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

Nurse Refresher Course: Online, March and September
Nurse Refresher Course: On-campus, May and December
Critical Care Nursing: October and March
Getting into Diabetes: September and April
Nursing in Faith Communities: January
For additional details, please go to:
http://www.kennesaw.edu/ohsu/schoolofnursing/coned/index.htm

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Dr. Vanice Roberts, Associate Dean, WellStar College

The Dean Speaks
Dr. Richard L. Sowell, PhD, RN, FAAN
A College on the Move
In the fall 2006 issue of Excellence, I reported about many new educational programs and initiatives undertaken by the WellStar College of Health and Human Services. The WellStar College implemented a new Masters in Social Work (MSW) degree, a Nurse Educator Program, and an MS to NP Program for foreign physicians. I am pleased to say that these initiatives are moving forward successfully. The Department of Human Services admitted 33 new students into the inaugural class of the MSW degree program - eight more students than anticipated. The increased number resulted from an overwhelming response of potential students to the program, with 75 students applying for admission. We admitted a record number of students to the Nursing Masters Program. The foreign physician pilot program has demonstrated the value of this initiative, as well. Yet, these programs represent only a portion of the effort our faculty put forth in developing and implementing innovative educational programs to the KSU campus.

The University System of Georgia has approved a letter of intent for a new Masters degree in Applied Health and Exercise Science. A full proposal for this new program in the Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science Department (HPS) was forwarded to the System’s office early in spring 2007 semester. We are confident that this program represents a unique and significant addition to the University System’s of Georgia educational offerings, and we are hopeful that approval of the program will be forthcoming. Additionally, the HPS Department completed the development and is implementing a Coaching Education minor within the department.

Another significant undertaking of the WellStar College is to move into doctoral education. Kennesaw State University is approved to move into doctoral education, focusing on professional doctorates that meet the educational needs of the Northwest region of Georgia. Faculty members of the WellStar College participated in the development of two such doctoral programs. Faculty worked on the ongoing development of an interdisciplinary doctoral program, focusing on Leadership and Social Policy. This degree program builds on KSU’s strengths in the areas of leadership and social responsibility. Currently, drafts of the program are under review and revised at the University level to strengthen its content and maximize its value to students. The program will be forwarded to the University System of Georgia for consideration.

Additionally, the WellStar School of Nursing is developing a second doctoral program within the WellStar College. With the support of our new President, Dr. Dan Papp, graduate faculty are well into conceptualizing and developing a Doctorate of Nursing Science, focusing on nursing education and health disparities. Preparation of nurses with advanced expertise in these two areas is critical to the future of health care in our State. This new degree program will have a clinical (practice) focus and will also provide students with the research and evaluation tools to craft stronger evidence-based practice within health care, as well as evaluate practice-based interventions. Our program will be designed to bridge the educational gap between the Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) degree and the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) that currently exist in the State. We are fortunate to have Dr. Tommie Nelms leading this initiative. Dr. Nelms taught in the PhD program at Georgia State University and most recently served as the Director of the Doctoral Program at Texas Woman’s University. A group of dedicated faculty, including Drs. Genie Dormann, Kathe Aduddell, Lois Robley, Jonathan VanGeest, and Annora Barian are working with Dr. Nelms and with me to not only develop the doctoral program proposal, but also to refine the components of the MSN program core to facilitate articulation of our best baccalaureate students into graduate education.

During this academic year, faculty in the WellStar College worked to gain or retain national and state accreditation of our programs. The WellStar School of Nursing,
under the leadership of Dr. Christena Horn, completed a successful State Board of Nursing review during fall 2006. The WellStar School of Nursing faculty members continue to monitor the baccalaureate curriculum to insure KSU educates the baccalaureate-prepared nurses. KSU nursing students scored 97.7% and 100% respectively on the two most recent NCLEX examinations. Likewise, Dr. Alan Kirk, Chair and a faculty member in the Department of Human Services, received outstanding reviews from the National Council on Social Work on the pre- accreditation visit for the MSW program. Dr. Papp commented during the visitors’ exit debriefing for the KSU administration that he did not remember ever receiving a more glowing report on a program review. The hard work of the faculty results in real and significant outcomes that reflect positively on KSU, the WellStar College, and education we offer to students.

