management skills in a real-life environment.

American Humanics student have been heavily involved in service projects. Their first event this year was a benefit golf tournament. The tournament was held at the City Club of Marietta on September 12. The tournament raised money for students scholarships and funds for survivors of Hurricane Katrina. For more information about the KSU American Humanics Program, contact Dr. Arich Pethers, Campus Executive Director, at apethers@kennesaw.edu.

Master of Social Work Program Update

After a successful site visit the Department of Human Services is being recommended for accreditation candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education. Following formal approval by the Commission on Accreditation, plans will move forward to admit the first class of 25 full-time MSW students. The program will offer two distinct specializations: 1. Children and Families and 2. Services to Addicted and Substance Abusers. Students will be allowed to select advanced training in one of the two areas of specialization. Each specialization will include advanced coursework and field experience in an internship that provides clinical training in the specialty.

Students may elect to pursue a generalist course of studies. This track will allow students to select coursework that more closely matches their professional goals.

The MSW program will provide both foundational and advanced clinical training. Foundation level courses will include
human behavior, interviewing and assessment, group dynamics, practice-focused research and social welfare policy. The advanced clinical curriculum will include psychopharmacology, inter- 
vention models, treatment monitoring and professional ethics.

Our website and application materials will be available shortly after the program is admitted to candidacy. Many thanks to all that have contributed to this bold, new step forward for KSU!

Community Friendship, Inc. and KSU Nursing Students: Partners in the Process of Education and Recovery

The road to recovery from mental illness is often serpentine. For the past 35 years, Community Friendship, Inc. has been there to help with the recovery journey. The Community Friendship provides a place and experience that builds strength and helps individuals to recover and build a life that supports the ongoing process of reclaiming mental health and a productive life.

Kennesaw State University WellStar School of Nursing has been partnering with Community Friendship for the past seven years. The partnership has been successful in the process of edu- 
cation and role definition and in the process of wellness and recovery definition. In many ways, the process for clients and students is similar and the partnership is designed to build on the strengths of everyone involved.

Nursing students develop by incorporating the various roles and professional expectations as they "try on" ways of being as individuals as well as nurses. This process involves learning the specific roles and behavioral expectations and integrating health knowledge by applying the nursing process to individuals and groups. It also involves an introspective process that integrates knowledge with "ways of being" in the professional world.

Individuals who are recovering from mental illness have the opportunity to incorporate healthy roles and "try on" work-related behaviors at CFI. Students and CFI clients work togeth- 
er and test their assumptions about what it may require to learn the tools and strategies of dealing with mental illness and in "ways of being" as they work toward recovery. Working together, stu-
dents and members explore goals for "healthy living" and the development of interpersonal and work skills that maximize recovery living skills.

In the past years, students and members in partnerships have developed a health promotion and wellness program that enhances both the recovery and the educational process. When the clients of CFI were asked what would help them the most in their recovery journey, they enthusiastically told us that they needed encouragement. A concept that is certainly understandable to nursing students.

Collaborative plans have resulted in twice-weekly classes that incorporate education about healthy living with an exercise program that puts the knowledge into action. This program is continued by peer staff when students are not there. Together they have planned and implemented a program that addresses healthy living experiences in a dynamic fashion. They have teamed up to coach members on personal health goals and the impact of health on mental health and occupational success. Nursing students have provided health assessments for more than 200 clients, including screening for diabetes, high cholesterol and hypertension and launched a smoking cessation program that resulted in ongoing coaching taught by peer counselors and offered encouragement to each other in the process. Where have jointly developed resources for setting up primary care relationships, vision exams and dental care. The program was awarded a joint grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta – the Willet Fund.

CPI peer staff members have shared their experiences and insight on their "search for significance through recovery" in informal classroom lectures and personal coaching to be the "best nurses" they can be, by building caring relationships and facilitating the process of claiming recovery. CPI clients have also participated in the presentation of these outcomes of this program at the International Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation. The outcomes have improved health of nursing students who see their role as coaches and facilitators, and of CPI clients who see their roles as developers of their own recovery and health plans. One client said it well: "I think CPI members and I both learned that people are more alike than they are different and knowing this, we can work together and be willing to help each other."

Welcome to the New WellStar Faculty

Cynthia Brown, RN, MSN, comes to KSU as a lecturer in nursing from her position as a staff nurse at Carmelville Medical Center. Her background in critical care nursing and her extensive clinical experience as an officer in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and the American College of Critical Care Nurses.

Dr. Matthew Corrigan, PhD, LMSW, CASAC received his PhD from State University of New York at Albany; School of Social Welfare in May 2004. His areas of interest include substance abuse prevalence and treatment, mental health and social justice. He is a Licensed Master of Social Work and a credentialed Substance Abuse Counselor, with over ten years of practice and supervisory experience in the addiction field. He brings this expertise to the Department of Human Services new Master of Social Work program, specifically con- tributing to the Substance Abuse track of the MSW.

Traci Hardeman, RN, MSN, joins KSU as an assistant professor of Nursing. Traci is a graduate of KSU's WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program and is currently com- pleting a PhD in Nursing at the University of Alabama, in Birmingham. She has nursing education experience from Monroe State University and has clinical experience in emergency services and home care.

Page 9
SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Publications


Presentations


Funded Grants


WellStar School of Nursing
Responds To Severe Nursing Shortage

By 2020, the state of Georgia is expected to have a need for 80,000 nurses, yet only has about 48,000. Presently, there is a 14% vacancy rate for nursing positions within the state. In response to the health care needs of Georgia, the WellStar School of Nursing at Kennesaw State University is pleased to announce the expansion of its undergraduate nursing program. Admitting students three times per year (fall, spring, and summer), the number of nursing graduates will increase by 30%. KSU welcomed 25 students into the WSON’s first summer admissions program for the baccalaureate degree in May 2003. This number will be increased to 50 students for summer 2004. With this change, the WSON will be admitting approximately 232 students per year.

Three undergraduate tracks of study in nursing that lead to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) are offered. Traditional and Accelerated Tracks lead to graduation and successful completion of the NCLEX-RN® exam; the initial license as a registered nurse. PN/BSN “Bridge” Track is designed for persons who already are registered nurses. All tracks combine nursing courses with general education courses in provide a broad education scope to the nursing program and serve as a basis for learning nursing concepts. Students may declare Nursing as a major and begin taking the general education component for any of the tracks as any time. In addition, to provide flexibility to students, several of the nursing courses are offered on campus as well as on-line. Accelerated and traditional students are admitted all three semesters so the WSON. The Accelerated Track option is for students with a bachelor’s degree in a field other than nursing who desire to obtain the BSN degree. Students enrolled in the Accelerated Track complete the BSN in four consecutive semesters (18 months). The Traditional Track option takes four semesters out of a traditional four-year college experience. Students enrolled in the Traditional Track will now be able to continue their nursing education without any summer term break from clinical courses. This will allow traditional students to graduate in 18-22 months versus 30 months, from the nursing program.

To further aid the need, particularly in northwest Georgia, for registered nurses, the WSON has a satellite campus for its Undergraduate program at Georgia Highlands College (formerly Floyd College) in Rome. This satellite was developed in conjunction with the nursing program at Georgia Highlands, beginning in fall 2003. Students are admitted to this satellite campus in full semesters only.

The KSU Undergraduate Nursing Program is fully approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The graduates of the BSN program have consistently maintained an average passing rate of greater than 90% (well over the near-pass rate both regionally and nationally) for the past four years.