

WellStar College of Health & Human Services

excellence

- service
- leadership
- teaching innovations
- scholarship
- wellness



The Dean Speaks

Dr. Richard L. Sowell PhD, RN, 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 all felt that our plan was dynamic and would push us to a new level. It was! However, as we reviewed our strategic plan and begun 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 strive 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 to: 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 moving 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 Humanities 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 (HPS), gaining program accreditation for a number of our programs is a priority. 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 our 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 Science 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 increasingly publishing their work in referred 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 impressive 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 \$683,021 in grants and contracts to fund research and evaluation projects.

The WellStar College manages and operates the University Health Clinic.

This is a relatively new initiative that resulted from KSU becoming a residential University two years ago. Not only is the clinic meeting its goals, but the demand for health services on campus has grown so rapidly that we are

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● Strategic Vision

seeking a location for a second clinic. Over the last year, the clinic staff has recorded as many as 1,040 patient 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 of 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 Organization (ILO) as part of the Universitas 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. Betty Siegel, 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 Universitas program, the WellStar College is taking the lead in conducting the 2005 International Summit on Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport. 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 Universitas 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. **Aldolf Ogi**, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations on sport for development and peace, will headline the opening ceremony. Keynote speakers will include: **Anita L. De Frantz**, the highest ranking U.S. representative to the International Olympic Committee and chair of the IOC Women and Sports Commission; **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 Commission and founding President of the Women's Sports Foundation; **Erica Terpstra**, head of the Olympic Committee of the Netherlands, past member of parliament and Olympic swimmer; **Lesley Visser**, nationally-known television sports broadcaster; and **HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein** of Jordan, internationally known

for her achievements in equestrian sport, and a leader in the area of social development. These are only a few of the phenomenal speakers to be hosted as part of the International Summit. Through the vision and generous support of KSU President Betty Siegel, this outstanding conference has been made available to selected students throughout the University System of Georgia. Dr. Siegel states that we have a significant opportunity to reach students, the future leaders of our State and world, with this outstanding program, promoting **positive social change** through women's leadership. The ability to **hear and interact** with this unparalleled group of speakers is an opportunity that will not occur again soon. Further, plans are **underway to build** on the Summit at Kennesaw with the **establishment of the International Center for Women's Leadership and Sport Development**. This represents another **objective in the WellStar College strategic plan**.

I think you will agree that the WellStar College has established an ambitious plan for our next three years. However, we are confident that we can reach our goals. I continue to believe we have the best faculty, some of the best students and an active administrative support here at KSU. If we plan well and work with you, our supporters, I see no goals that are too lofty to reach. Come join us and help us grow. Our strategic vision will allow us to overcome obstacles and become one of the premier schools in our region.

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 backdrop of these great citadels of intellectual thought and exchange. The academy rests not on two pillars but three: teaching, outreach and research. If one pillar is undervalued, a University and/or College is challenged to maintain a quality program that embraces learning, not just from the pages of a book, but also from the pages of applied research through community engagement.

To address these challenges, in 2003 Kennesaw State University's WellStar College of Health and Human Services (WCHHS) 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 60 full-time faculty across the College's School of Nursing, Department of Human Services, and Department of Health, Physical Education and Sports Science, the WCHHS has chosen to highlight a select 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 Akers is the Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor of Human Services. Dr. Akers' 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 Kennesaw 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 Brannan is an Associate Professor of Nursing and her current research examines faculty's use of PDAs (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 creatine monohydrate supplementation in Parkinson's disease and conducting cross-cultural studies of the etiology of the obesity epidemic using an ecological approach. He is presently designing a research protocol that examines the fat content and bone density of Latinos.
- Dr. Anne Hicks-Coolick is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Services. Dr. Hicks-Coolick is trained in Social Work and has been researching the social service needs of Mayan immigrants in the Northwest Georgia area.
- Dr. Jan Flynn is an Associate Professor of Nursing whose research focuses on genetics of breast cancer and on-line teaching and learning. Dr. Flynn is currently undertaking collaborative research to characterize genetic variations in the Latino population.
- Dr. Carol Holtz is a Professor of Nursing. Dr. Holtz's research scholarship areas include addressing the health disparities of Hispanic/Latino populations and the Guatemalan Mayans and their access to healthcare and prenatal health. Dr. Holtz 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) community physical activity promotion and intervention planning for underserved women.
- Dr. Lucia Kamm-Steigelman is a Professor of Nursing and a WellStar Distinguished Scholar of Women's Health. Dr. Kamm-Steigelman's current area of clinical scholarship focuses on the recovery period in midlife women following acute myocardial infarction. Current area of teaching scholarship focuses on teaching strategies that match student learning, personality and brain dominance styles.
- Dr. Angela Lanier 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 Latinas. Dr. Lanier 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 Diabetes 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 Mayan, 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 Mitchell is a Professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science, and is serving as a WellStar Distinguished Scholar in Gerontology. Dr. Mitchell'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 rhythms, and false memory phenomena. New work includes investigations of the persistence of self in Alzheimer's disease, and the role of forgiveness in mental and physical well-being.
- Dr. Ardith Peters is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Services. Dr. Peters has been researching Juvenile Substance Abuse and Re-entry.
- Dr. Lois Robley is a Professor of Nursing and serves as the WellStar Distinguished Scholar in Ethics. Dr. Robley's current body of scholarship focuses on nursing education, critical 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 the disease.

