

WellStar College of Health & Human Services

excellence

- service
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- teaching innovations
- scholarship
- wellness



The Dean Speaks

Dr. Richard L. Sowell PhD, RN, FAAN

The WellStar College - Focusing on Global Citizenship

In 2007, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) will undertake its regular 10-year accreditation review of Kennesaw State University. This is a comprehensive review of the University and evaluates the degree to which KSU is meeting established standards that govern institutions of higher learning. Without going into a lot of detail, it is safe to say this is a "big deal." However, Kennesaw State University is a dynamic institution that offers excellence in teaching and educational preparation for students. The SACS' visit will offer KSU the opportunity to demonstrate its excellence, as well as highlight our many outstanding achievements. A new component of the overall SACS' accreditation process is the requirement for the University to identify and implement a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in an area of importance to the future direction and focus of the University in continually enhancing the education provided to students and the development of faculty and staff. To address this SACS' requirement, Kennesaw State University has identified "Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship" as its QEP initiative. This QEP initiative represents a consensus of students, faculty, staff, administrators and other KSU stakeholders. This initiative is a natural for the University when examining achievements of the University over the past 20 years.

Over the last 20 years, KSU has built a notable record of institutional accomplishments in the development of global education and advancement of education for a global society. KSU was among the first Universities in Georgia to establish a center for international programs which evolved into the Institute for Global Initiatives, in 2003. Currently, KSU provides leadership for two of the five World Regional Councils established by the Georgia Board of Regents' Office of International Education (the Americas Council and the Asia Council). Additionally, the KSU campus community has become increasingly diverse in its racial and cultural representation. In 2003, KSU was one of eight institutions selected to participate in the American Council's of Education (ACE) national project entitled "Global Learning for All." Currently, KSU boasts having over 1,500 international students from 130 foreign countries. Clearly, KSU has taken leadership in developing a University that encourages education for Global Citizenship.

As with the University, the WellStar College of Health and Human Services continues to build onto an impressive history of preparing students for a changing world. The WellStar College's achievements in both, community and international engagement, provide a rich foundation to further develop our faculty and students as global citizens. For example, the College, through the School of Nursing, has long operated nurse-managed clinics in the local community. These clinics

that first opened to address the needs of the homeless population have evolved into a resource for the large number of immigrants moving into the Atlanta-Cobb county area. Over recent years, our nurse-managed clinics have provided primary care to 2,500 to 3,000 individuals per year, with approximately 80% of those served being Latino.

These clinics continue to provide excellent teaching facilities for our students and have served to engage faculty in a new worldview of culture and globalization. Student and faculty experiences in our clinics increasingly mirror the realities of our changing community demographics and cultural perspectives.

Likewise, faculty and students from Human Services and Nursing have engaged in the changing community through work with the local Mayan community located in northern Georgia. Faculty have taken the opportunity to develop a relationship with this community, and faculty have been recognized by leaders of the community for the services and friendship they have offered to this community as it relocated to the United States and Georgia. These individuals, often not speaking English or Spanish, have unique challenges that our faculty have embraced.

One important health initiative of the WellStar College has been the Latino Diabetes Initiative (Project IDEAL). This initiative funded by the Georgia Health Care Foundation has provided new models of education and support to four different sub-groups of the Latino community (Mexican, Puerto Rican, Columbian, and Mayan). This project not only acknowledges the uniqueness of Latino culture, but also the differences in specific sub-cultures that

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● Global Citizenship

influence health outcomes. With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the initiative is being expanded into the chicken-production industry, in north Georgia.

The WellStar College has study-abroad and partnership relations with a number of universities and organizations throughout the world, including Mexico, Brazil, the Netherlands, China, the Philippines and South Africa. In Mexico, the School of Nursing has offered a study-abroad option in Oaxaca, for the past eleven years. This course allows students to work in the public hospitals in Oaxaca while living with local families and attending classes at the Oaxaca language school. This is the College's oldest study-abroad program and underscores the potential success of study-abroad programs for both, students and faculty. When visiting Oaxaca, I was told by local leaders and the Secretary of Health that this initiative, lead by Dr. Carol Holtz, represents an important program for the people of Oaxaca, and KSU is regarded as an ambassador for the city. Steps are currently underway to expand this program to allow more direct exchanges of faculty and to integrate other College departments into the overall Oaxaca experience. Similarly, graduate nursing students have the opportunity to work in the area of Women's Health through a relationship with the University of Vericrize in Xalopa, Mexico. In the Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science Department, a new study-abroad course is scheduled to be implemented in Summer of 2006, in China. This initiative, focusing on health from different cultural approaches, has been developed by Dr. Ping Johnson who, before coming to the U.S., practiced in China as a medical doctor. Dr. Johnson's expertise as a physician and health educator combined with her knowledge of Chinese culture provides students with a unique opportunity to engage different approaches to healthcare and wellness. This new study-abroad complements plans to develop an international sport science graduate program in the HPS Department. Further, Dr. Darlene Kluka joined the WellStar faculty this January. Dr. Kluka brings a strong relationship with the University of Poteria in South Africa. The University of Poteria is already providing a foundation for joint projects.