Although classroom instruction and on-campus activities are often viewed as the central focus of a college education, there is an increasing understanding that best education combines traditional academic modalities and real-world experience and community engagement. The value of moving beyond knowledge acquisition to educating students to be contributing citizens of society became a core value of a growing number of universities, including KSU. This value is particularly relevant to the education of students who aspire to enter the varied disciplines of health and human services. To promote learning beyond the classroom and university by both students and faculty, the WellStar College continues to seek strategic partnerships with universities and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) globally. These partnerships offer educational opportunities and exposure to new and different perspectives to our students.

One of the most exciting of our new partnerships is with the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities. This NGO, created by the African Union, addresses the issues of individuals with disabilities in Africa, using a variety of modalities, including sport. HIV/AIDS is also addressed within this initiative. The WellStar College becomes the first college in the United States to enter into such a partnership with the African Decade. With collaborative agreements with BlitzSports of America, Inc., and UpliftSports, Inc., a new Global Center for Disability Rights was established in the College under the umbrella of the Global Center for Social Change. This initiative offers faculty and students a unique opportunity to work across disciplines and to understand and explore solutions for individuals with disabilities on a local, national, and international level. This initiative provides educational opportunities for students and faculty to address the health and social service needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens. These citizens possess the ability to positively contribute to society if given the chance. Additionally, the WellStar College established formal relationships with the University of Owaasha and the University of Pretoria. During this academic year, faculty members from both universities have come to KSU, offering lectures, leading classroom discussions and participating in one-to-one cultural exchanges with students and faculty, thereby enriching the faculty from the WellStar College participated in faculty exchanges from both universities and gained a new global perspective that can be integrated into teaching strategies for students in the WellStar College.

Clearly, the goals and efforts of the WellStar College’s faculty reflect the dynamic nature of our College and University. As I talk with my colleagues across the U.S., they often ask me if we are trying to do too much, understanding that change in academia often comes slowly. My response is that we are undertaking an enormous job. However, we are up to an enormous opportunity! The faculty of the WellStar College is one of the most able groups of individuals with whom I had the privilege to work. We are prepared to accept the challenges of transforming our College and University. To do less would be to sell short the expertise, the character and spirit of our faculty. The faculty of the WellStar College represents the best in higher education. I invite you to interact with our faculty and be a part of our future. Yes, we are doing a lot, but we are an exemplar of a College on the Move ready to embrace the future with excellence.

Carpe Diem (Seize the Day): A Major Theme for Dr. Robert A. Lipson

By Carol Holtz

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime.
And, departing, leave behind us
Footsteps to make others stride.
–Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“A Psalm of Life”

It is with great personal sadness that I write this article for our newsletter. Not only did my family and I know and love Dr. Robert A. Lipson as a personal friend for the past 27 years, but we also highly respected him as a charismatic community leader, making unique major contributions to numerous organizations, including the WellStar College of Health and Human Services. As a physician, he practiced medicine for more than 25 years. He died in a tragic motorcycle accident on Friday, November 10, 2006, at age 60.

Dr. Robert Lipson was a truly visionary man, continuously and passionately thinking beyond the present and planning what the ideal future should and could be like. Dr. Lipson had many dreams, as many of us do, but he subsequently made definite plans for his dreams to materialize. He loved his life, his family, friends and the community and lived his life with a passion, wanting to do something larger, greater, more interesting and more meaningful.

His numerous interests included photography, fishing, skiing and motorcycle riding. On October 6, 2006, he had a significant photographic exhibit on the KSU campus. Many of his prized photos were auctioned, and all proceeds from the auction were donated to the WellStar Foundation.

Dr. Lipson, M.D., M.B.A., was the Chief Executive Officer and President of the WellStar Health Care System, one of the largest healthcare systems in the Southeast, serving more than a million people. One of his major goals for this organization was to improve the quality of health care and increase health care accessibility to more individuals. He was also an exemplary leader in education, graduating from Tulane University’s School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA, and later developing and graduating from Kennesaw State’s first Physician’s Executive Program. At his own MBA graduation, he gave the KSU Commencement address.

Dr. Lipson believed that the WellStar Health Care System should have academic ties with Kennesaw State University as demonstrated with the College of Health and Human Services and the Colleges of Arts and Business. Dr. Lipson was responsible for the WellStar Health Care System’s generous donation of education funds for the College of Health and Human Services. Consequently, the name of the College was changed to the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, and the School of Nursing was re-named, the WellStar School of Nursing.

Additionally, because of this charitable donation, the WellStar College of Health and Human Services established three distinguished scholar positions and a distinguished scholar program. Distinguished Scholar in Gerontology, held by Dr. David Mitchell; Distinguished Scholar in Ethics, held by Dr. Lois Robley; and Distinguished Scholar in African American Health, held by Dr. Gloria Taylor.