● Community Service

- 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 around the efficacy of HIV/AIDS outreach interventions.
- Dr. Jonathan VanGeest is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing. A medical sociologist and health services researcher, Dr. VanGeest 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. VanGeest 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.

WellStar School of Nursing Hurricane Katrina Response

Hurricane Katrina arrived on the Gulf coast of on Monday, August 29, 2005, as a category 4 (almost a category 5 hurricane) with exceptionally strong winds, severely affecting the Gulf coast regions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. After the levees broke later in the week, New Orleans was flooded in some parts with over 20 feet of water. New Orleans, a beautiful historic city, which is normally 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 motels. Unfortunately, most of those who were indigent 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 not 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 airlift and sent to Cobb County's Dobbins 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 eight or nine times a day. Lisa Crossman, Director of the Center for Health Prevention and Promotion of the Cobb County Boards of Health, requested help from the WellStar-

School of Nursing student nurses and faculty. Dr. Carol Holtz, Assistant Chair of the Cobb County Board of Health and also Professor of Nursing at WellStar School of Nursing, was first contacted on September 2. She contacted Dr. Richard Sowell, Dean of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, and Dr. David Bennett, Chair of the School of Nursing, who both were supportive of faculty and student assistance. Professor Janice Long, course coordinator of the Community Health Nursing Course (N4412), and Dr. Holtz put together a schedule for student participation in the triaging of New Orleans evacuees. Students were given clinical credit for hours worked on this project. In addition, many student volunteers were sent to Red Cross and other shelters to assist with the evacuees' needs.

Dr. Bennett made the following comments about the faculty and student participation in a recent e-mail that he sent out, summarizing the experiences:

"Faculty members and senior nursing students worked with other agencies to provide triage this past weekend for the airlift of evacuees from New Orleans. Over the Labor Day weekend, flights of about 200 persons each were arriving almost nonstop at Dobbins ASB, and the faculty and students worked 12-hour shifts to support the triage and medical care of the arriving refugees.

KSU continues its involvement with up to 40 students and 11 faculty members on call in case more flights come into Dobbins. Additionally, students and faculty members are working at Red Cross shelters in Cobb County to provide care for the evacuees. The faculty members involved include Jan Brodie, Christina Horne, Astrid Wilson, Gloria Taylor, Janice Long and Carol Holtz. Janice and Carol managed the coordination of the volunteers. Students included Tina Ober, Jennifer Branning, John Wagner, Lora Overacre, Sarah Fisher, Rebecca Goforth, Janice Simmons, Staci Barfield, April Hines and Lydia Casteel."

This anecdote, written by one of our students, eloquently captures the sentiment of all participants:

"I was very fortunate to be able to go to Dobbins last night. Around 6:30 pm, Dr. Horne called and said that she could use my help after all. I went down there and had one of the most surreal and sobering experiences of my life. I was so grateful that I was able to help in an event such as this. I wanted to forward to you the journal I have sent to my clinical instructor. Thank you for all your hard work coordinating this for us. Without you, I would have never been able to help like this. Thank you.