Further underscoring the global perspective of the WellStar College, we have taken leadership in the KSU relationship with the International Labor Organization's Universitas Program. This initiative proposes to use Sport (broadly defined) as a strategy in achieving positive social change. College faculty members have participated in conferences and workshops in El Salvador, Albania, Thailand, Greece, Germany and Switzerland in support of this initiative. Of great significance was the WellStar College's development and implementation of the 2005 International Summit, Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport, held at the Cobb Galleria during October, 2005. This summit had over 500 participants representing 36 countries. The Summit boosted over 40 national and international speakers and was the only United Nations-recognized conference to be held in the U.S., as part of the 2005 International Year of Sport and Physical Education. Mr. Aldolf Ogi, former President of Switzerland and special adviser for development and peace to

U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, provided the Summit keynote address. Other internationally-known speakers included: two-time Olympic gold medalist Donna de Varona; Gudrun Doll-Tepper, President of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education; Tina Sloan-Green, President of the Black Women in Sport Foundation; Anita L. DeFrantz, two-time Olympian and current member of the International Olympic Committee; Mary Harvey, Director of Development for FIFA; Ann Cody, Chair of the International Paralympic Committee; Lesley Visser, international broadcaster and sports analyst; and Erica Terpstra, head of the national Olympic Committee of the Netherlands and past member of Parliament. These were just a few of the many outstanding speakers and participants of the Summit. Of special note was the strong inclusion of students in the Summit. As a result of the generosity of Dr. Betty Siegel, scholarships for the Summit were made available to students from both, KSU and other universities in the University of Georgia System. This represented an unprecedented investment in students and global learning by Kennesaw State University and its President.

In this issue of Excellence, we are highlighting our global initiatives. We are very proud of our record in educating citizens for a global society. I hope you will agree that the WellStar College has made remarkable strides in embracing a new global society. However, rather than just touting our successes, we see our achievements as a foundation for future efforts. Clearly, the WellStar College is contributing significantly to students' unique KSU education. We are committed to expanding and deepening our programs to support the goal of the new SACS/QEP initiative to provide an educational environment that promotes Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship. To do less would not represent Excellence.

The 2005 International Summit Meeting: *Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport*

Kennesaw State University, in association with the United States Olympic Committee and the International Labour Organization's Universitas Network, conducted the only U.S. conference included on the agenda of the United Nations' International Year of Sport and Physical Education. This spectacular, international event was held at the Cobb Galleria Centre, October 20 through 22, 2005. Over 500 participants representing 36 countries+ registered for this conference, including numerous distinguished international speakers. The summit's Steering Committee diligently reviewed research papers, posters, best-practice models and program initiatives representing various parts of the world. The purpose of this conference was to increase awareness of the potential of women's leadership through sport to affect society and to bring together a new generation of leaders to dialogue about sport and social development.

● 2005 International Summit Meeting

Distinguished honored guests and speakers included Mr. Adolf Ogi, former president of Switzerland and currently an U.N. Special Advisor on Sport for Development of Peace under U.N. Secretary, General Kofi Annan. Mr. Ogi is also an Honorary President of the Swiss Olympics and the Swiss Olympic Committee. Dr. Siegel inaugurated the first Adolf Ogi Sport for Development and Peace Award and presented it to him on April 11, 2005, at Kennesaw State University. At the October, 2005 conference, the award was presented to two KSU students, Keri McGee, a KSU softball player, and Tommy Thompson, a KSU men's basketball player.

Other honored guest speakers were Giovanni diCola of the International Labour Office and Gudrun Doll-Tepfer, President of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education. Other awards went to: Anita L. DeFrantz for development of leadership opportunities for women; to the Atlanta Falcons Youth Football Program; and to Dr. Betty Siegel for achievement in women's leadership within the global community.

Kennesaw State University students had the following comments about the conference. Ericka Ronan, an International Affairs major stated: "The conference was a wonderful experience from which I benefited tremendously. This summit exposed students to the central role of the United Nations to disperse knowledge about global health. I found the constant references to the United Nations' millennium goals to be reassuring due to the exposure the role has in the international community. This summit provided bountiful information from experts in the international arena, dealing with gender inequality and the health of diverse populations." Another KSU student who attended the conference, Joanna Conkey, had the following comment: "I've enjoyed the comment made by the speaker, Mary Harvey, who said: "On the field, you learn about life situations, but unlike in life, you are able to fail in sport and it's still O.K. Playing sports allows you to make mistakes without huge consequences, and it allows you the opportunity to better face conflicts when they arise in everyday life." "Sports have an incredible way of giving young girls self-respect and confidence in themselves. They can create a *healthy body image separate* from the images they see on television", the student Joanna Conkey stated, as well.

Leading the preparation for this conference was Dr. Richard Sowell, Dean and Professor of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Sowell also had assistance from Dr. Betty Siegel, President of Kennesaw State University as well as many others, including Dr. Vanice Roberts, Associate Dean of WellStar College of Health and Human Services and Mr. Mike Spino, the Conference Director. Consortium co-chairs were Dr. Sandra Gangstead, Department Chair of Health, Education and Sport Science at Kennesaw State University, and Dr. Darlene Kluka who was then Professor and Coordinator of the Department of Kinesiology, Sport and Leisure Studies at Grambling State University, in Gramling, Louisiana (she is currently Director of The Center for International Women's Leadership and Sport Development at Kennesaw State University). Other Consortium members planning this event included: Dr. Louise Bill, Professor of Human Services at Kennesaw State University; Martha Brady, Population Council,



Anita L. DeFrantz accepts the Social Leadership through Sports Award, presented by Donna DeVarona.