One of his final legacies, only two weeks prior to his untimely death, was his assistance to co-authors, Dr. Martha Bark, Dr. Lisa Meth, and Dr. Marthe Barke of WellStar Health Care System and Dr. Govind Haritaran, Chair of Economics, Finance and Quantitative Economics, Finance and Quantitative Analysis at KSU submitted a book chapter within a textbook entitled Global Perspectives of Economics and Health Care. This book chapter will also be included within the new textbook, entitled Global Health Care, to be published by Jones and Bartlett Publishers and in print in fall 2007.

Let us remember Dr. Robert Lipson and his accomplishments. His legacy will remain within WellStar College of Health and Human Services and WellStar School of Nursing, campus colleges and the University as a whole.

Memorial: Dr. Robert A. Lipson

On October 15, 2006, approximately 12,000 people met at Piedmont Park for the annual AIDS Walk Atlanta. Docked out in their yellow shirts and walking with signs about the epidemic, a group of KSU student nurses flexed their advocacy muscles and affirmed to the community their commitment to fight the war against HIV/AIDS. The KSU Nurses and Friends team, with over 140 walkers and runners, was one of the largest teams at the walk. Team members represented students from every major nursing course, their families and friends, alumni, and faculty. They were the top fundraisers from among 140 college and university teams.

Dennis Flores, a senior nursing student, spearheaded the team. He started by rallying ten friends who set a goal of raising $500. In his quest to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and support for the KSU Nursing team, Dennis methodically went from nursing class to nursing class to solicit walkers. As the team grew, he created teams within the team to stimulate a “friendly” competition. Local businesses within the community were contacted by Dennis to contribute donations that would be used as prizes for the individuals/teams that raised or donated the most money. Dr. Richard Sowell, Dean of WellStar College of Health and Human Services, supported the team by providing T-shirts for the walkers, and KSU President, Dr. Daniel Papp, made a University bus available to transport walkers to Piedmont Park. In addition to raising money, Dennis and several team members spent one day in front of the WellStar School of Nursing, educating fellow students about HIV. On the day of the AIDS Walk, the team that started with a goal of $500 raised over $13,000.

There are approximately 27,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Georgia, making our state the eighth most affected...
Experience, had their students participate as part of their community service project requirement. Team “Residence Life has Heart” was the fundraising leader by collecting $1,545. 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 390,000 Americans each year. Kennesaw State University joined the AHA once again in the lifesaving efforts by proudly hosting this event.

Another Way Forward
The Establishment of the Global Center for Social Change through Women’s Leadership and Sport

Building on United Nations’ resolution (A/Res/58/5), proclaiming 2005 as the International Year of Sport and Physical Education, Kennesaw State University, through the WellStar Center, KSU Health Clinic, AID Atlanta and the National AIDS Wellness Center. Representatives from the KSU Wellness Center, KSU Health Clinic, AID Atlanta and the National AIDS Wellness Center held on November 30, 2006, in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, KSU Health Clinic, AID Atlanta and the National AIDS Wellness Center. Representatives from the KSU Wellness Center, KSU Health Clinic, AID Atlanta and the National AIDS Wellness Center.

The objectives of the Global Center have already been documented in its strategic plan, created in March, 2006, and a number of strategic alliances have been forged. To date, an International Consortium of Women Academics has been established with 23 members representing Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Hong Kong-China, Hungary, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom and USA. An international consortium of Men Academics is also being established with global representation. Additionally, the International Consortium of Women Academics has, through a partnership with the Women’s Sports Foundation, created the GoGirlGo! - Atlanta, of which Kennesaw State University is a partner. The GoGirlGo! - Atlanta was established in 2004 with the mission of promoting female participation in sports and physical activity in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. The GoGirlGo! - Atlanta has provided scholarships to female athletes, hosted community events, and conducted surveys to assess the impact of their work. In 2006, GoGirlGo! - Atlanta received a $30,000 grant from the National Security Council to support its efforts. The GoGirlGo! - Atlanta has also partnered with other organizations such as the Women’s Sports Foundation and the National Women’s Sports Foundation to promote female participation in sports and physical activity and to advocate for equal opportunities for women in sports.