My next clinical experience was at Dobbins Air Reserve Base on Sunday night from 7AM to 7PM. I was called in at the last minute to help triage the evacuees from New Orleans. This was an experience that I was extremely grateful to partake in. When I arrived, there was a plane that was unloading its passengers. There was a medical team in one hangar for those who were critically injured; there were mental-health people and numerous doctors and nurses for those who had minor injuries or ailments. Other students and I were outside where the people were unloading. They would come through our line, and we asked if they had any medical conditions that we may need to know about, if they were on any medications, and if they were, did they have enough to last them two days? If not, who needed medication was given a prescription inside. We stood as the last filter



KSU Nursing Students taking part in Hurricane Katrina response. Left to right: Sarah Fisher, Janice Simmons, Lora Overacre, and Tina Ober.

for the critically sick before they were put on a bus for two more hours. We caught a few that should have been sent to the other tent for an immediate assessment. One lady was hyperglycemic 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. Our job was to catch as many of those situations 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 unreal to see these people carrying everything they own 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 waiting in water chest high and dead people were floating by. It was awful! Many of them were in a daze, 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 like a leaf because her daughter, age 17, was sent to Houston, and she and her husband were here in Atlanta. She 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 things 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 this disaster relief."

Sweetwater Valley Camp Community Health Center

Touching Lives in Our Community

The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and its impact on New Orleans and the Gulf States has resulted in many of us asking 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 Austell touches 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 501c (3) health and dental clinic. This large, well-furnished 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 faculty, nurse practitioner students and undergraduate community health students. The faculty and students will provide primary care and chronic care to a predominantly Latino population in the surrounding community. 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 AID 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

in Cobb County are recognized as vital and is highly valued in the local community and provides a win-win opportunity for the School of Nursing and citizens of the community.

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 soft tissues such as fat. The ability to accurately quantify body fatness 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 fatness levels such as abdominal fat. This is important because links have been established between high levels of fat in specific locations and the risk for certain diseases, for example cardiovascular disease. Currently, Dr. Angela Lanier 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.



Left to right: Dr. Angela Lanier and Dr. Mitchell Collins check out new bone densitometer.

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 devastate millions of people of all ages and kill more than 930,000 Americans each year. Kennesaw State University joined the AHA in its life-



Dunk tank participants Earle Holley, Deans Joseph Meeks, Mary Lou Frank and Richard Sowell.

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 this 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 Sowell, 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 formal 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 farther away when shopping at the mall or grocery store. At the office, brainstorm ideas with a co-worker while taking a walk, stand while talking on the telephone, walk to speak to someone instead of emailing or phoning them, join

● Cultural Programs

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 KSU 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 Hematology at Anhui Provincial Hospital and a native of Hefei, PRC, will guide students through an amazing educational experience at 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 SuZhou University (School of Physical Education and Sport 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, Xian terra cotta soldiers, the Great Wall of China. In Beijing, students will visit the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen 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 University. 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 KSU. For further information about the trip, contact Dr. Ping Johnson, at pjohnso2@kennesaw.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 Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Peking University, Beijing Sport University and Suzhou University in China, the University of Lausanne in Switzerland, the University of Magdeburg in Germany, 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 furthering student/faculty exchange partnerships 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, Columbian, 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 relationships, and offers an intervention of education, case management and follow-up support for three to six months. Classes are provided in Spanish through KSU's case manager analyst, faculty and student volunteers. Exercise classes, another part of the IDEAL intervention, have been developed and are supervised by the Wellness Center at KSU's WellStar College of Health and Human Services. Data collection for programmatic outcome research has been in place since January 2004, and a total of 273 Latinos with diabetes have participated in the program with approximately 120 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 Columbian Consulate, the Mexican Consulate, the Puerto Rican Health Fair and the Dia de La Mujer Latina at Plaza Fiesta. Other screenings included the HOPE 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.



Left to right Dr. Astrid Rivera, Dr. Francisco Leon and Hope Center volunteer Teresa Hernandez

The Project staff is currently working with the Centers for Disease Control and the North Georgia District Public Health Departments to plan screenings and intervention for Latinos working in the poultry processing plants in Hall and Forsyth Counties. Project IDEAL plans to target a new clinic supported by the KSU Center for Community Healthcare at a social service agency/clinic in the southern part of Cobb County, beginning in early October, at the new Good Samaritan Clinic to be located in Austell.

The Diabetes Advisory Committee for Project IDEAL will be reconvened this fall to provide further insight into future plans for the project. Ongoing funding and the future location of Project IDEAL in the Cobb/Cherokee County Area will be considered.