International Programs Division, New York, New York; Dr. Gudrun Doll-Tepfer, ICCSPE president, Institute of Sports Science, Freie Universitat, Berlin, Germany; Dr. Jinxia Dong, Director of the Research Center for Gender, Sport and Society, Beijing, China; Dr. Kari Fasting, Professor, The Norwegian University of Sport and Physical Education, Oslo, Norway; Dr. Mary Hums, Professor, Dept. of HPES, University of Louisville, Kentucky; Dr. Helen Miramontes, Professor Emeriti, University of California, San Francisco, California; Dulce Murphy, Institute of Citizen Diplomacy, Mill Valley, California; Dr. Carol Oglesby, Chair, Department of Kinesiology, California State University, North Ridge, California; Dr. Donna Pastore, Director of Physical Activity and Educational Services, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Dr. Vanice Roberts, Associate Dean, WellStar College of Health and Human Services, Kennesaw State University; and Dr. Margaret Talbot, Executive Director, Central Council of Physical Education, London, United Kingdom.

2005 International Summit: Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport

KSU Student Participants' Perspectives

More than 300 KSU students from numerous departments attended the three-day International Summit. Many HPS majors, along with HPS faculty, served as volunteer "ambassadors" for the event. Students worked enthusiastically at registration and as concurrent-session room monitors.

● 2005 International Summit Meeting



Dr. Louise Bill presenting a paper entitled "Community Development through Engagement: A Conceptual Model for Social Change" at the 2005 International Summit. Dr. Louise Bill also participated as a member of the International Women's Working Group responsible for writing a list of principles for the future of Global Center for Social Change through Women's Leadership and Sport.

Faculty served as moderators at the concurrent program sessions. Special thanks to Dr. Gail Webster who coordinated the KSU volunteers and also to the HPS Majors Club for their many efforts to help make the conference a success. International and U.S. conference participants indicated that KSU students, faculty, and staff were so openly friendly, helpful, and made them feel very welcome at the conference.

The Conference clearly was a wonderful learning experience for all those who attended. Numerous WCHHS faculty used the conference as "talking point" for material they were covering in class, and

also required related assignments to conference topics. Here are a few "quotes" received from some of the HPS majors who attended and worked the conference.

"I learned that it is very important to have a global perspective. We, as women, have our struggles in America, but these are nothing compared to the struggles of women in poor countries such as India. In America, we have co-educational as well as all female teams in nearly all sport programs. Clearly this is a luxury that many women are not afforded. This conference show-cased many people from around the world with the same goal. That is to enhance women's opportunities to lead in and through sport. This conference and other like it bring education and much-needed awareness which is key in making a change for the better..." Rian Stepp, Exercise and Health Science major.

"Overall, the conference opened my eyes to the international scope of exercise science, health, and sport science. Seeing and hearing people from huge international organizations such as FIFA and the IOC helped me realize the similarities (and differences) between my own local perspective and the world's perspective...ideas about program development and execution can be applied to my martial arts school, locally, in much the same manner as FIFA opens a new development training facility in Afganistan..." Mike Esser, Exercise and Health Science major.

"...women should have the same opportunity as men in every arena. Our world has been tied down to its own traditions and old customs, which in many cases do not let women progress and develop their full potential. I am glad

that this conference was held...I did not realize how important these issues are to women all around the globe..." Jason Cordova, Exercise and Health Science major.

"I was extremely struck by the UN efforts to spread the idea that peace could be achieved through promoting sports participation throughout the world...it seems so difficult since there is so much violence and media attention focusing on violence throughout the world..." Lori Cassell, EHS major.

"I learned that there are many, many amazing, wonderful and strong female role models...They inspired me and have helped me feel empowered. I also learned that there are many men who are fully supportive of women's progression... Coaches, whether male or female, serve in such an influential position, but too many are still in competitive sport coaching for the personal prestige rather than the growth of the individuals they are leading...too much emphasis is being placed on winning rather than the lessons that can be learned through sport...Lessons which can be learned through participation in sport was what this conference was all about..." Soni Wells, Exercise and Health Science Senior. (Soni also modeled as the female athlete with the "world" in her hands on the Summit Banner).

Women Leaders for Social Change through Sport Consortium

The purpose WLSCS Consortium was to bring key academic and professional leaders together to discuss important issues which encompass "social change through sport" initiatives and the role of women's leadership in furthering the movement. The target of the group's discussion and research efforts during pre-conference meetings and throughout the conference was the exploration of methods for the development and evaluation of program initiatives which empower women to effect positive personal and societal change. A major outcome of the group's efforts will be a monograph which will include the formulation of published recommendations and guidelines for facilitating the mobilization of women to make a difference at the community level in the U.S. and throughout the world, using physical activity and sport as a vehicle for change.

Dr. Sandra Gangstead, Professor & Dept. Chair of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science and **Dr. Darlene Kluka**, Director of the Global Center for Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport, co-chaired the consortium. **Dr. Vanice Roberts**, Associate Dean of the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services, and **Dr. Louise Bill**, Professor in the Department of Human Services, were also representing KSU as Consortium members. Notable scholars and activists within the women's leadership in sport movement were also members of the Consortium.

● New Center

These were:

Martha Brady, International Programs Division of the Population Council, New York, NY USA

Dr. Gudrun Doll-Tepper, President, International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education, Professor, Institute of Sport Science, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany

Dr. Jinxia Dong, Professor and Director Research Center for Gender, Sport, and Society, Peking University, Beijing, China

Dr. Kari Fasting, Professor of Sport Sociology, The Norwegian University of Sport Science, Oslo, Norway

Dr. Mary Hums, Professor, Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Louisville, Louisville KY, USA

Dr. Helen Miramontes, Professor of Nursing Emeriti, University of California- San Francisco, CA USA

Dulce Murphy, Institute for Citizen Diplomacy, Mill Valley CA USA

Dr. Carole Oglesby, Professor and Chair, Department of Kinesiology, California State University-Northridge, CA, USA

Dr. Donna Pastore, Professor and Director, School of Physical Activity and Educational Services, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH USA

Dr. Margaret Talbot, Executive Director, Council on Physical Education, London, United Kingdom

The Consortium meetings were organized to facilitate serious dialogue between participants. Areas of discussion included; 1) "Exploration" of Critical Issues respective to the Summit's theme followed by an activity of "discovering" shared issues; 2) In-depth "Mining for Core" issues and then "assaying" for specificity of these issues; and 3) "Examination" of methods and strategies, effective practices, followed with full discussion of the analysis of identified strategies. The final hours of the meetings were spent in development of a follow-up action plan for the Consortium and identification of potential resources in which to continue the dialogue. The outcome of the Consortium discussion was the development of Consortium of Women Leaders for Social Change through Sport recommendations, and drafting of the "Kennesaw Commitment" which was announced at the closing plenary session of the Summit.

Consortium members will play an integral role in the development of a monograph which will include scholarly discussion of the critical core issues identified by the members. Topics included in this published monograph will include:

- The culture of sport and cultural differences
- Women and leadership
- Economic independence for women
- The way women are valued across values

- Gender order and gender relations
- Women's involvement toward making civil societies
- Resources to implement positive social change

Many of the Consortium members will also serve in an academic, advisory capacity for the newly-developed Global Center for Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport.

WellStar College Announces a Unique Center:

The Center for Global Women's Leadership and Sport Development

As a result of the world-class summit, Affecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sport, hosted by Kennesaw State University in October, 2005, through the WellStar College of Health and Human Services and the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, the following became part of the Kennesaw State University's Commitment:

- To develop and sustain the Center for Global Women's Leadership and Sport Development.
- To devote the Center's best efforts to accelerate progress in the development of research, policy and practice relating to women's leadership in and through sport.
- To facilitate the exchange of ideas, experience and information through a physical and virtual learning environment for scholarly activity.
- To function as a nexus for scholarly inquiry, research and advocacy.
- To provide a repository for the collection of national and international policy statements and commitments made worldwide.
- To serve as a catalyst for use of collaborative expertise among academia, NGOs, the Olympic and Paralympic Movements and governmental agencies to benefit social change in and through women's leadership and sport.

The Center for Global Women's Leadership and Sport Development was announced during the 2005 Summit. The Center builds on a history of international initiatives, women's leadership initiatives, and partnerships in developing/implementing sport initiatives aimed at affecting social change and youth development through sport. KSU has been referred to as Georgia's International University because of its focus on global learning for engaged citizenship. The WellStar College has had a long history of outreach to the Latino community, both in northwest Georgia and in Mexico. The management

of three, free clinics in Cobb County and the study-abroad programs for nurses, social workers and health educators in Oaxaca, Mexico, are the examples. Other university programs/partnerships have been implemented in South Africa, China, Brazil, the Netherlands and Germany. Women's leadership initiatives have been highlighted by KSU President, Dr. Betty Siegel, as well as other recognized female leaders in the University. The KSU Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character also has a wide range of such initiatives.

Perspectives from the Center's Director:

Imagine a world in which different approaches to understanding the rightful place of women, leadership, and sport development can be brought together to serve humanity. Imagine a vision that involves learning, leading, achieving and succeeding, using learning as the cornerstone. Imagine a willingness to share knowledge, conduct research and collaborate as catalysts for positive social change, focusing on women's leadership in and through sport, physical activity, health and human services without regard to national boundaries. Imagine a place where coaches and administrators can learn, lead, achieve and succeed in the development of youngsters through sport. What better place to do this than at Kennesaw State University, through its newly-created Center for Global Women's Leadership and Sport Development?

I feel extremely fortunate to have been selected as the Center's Director. This is one of the most exciting chapters of my professional life. It is my hope that I can serve as a capable steward for the Center, the University and for women's leadership in and through sport, globally.