Vision for the future for the project

The project has already proven itself to be beneficial to the Latino population with outcomes improvements in quality of life and hemoglobin A1c. Many people who were unaware of having diabetes have been identified and provided with education, exercise and support. Project IDEAL has been a Latino link for other initiatives and research not only from KSU, but also from other organizations such as Morehouse College, the Latin American Association and El Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior. Articles about Project IDEAL have been published in several English and Spanish

newspapers. As a result of the success of the project, the staff was asked to develop an informational page on diabetes in INFOVOZ, the Hispanic Yellow Pages publication found in most Latino homes in the city. As an additional result of the educational program, participants recently created ALDIA, Association of Latinos with Diabetes. This unique organization encourages application of the strategies of diabetes self-care imparted by IDEAL and assists in promoting them to the Latino community.

American Humanics Programs Expands

Dr. Ardith Peters 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 students have been heavily invested 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 22. The tournament raised money for student scholarships and funds for survivors of Hurricane Katrina. For more information about the KSU American Humanics Program, contact Dr. Ardith Peters, Campus Executive Director, at apeters@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 clinical specializations: 1. Children and Families and 2. Services, Addictions and Substance Abuse. Students will be allowed to elect advanced training in one of the two areas of specialization. Each specialization will include advanced coursework and placement 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 psychopathology, intervention models, treatment monitoring and professional ethics.

Our website and application material 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 strenuous. 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 education 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 together and test their assumptions about what it may require to learn the skills and attitudes in dealing with mental illness and in “ways of being”, as they work toward recovery. Working together, students 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 classes taught by peer counselors and offered encouragement to each other in the process. We 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.

CFI peer staff members have shared their experiences and insights on their “search for significance through recovery” in formal classroom lectures and personal coaching to be the “best nurses” they can be, by building caring relationships and facilitating the process of claiming recovery. CFI 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 CFI clients that see their roles as developers of their own recovery and health plans. One student said it well, “I think CFI 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 Cartersville Medical Center. Her education is in critical care nursing, and she has extensive clinical experience as an officer in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

Dr. Matthew Corrigan, PhD, LMSW, CASAC received his Ph.D. from State University of New York at Albany, School of Social Welfare in May, 2004. His areas of interest include substance abuse prevention and treatment, mental health and social justice. He is a Licensed Master of Social Work and a credentialed Alcohol and 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 degree, specifically contributing 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 completing a PhD in Nursing at the University of Alabama, in Birmingham. She has nursing education experience from Montana State University and has clinical experience in emergency services and home care.

● Faculty & Scholarly Activities

Dr. John David Johnson received his Ph.D. in Human Performance (2004) and a M.S. in Sport Administration (2002) from the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a B.S. degree in Exercise Science from Auburn University-Montgomery. Dr. Johnson served as a visiting Assistant Professor of HPS at KSU during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Dr. Johnson teaches major courses in the Sport Management B.S. Program as well as teaching across the HPS Department's curriculum in outdoor education/recreation, skills methods courses, and Fitness for Living in the general education core. His research interests are in the area of youth sports, violence intervention and conflict management, with curricular development interests in coaching education.

Dr. John McLester received his Ph.D. in Human Performance/ Exercise Physiology (2000) and a M.A. in Human Performance/Exercise Physiology (1997) from the University of Alabama. He holds a B.S. degree in Exercise Science and Wellness from Jacksonville State University. Dr. McLester served as an Assistant/ Associate Professor of Exercise Science and Coordinator of the Exercise Science Program at Western Kentucky University from 2002-2005 and as Assistant Professor in the Physical Education Department at State University of West Georgia from 2000-2002. Dr. McLester brings extensive experience in teaching movement science core courses such as exercise physiology, biomechanics, motor development, kinesiology, evaluation and health related fitness. He also has taught at the graduate level; applied biomechanics, research methods, and exercise science seminar. Dr. McLester has a well-established record of scholarly activity with him, having already completed 15 journal article publications, 13 refereed research published abstracts, and several external grants. He also has completed 25 national-level research presentations. Dr. McLester's research foci are in muscle physiology and strength/power development. Dr. McLester is currently working on completing an undergraduate level biomechanics textbook. His current research interests are in biomechanics and ergonomics.

Quenton Nichols joins our faculty for this year as a KSU Minority Scholar. This program funds the dissertational research of promising doctoral candidates. A graduate from the University of Georgia School of Social Work, Quenton is in his final year of doctoral studies at Clark Atlanta University. He brings a wealth of clinical experience in the area of family assessment and intervention to our program.