The opportunity to be instrumental in the creation of the Center for Global Women's Leadership and Sport Development is a dream of a lifetime. I have invested my life's passion in girls and women through sport, teaching and coaching, and sport science as cornerstone for positive social change. As an individual who is dedicated to lifelong personal learning, the invitation to become a full professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, as well as the first Director of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services' Center for Global Women's Leadership and Sport Development was almost unbelievable. A chance to bring my passion and my professional career together was more than I had hoped for. I am personally grateful to Dr. Betty Siegel, Dr. Richard Sowell, Dr. Vanice Roberts, Dr. Lendley Black and Dr. Sandra Gangstead for their leadership and vision to make the Center a reality.

I have always attempted to grasp underlying models and methods of scientific thought, as well as the implications of particular theories or new discoveries. I have thought deeply about science...not just its implications for the understanding of what reality is, but also about a more important question of how science may influence ethics and human values. The Center's core values appear to be congruent with scientific thought and with the values of Kennesaw State University: cooperation, leadership, globally-engaged citizenry, respect for self and others, ethical behavior, fair play, healthy personal development through sport, sport for personal development, healthy competition, education, social inclusion, teamwork,

conflict resolution, community development, prevention of violence, and social reconstruction.

These core values are reflected in the Center's Mission Statement: To serve globally as a catalyst for positive social change and community development by building human capital, focusing on women's leadership through sport, physical activity, health and human services.

The Center's motto further evidences our commitment: Learning, leading, achieving and succeeding in positive social change, focusing on women's leadership in and through sport, physical activity, health and human services.

A Grand Opening Celebration of the Center is planned for Friday, October 27 and Saturday, October 28, 2006. A reception will be held at the Jolley Lodge on Friday, at 7:30 pm. A visual art exhibition, commissioned by the Women's Sports Foundation in celebration of its 30th anniversary, celebrates the achievements and beauty of inspiring female athletes. Work by famous photographer, Jodi Buren, will be featured on Saturday, along with keynote speaker, Dr. Celia Brackenridge from the United Kingdom, who is an internationally-known scholar and speaker on the rights of children, sport, women and positive social change. A tour of the new center will also be featured. If you are interested in attending, please contact me via email, dkluka@kennesaw.edu.

A discussion series is also planned, once per month, beginning in September, 2006, at the Center, located in House #58, on the KSU campus. An issue involving women's leadership, sport and positive social change will be discussed. Strategies for the future will also be determined.

Other exciting projects and programs are being developed, including joint research and service projects with selected university partners in five continents. A portion of the KSU website will be available soon with information about the Center and its initiatives. Please visit the KSU website often to find out more.

Advancing the Office of Research through the Power of Diversity

The spring 2006 edition of the college newsletter marks the Office's of Research and Graduate Studies (now to be referred to as the Office of Research) third year of operation. How fast has time passed! During this time, significant growth with regard to faculty, staff, and student development has occurred. This growth is due, in part, to the extraordinary diversity within the Office of Research. Faculty from throughout the college and university have used the research assistants who bring not only racial and cultural diversity into their research studies and interactions with faculty, but also educational diversity, ranging from accounting to nursing and many other disciplines in between.

To date, with over 60 full-time faculty throughout the college,



Certificates of Appreciation awarded to research assistants in the Office of Research. Front row L-R: Brandon Tillman (Korean American), Kaori Igeta (Japanese), Astrid Gonzalez (Venezuelan), who is holding a Certificate of Appreciation for the student research assistants, Kathy Rodgers (American), Gouli Chen (Chinese), Karlha Sanjuan (Venezuelan). Back row L-R: Akintomiwa Ayemobola (Nigerian), Dr. Tim Akers (American), and Oscar Silva (Colombian), Becky Rodgers (American).

over 71% have used the Office of Research and our research assistants. To provide a snapshot of some of the college's achievements during the past three years through the resources that have been made available, the Office of Research is pleased to report on the incredible cultural change and hard work that the faculty have undergone towards advancing their research and scholarship throughout the college.

The Office of Research can report on having been awarded

grants, contracts, and technologies for the college comprising approximately \$1.3 million dollars, with other grants and contracts pending. While the college has received additional resources, these are of particular note because the Office of Research was most active in their acquisition. Figure 1 provides a graphic depiction of some of the indicators that have been reported by faculty over the past three years. As shown, every indicator reflects progress being met by faculty from 2003-2005. These successes clearly show where faculty are focusing their attention towards advancing a cultural change in support of research throughout the college.

On average, the Office of Research has spent approximately 100 minutes of time with faculty during meetings,

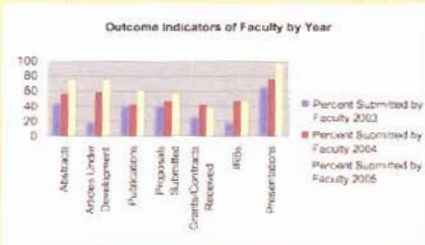


Figure 1: Outcome Indicators of Faculty by Year

assisting them in conceptualizing their research projects, modeling, statistical analysis, data entry and coding, editing publications, networking, and proposal development, among many other areas. It is through

this diversity of activities that has nudged the college towards a cultural change in greater support of advancing a research agenda for faculty across the School of Nursing, Department of Human Services, and the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sports Science. (Note: for an overview of faculty expertise, research assistants and their academic affiliations, and the mission of the Office of Research, please access our new webpage at: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/officeofresearch/>).