Gwen Whiting, RN, MS, is a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist with a broad background of experience in crisis, trauma and loss with an emphasis in grieving. She most recently has maintained a private practice in psychotherapy and has served as a consultant to professional and parent groups across the United States.

Astrid Wilson, RN, DSN, has joined the WellStar School of Nursing as a professor of Nursing. She has extensive experience in nursing education, most recently as a professor of Nursing at Clayton State University. She is a clinical nurse specialist with emphasis in psychiatric mental health and also has a master in maternal child nursing. She has a strong record of scholarly publications and presentations.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Publications

Ballard, N.M., Robley, L.R., Barrett, D., Fraser, D. & Mendoza, I. (2005). Recollections of patients undergoing therapeutic paralysis in the ICU. *American Journal of Critical Care*. (In press).

Beck, J. & Maneval, M. (2005). Perceived effect of incumbent versus new head coaches on state cognitive anxiety levels of division I college athletes. *Journal of Applied Research in Coaching and Athletics*.

Bremner, M., Aduddell K., Bennett D., & VanGeest J.B. The use of human patient simulators: Best practices with novice nursing students. (*Nurse Educator*). (In press).

Burden, M.J. & Mitchell, D.B. (2005). Implicit memory development in school-aged children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): Conceptual priming deficit? *Developmental Neuropsychology*, 28, 779-807.

Corrigan, M.J., Loneck, B., Videka, L. & Brown, M.C. Moving the Risk and Protective Factor Framework toward Individualized Assessment in Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention. *The Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse*. (Accepted).

Green, J.M., McLester, J.R., Crews, T.R., Wickwire, P.J., Pritchett, R.C. & Lomax, R.G. (2005). RPE Association with Lactate and Heart Rate during High Intensity Interval Cycling. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*. (Accepted).

Green, J.M., Pritchett, R.C., Crews, T.R., McLester, J.R. & Tucker, D.C. (2005). Influence of aerobic fitness on RPE during graded and extended duration cycling. *Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness*. (Accepted).

Green, J.M., Pritchett, R.C., Crews, T.R., Tucker, D.C., McLester, J.R. & Wickwire, P.J. (2005). "RPE Drift" During Cycling in 18° vs 30°C WBGT. *Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness*. (Accepted).

Kamm-Steigelmán, L., Kimble, L.P., Dunbar, S., Sowell, R. & Bairan, A. Religion, relationships and mental health in midlife women following acute myocardial infarction. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*. (In press).

Mitchell, D.B. & Schmitt, F.A. Short- and long-term implicit memory in aging and Alzheimer's disease. *Aging, Neuropsychology, and Cognition*. (In press).

Roberts, V., Brannan, J. & White, A. (2005). Outcomes-Based Research: Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Online Nurse Refresher Course. *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 36(5) September/October.

Robley, L., Farnsworth, B., Flynn, J. & Horne, C. (2004). This New House: Building Knowledge Through Online Learning. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 20(5), 333-343.

Wang, J. (2005). Advanced and scientific training approaches for development of competitive soccer skills. *Journal of Youth Sports*, 1 (1) 8 - 12.

Wang, J. (2005). The interpretation of the NASPE Standard - Domain 3: physical preparation and conditioning. *Journal of Strategies*, 18, (4) 22 - 24.

● Presentations and Funded Grants

Presentations

Blake, B.J., Taylor, G.A., Akers, T., Bairan, A. & Sowell, R. Results of Key Informant Interviews from a Statewide HIV Community Services Assessment, 19th Annual Conference, Southern Nursing Research Society, Atlanta, GA, February 5, 2005. (Paper presentation).

Blake, B.J., Taylor, G.A., Akers, T. & Bairan, A. Perceptions of the CDC Prevention with Positives Initiative, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, HIV Nursing Research Summit, Palm Springs, CA, April 22 – 24, 2005. (Poster presentation).

Corrigan, M. (May 2005). The Development and Validation of the Adolescent

Domain Screening Inventory. Poster presentation at the Society for Prevention Research Conference, Washington, DC.

Horne, C. & Flynn, J. (Jul. 2005). Best Pedagogical Practices for Online Teaching. Faculty Development Conference, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Horne, C., Flynn, J. & Robley, L. (Feb. 2005). The Pros & Cons of Online Nursing Education: Qualitative and Quantitative Findings, Annual Education Conference, Georgia Association for Nursing Education, Savannah, GA.