The Development of Cultural Sensitivity in Nurse Practitioner Students: A Culture-Focused Practicum in Aibonito, Puerto Rico

The greater metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia has experienced phenomenal growth of the Latino population in the past decade. Although many of these people have emigrated from Mexico, a documented 27% of this population is Puerto Rican by birth. The faculty of the WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program believe that in order for our graduates to be effective providers for their Latino clients, the graduates must possess knowledge and sensitivity regarding the clients' cultural and health beliefs. And, although we have established clinical practica in Mexico, there have been no opportunities available to prepare our graduates to provide culturally-sensitive care to the Puerto Ricans of our community. To meet this need, the faculty collaborated with Dia de la Mujer Latina, Inc. in the establishment of a cultural practica in Aibonito, Puerto Rico. Aibonito, located in the central mountain region of the island, boasts a population of 26,000. Most of its residents are employed in either the poultry industry or in the countless greenhouses which surround the town.

In November, 2005, two faculty members and ten primary-care nurse practitioner students traveled to Aibonito to participate in the first cultural practica. Because the students were not licensed to practice as registered nurses in Puerto Rico, the focus of the practica was the participation in community cultural events. The students also provided health promotion education to the Aibonito residents who attended the Dia Internacional de la Mujer Latina. For their participation in a community music festival, the students received the Interprete Mayor Entusiasmo Award from the local residents. Other activities included



WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program students and faculty participate in the Aibonito music festival. Pictured left to right: Chika Oraka, Muna Wagner, Michael Nissen, Andrea Knopp (faculty), Colleen Astles, Suzanne Smith, Genie Dorman (faculty), Cari Montailh, Cheryl Christie, and Shagni Nordone.

participating in home stays with families, attending presentations regarding Puerto Rican health beliefs at El Hospital de Mennonite, and meeting with the faculty and students at the Universidad Inter Americana de Puerto Rico in order to learn about their nursing education program.

Data collected from the students regarding the practica indicate positive outcomes, including plans to participate in local Puerto Rican health fairs and cultural events. In February, 2006, at the Ninth Annual Conference on the Americas in Savannah, Georgia, the students shared how their experiences provided them with a new understanding of the cultural and health beliefs commonly held by their Puerto Rican clients.

The Hickory Lakes Outreach Summer Health Fair

In June, 2005, the WellStar School of Nursing, in collaboration with the Latin American Association and the Hickory Lakes Apartments Management, offered to over one thousand, primarily Latino residents of that community, the opportunity to receive a variety of free health-care services, over a four-day period. Faculty members, Dr. Genie Dorman, Ms. Andrea Knopp and Ms. Janice Long, along with students enrolled in both, the graduate and undergraduate nursing programs, provided the services.

Goals for the Hickory Lakes Outreach Summer Health Fair included the following: provide screening and health



Pictured above is one of the many Hickory Lakes resident families who participated in the Health Fair.

information to the community of Hickory Lakes Apartments; provide clinical experience in a cross-cultural setting for students of Kennesaw State University's WellStar School of Nursing; identify chronic and acute health problems of participants in the health fair and provide information for follow-up care and referrals to participating health centers; and identify barriers to receiving health care in the Hickory Lakes community.

Services included required child health screenings for school enrollment (vision, hearing, dental); blood pressure; anemia, diabetes, HIV and chiropractic screenings; episodic health care; and preventative and health promotion activities. Several community organizations were also instrumental in making the health fair a success. Kool Smiles, Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies, Children's Health Care of Atlanta, AidAtlanta, Georgia Ovarian Cancer Society, Cobb County Health Department Breast Screening, and Holistic Health

Care provided services and health information. Coca-Cola, SUBWAY and Wal-Mart provided refreshments and volunteer assistance.

The 158 residents who participated in the Hickory Lakes Outreach Summer Health Fair and the students who provided the services rated the experience as extremely beneficial. Planning is currently underway for the Hickory Lakes Outreach Summer Health Fair to be held in June, 2006.

The Nursing Program in Oaxaca, Mexico

Nursing as a profession has focused on the improvement of care delivery for clients of a variety of ethnicities, nationalities and socioeconomic levels. Clients from cultures other than that of the nurse often do not fully benefit from nursing care due to miscommunication, misunderstanding and potential conflicts of values, beliefs, norms and mutually-stereotypical attitudes. Comprehensive knowledge of the culture of the client is imperative in order to adequately assess, plan, implement and evaluate nursing care (Leininger, 1978; Purnell, 2003; Spector, 2004).

In order to address the above-mentioned concerns in providing more culturally appropriate nursing care to clients, a course was designed to give faculty and students an added knowledge and first-hand experience to provide better care to clients in the local metropolitan community. The Nursing Practicum in Oaxaca (pronounced wa-ha-ka), Mexico will have its 11th year of existence since its inception. Dr. Carol Holtz, Professor of Nursing at KSU, began the upper-level elective nursing course for student nurses and graduates to participate in a transcultural nursing experience. During the past few years, Dr. David Bennett, Chair of the Department of Nursing at KSU, has worked with Dr. Holtz on this course.

Students who participate in this two-week program are able to live individually with a local family, work with local Oaxacan RN mentors with the supervision of a KSU nursing faculty member, and take daily semi-private, non-credit Spanish lessons for an hour each evening. In addition, on the weekends, students with their faculty members have cultural excursions



Students visiting the Monte Alban Pyramids.

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to villages to see the indigenous Zapotec or Mixtec Indians make their crafts of carved wooden animals (alebrijes), hand-woven rugs (tapetes) and the famous black pottery. Students also visit the ancient and historic Monte Alban pyramids. On one Friday evening, the students attend the local Guelaguetza folkloric ballet which depicts the various regional foods, dress, music and dance of the numerous Indian cultures of the state of Oaxaca.

The growing numbers of Latino clients seeking care in metropolitan Atlanta, and Georgia as a whole, require increased cultural competence among care providers. The United States is experiencing the largest sustained immigration wave in its history with an estimated 1.2 million documented and undocumented immigrants arriving each year, the majority being from Mexico. People of Latino origin in the U.S. now comprise 15% of the population. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the Latino population has surpassed the African Americans to become the largest minority group in the United States. Traditionally, the U.S. health care system was designed to accommodate Caucasian and African-American clients of a variety of socio-economic statuses. The influx of Spanish-speaking clients has challenged health care providers to design a system with personnel who are culturally competent and can speak at least minimally in Spanish.

The nursing course in Oaxaca, Mexico reflects the mission of KSU and the Wellstar School of Nursing; the mission is to increase intercultural contacts, cultural competence and global understanding for both, faculty and students. Over 100 students have participated in the yearly course so far. With the cooperation of the Secretary of Health of Oaxaca, second in command to the Oaxaca state governor, the course will continue to develop and grow. Dr. Richard Sowell, Dean of the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services, along with Dr. Holtz, have recently met with the new Secretary of Health of Oaxaca. Future plans are to expand this program to include intercultural exchanges of faculty and staff of the KSU Nursing Programs, the Oaxaca Nursing Programs of the University of Oaxaca and the staff of the Oaxaca and Cobb County Health Departments.

Update: Project IDEAL extends its research links in Colombia, South America

Project IDEAL, Initiative for Diabetes Educational Advancement for Latinos, and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies have extended their links of friendship. Scientific cooperation has begun between the Juan N. Corpas School of Medicine in Bogotá, Colombia, and the WellStar College of Health and Human Services at Kennesaw State University through a comparative and evaluative study, using a focus group and Diabetes Early Detection Day (screenings) in Colombia, South America.

The focus group, marketed as Perceptions and Beliefs of Health, was coordinated and carried out by the Juan N. Corpas

School of Medicine, the Alma Mater of Dr. Astrid Rozo-Rivera. Dr. Rozo-Rivera is the Co-Project Director of Project IDEAL and a Research Scientist, as well as Adjunct Faculty of WCHHS. The focus group was comprised of a medical student, a medical senior professor/clinical physician, employees of the hosting institution and two community members with diabetes.

The study survey used for the focus group was the same as the one used during the Phase I of Project IDEAL's research for the Colombian Nationals living in the United States. Data obtained from the study is significant as it will be used to compare the beliefs of Colombians living in Colombia to Colombians who are residing in the geographical area around Kennesaw State University. The results are equally important to Colombia. They offer first-hand information on Colombian health beliefs, particularly as they relate to chronic disease including diabetes, as well as offer the researchers from Colombia information that will assist the country of Colombia in their own health promotion efforts related to chronic diseases.

In addition to the focus groups conducted, the El Encuentro church in Bogotá hosted a health screening where 56 people participated in screening for diabetes. The diabetes risk test used at the screening was developed by the American Diabetes Association, and it was translated into Spanish by KSU. All participants received the risk test and fasting blood glucose testing. Out of the 56 participants screened, two participants were found to fall into the range of diabetes diagnosis and were referred for further diabetes testing. Each was also given individual education using the Project IDEAL model, as well as monitors and the placemats (nutritional/educational tool) designed by the Project IDEAL team leaders.

Through this initiative Project IDEAL continues to make a difference in the area of health, both on domestic as well as foreign soil. Future updates to follow!

Tsunami Disaster Relief

Talisa Gimbel is spending her internship serving on a disaster relief team in Thailand. Over 250,000 people were killed, and many communities were devastated by the tsunami wave. Talisa is attached to the Southeast Asia Special Olympics Disaster Response Team, in the coastal areas of southern Thailand. She is helping to rebuild communities and re-establish the infrastructure of the Special Olympics organization in this region. Talisa has been sharing her experiences with our HS classes via internet video conferences. Talisa is also laying the foundation for other students to develop internships in Southeast Asia.

Living in a disaster area in field conditions has been difficult but a once-in-a-life-time experience. Our thanks to Talisa for serving in this most challenging internship!

A Letter Home

Hello to all, as the Thai's say it here Sawatdee Kha! Things are progressing well here. I am currently in the southern province of Thailand called Pang-Nga. This the province that was hardest hit by the Tsunami last year. I have taken a tremendous amount of photos and look forward to sharing them with all of you upon my return. The Thai culture is beautiful. The people are so kind and they love to feed me all the time. They are very inquisitive about my work here and seem to be very thankful for what I am doing. I am currently working with



Talisa working with the students at Phuket Special School.