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Brain dominance and personality styles on February 25, 2005. Paper presented at the Nursing RN to MSN course co-taught by Dr. Madge Donnellan, Emory University.

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Caring roles of the sandwich generation: Social role context in midlife women experiencing acute myocardial infarction April 13-16. Paper presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Boston, MA. (Paper abstract).

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Heart disease in midlife women on March 30, 2005. Paper presented at the PACE--Regional Conference for Cardiology nurses, Emory Conference Center, Emory University.

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Psychosocial factors and return to work in midlife women following acute myocardial infarction February 3-5, 2005. Paper presented at the Southern Nursing Research Society, Atlanta, GA. (Paper presentation).

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Role transition and health outcomes of midlife women after acute myocardial infarction. Paper presented at the American Heart Association: Second International Conference on Women, Heart Disease and Stroke February 16-19, Orlando, FL.

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Strategies for teaching and learning using brain hemisphericity, personality types and learning styles in graduate students. Paper presented at the Opportunities and Initiatives in Nursing Education: Bringing the real world into practice and academic settings on Feb. 9-11, 2005, Savannah, GA. (Poster presentation).

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Strength and comfort rituals in midlife women experiencing acute myocardial infarction. Paper presented at the Sigma Theta Tau International: 16th International Nursing Research Congress July 14-16, Big Island, Hawaii.

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Transition planning for lifelong health. Paper presented at the The Fifth Annual Phenomenal Women's Conference on March 16, 2005, Kennesaw State University Center.

Kamm-Steigelman, L. (2005). Transition planning for lifelong health on February 12, 2005. Paper presented at the Embracing Your Aspirations; Nursing Programs at Emory Hospitals, Emory University Hospital.

Kirk, A. Critical Incident De-Briefing For Children and Adolescents: New Research and Treatment Methodologies. Council On Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, New York City, NY, March, 2005.

Robley, L.R. & Denton, S. (2005). Evaluation of an end-of-life critical care nurse liaison program. Southern Nursing Research Society, Atlanta, February 4, 2005.

Slater, J.R. Anatomy of a Conscious Practitioner. For social workers and MSW graduate level students hosted by Southern Adventist University in Chattanooga, TN, March 25, 2005.

Slater, J.R. Anatomy of a Conscious Practitioner. Professional peer reviewed presentation for Southern Organization for Human Service Education, April 22, 2005, Norfolk, VA.

Slater, J.R. Facilitator of focus group with 17 direct practice staff at Hemophilia of Georgia, May 5, 2005, Atlanta, GA.

Taylor, G.A. & Blake, B.J. An AIDS Update: Lessons from Thailand, Sigma Theta Tau Meeting, Mu Phi, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA, February 21, 2005. (Paper presentation).

Taylor, G.A., Blake, B.J., Akers, T. & Bairan, A. Disclosure of HIV Status to Sex Partners, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, HIV Nursing Research Summit, Palm Springs, CA, April 22 – 24, 2005. (Paper presentation).

Funded Grants

Kirk, A. Austell/Smyrna Drug Free Communities Prevention Program Outcome Study. Funded by Cobb Community Collaborative/SAMSHA. \$21,000.

Kirk, A. & Hicks-Coolick, A. Cobb County Sex Education Outcome Study. Funded by Cobb County Schools/ Federal HHS. \$24,000.

Kirk, A. & Peters, A. Juvenile Offender Re-entry Program—Clinical Outcome Study. Funded by the National Institute of Mental Health/SAMSHA. \$120,000.

White, M., Brannan, J. & Horne, C. A Mentor/Protégé Program for Novice Nurse Educators from The Promise of Nursing for Georgia Nursing School Grant Program administered by the Foundation of the National Student Nurses' Association. \$25,000.



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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 2005. This number will be increased to 50 students for summer 2006. With this change, the WSON will be admitting approximately 225 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, upon graduation and successful completion of the NCLEX-RN exam, to the initial licensure as a registered nurse. RN/BSN "Bridge" Track is designed for persons who already are registered nurses. All tracks combine nursing courses with general education courses to provide a broad education scope to the nursing program and to 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 at 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 to 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 (16 months). The Traditional Track option takes five 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 accelerated students 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 fall 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.