Special Olympics Thailand implementing the Unified Sports program to the 6 southern Thai provinces that were affected by the Tsunami. I have done just about everything you could imagine during my short stay. I am

constantly being asked to teach English to the staff and students of the schools I visit, I have done physical therapy with students that have limited mobility to developmental issues, I've worked with autistic children, deaf children, as well as those with extremely low IQ's. I am currently working on a program evaluation study of the Unified Sports Program for SOT, developing many permanent internship programs with the schools and I come in contact with as well as SOT, I am also doing research on social welfare policies (global) that are currently in use to help develop a policy that works well for those who are intellectually and/or physically disabled. Thailand has no social welfare policies currently in place. I also have a meeting with the Prime Minister on Feb. 22 to discuss my finding here. We have a big event planned for Feb. 22-23 called Rebuilding Hope and all of the Southern province schools will be attending to compete in football and badminton with one another, there will be arts and crafts, and singing and dancing - it's going to be great and I hope that it brings the much needed attention to SOT and the people we help. Let's just say that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done here. It has been quite a culture shock, as I often have to shower in cold water (if I have the luxury of showering), I go to the bathroom with frogs and lizards often sharing the same space with me, I often sleep on a plywood bed frame, and communications to the States is very limited in the Southern Provinces. But I must say that for all of the work and uncomfortable living arrangements I love what I'm doing and I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. Everyone here loves to hear about America and they want to learn English, they love to just sit and stare at you. For those who don't know it, you are blessed with some of the things that these people could never imagine. I work in schools that that children have to share pencils and erasers. The teachers are responsible for providing everything for their classrooms and

they often take on much more responsibility then you could imagine. The only thing I can say is to be thankful for all that you have and be mindful each day of the people you come in contact with...

I look forward to sharing with you all of my experiences and keep up the good work. I often wear my HSC t-shirt and the Thai people ask what it means, they are very thankful and appreciative for every bit of help they receive. Talk with you soon, Talisa



Dennis Flores, *International Student Profile*

Fresh from the University of The Philippines, Dennis Flores began a four-year stint in social work in GA, back in 2001. "As a state employee, I had the best opportunity to get acquainted with my new surroundings and its people. Social work would have been a lifelong career had there not been a medical emergency in the family, an episode that inspired my return to school to pursue nursing. With my younger sister just starting college, acceptance into the KSU Nursing Program became a mutual goal. We expect to graduate in December, 2006 and look forward to the day when we march up that stage, one right after the other."

Cobb Health Partners

Cobb Health Partners' MUST clinic is moving into the technology age! Over the last few months, CHP has been obtaining lap top computers for Electronic Health Records at the clinic, at MUST. Using Next Step Technologies, patient records will be initiated on-line and maintained through the internet. Through the secure system, health records can be updated, viewed with lab results and test results attached and reviewed for quality assurance.

The clinic has over 4,000 charts and almost 4,000 visits per year. With the EHR, data will be easily accessible for research information and projects. The result will be better management of patient files and will provide better care and update of patient medications, plans, and numbers of visits and referrals. The follow-through by the patients on their referrals to health departments, specialists, diabetic programs (Project IDEAL) or eye clinics will be monitored by the system.

One of the difficulties in developing an EHR program at an underserved clinic is the clients' distrust of their information being stored in a computer. Also, the volunteers who so

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graciously spend their time have to learn the new system and data entry. Students who rotate weekly and quarterly through the clinic are somewhat limited in their ability to enter data due to security reasons. Finally, in a clinic that resides in a trailer, security and theft prevention require creative thinking.

This is an exciting time for the clinics. Once the Electronic Health Records are established at the MUST clinic, the other clinic sites will be added to the system. Kennesaw State University's WellStar College of Health and Human Services and WellStar School of Nursing have been supportive throughout this endeavor. Using this technology in the clinics will provide a valuable learning experience for students and faculty.

Sweetwater Community Health Center

The Community Health Center in Austell is already growing beyond its humble beginnings. From the fall of last year till now, the clinic has already provided services to 400 clients even though it is open only one night a week, for four hours. People from the Cobb/Douglas counties and surrounding areas are receiving healthcare and dental care at the site.

The medical clinic is staffed by a nurse practitioner, along with undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Dr. Kevin Smith is providing services in a chronic disease clinic and a procedures clinic. Volunteers from Sweetwater Camp Association are doing administrative service, and volunteers from the Cobb school system provide interpreters for the non-English speaking clientele. By using all the community resources, care is provided at no cost, with minimal charges for laboratory testing and medications.



Andrea Knopp, Director, Center of Community Health Care and Dave Aten, Director of Austell's Community Health Center.

The Dental Clinic provides extractions, cleanings and even teeth whitening at minimal cost to adults and children.

Students from Clayton State's dental hygienist school and local dentists are there every week for appointments.

Since the evening clinic has maximized its time constraints, the Community Health Center plans to have expanded hours in the next few months. The goal is to have a full-time staff available 5 days a week, during hours that are convenient for the clients. The Center also plans to develop a radiology department and use internet technology for the health records.

The commitment of the community, volunteers, students and faculty is the key to the success of the Community Health Center. By working together in a model of service and striving to meet the needs of the community in manner of excellence, the underserved populations are able to receive healthcare in a cost-effective and timely manner.

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