The Global Center’s Grand Opening Celebration was held on KSU campus on October 27 – 28, 2006, with an evening reception at KSU’s Jockey Lodge. The keynote speaker for a full-day workshop was Dr. Celia Brackenridge, a leading authority on women’s leadership and sport. The Center’s mission to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information through a physical and virtual learning environment for scholarly activity; to function as a nexus for scholarly inquiry and research initiatives; and to serve as a channel for use of collaborative expertise among academia, NGOs, the Olympic and Paralympics movements, and governmental agencies in order to benefit humanity through women’s leadership and sport. The Center’s motto: learning, leading, achieving and succeeding in positive social change and focusing on leadership, physical activity health and human services.

The Global Center’s “A Spotlight on AIDS” program and The Memorial AIDS Quilt

Kennesaw State University Hosts the Cobb/Cheerkee Heart Walk

Kennesaw State University hosted the 2006 Cobb/Cheerkee Heart Walk that was held on Saturday, November 4. The cool morning did not stop walkers from coming out to help and raise funds to fight heart disease and stroke. It is estimated that the event was attended by over 600 people and raised over $140,000 for cardiovascular research and education.

Over 15 KSU teams participated by walking and raising funds for this annual event. Kennesaw State University raised $3,046. Teams were formed across campus and included sororities, fraternities and various campus departments. Instructors, Lynn Boettler and Deborah Mixson-Brookshire, of Student University Studies’ freshmen seminar – First Year Experience, had their students participate as part of their community service project requirement. Team “Residence Life has Heart” was the fundraising leader by collecting $1,545.

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We have created the International Academy for Disability Rights to help Africans with disabilities.

WCHHS Forms International Academy for Disability Rights in Partnership with the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities

It is estimated that 10 percent of the world’s population (700 million people) are disabled. For the United States, this represents approximately 30 million people. However, more than 60 million people (a very conservative estimate) living on the continent of Africa have some type of disability and a six-month survival rate for new spinal injuries, with minimal financial assistance.

The African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (1999-2009), a continental initiative launched by the African Union to improve the quality of life for Africans with disabilities, has selected Kennesaw State University as its American partner to combat these issues. The African Decade is a consortium of organizations that includes the African Union, the African Rehabilitation Institute, African governments, UN agencies and nongovernmental disabled people’s organizations.

Kennesaw State University has created the International Academy for Disability Rights to help Africans with disabilities.
become more self-sufficient. A ceremonial signing of the cooperative agreement between the African Decade and the International Academy was held on November 16, 2006. “The goal of the African Decade and KSU is to promote human rights for people with disabilities in a variety of ways,” said Dr. Ben Johnson, Associate Dean for Community Partnerships and Global Initiatives at KSU. Dr. Johnson who will head the Academy said, as well, that research shows that nearly 73 percent of Africans with disabilities were economically inactive as opposed to approximately 39 percent of the able-bodied population, resulting in significantly higher levels of poverty among the disabled.

Africans with disabilities also experience a disproportional rate of disease, including HIV/AIDS, TB and cardiovascular disease when compared to the able-bodied population. Dr. Richard Sowell, Dean of WellStar College of Health and Human Services, said, “To combat this difference, KSU officials plan to develop a unique curriculum to train persons with disabilities to help them become economically sufficient and to take on leadership roles within their communities.” In its first year, the Academy along with its local nonprofit partners, BlazaSports America and UpReach International, hope to reach hundreds of people with disabilities through various training programs. “We will target countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa and expand from there. We hope to directly impact millions of people with disabilities throughout the African continent.” Dr. Ben Johnson said.

**International Visiting Scholar, Professor Maria Virginia Hernandez Alonso**

Maria Virginia Hernandez Alonso, RN, MSN, Professor of Nursing (Maestra de Enfermeria) of the University of Oaxaca, is an international visiting scholar for the WellStar College of Health and Human Services. She is currently a member of the Accreditation of Nursing Faculty throughout the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, is a coprincipal investigator with Dr. Vera L. Welch, director of the Morehouse School of Medicine Cardiovascular Health Research Program, on a $250,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). This funding will allow the research team to evaluate a model program designed to adjust clinical encounters based on patients’ health literacy. Specifically, the research protocol will explore whether clinical screening for low health literacy improves quality of care and reduces disparities.

The grant was awarded by Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change, a national program office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The project was one of 11 grant recipients out of 178 that applied nationally. Proposals were received from health care leaders around the country—including hospitals, community health centers and universities with medical/health care specialties—to evaluate a wide range of interventions, such as electronic health records, health literacy screening and use of culturally-tailored DVDs designed to empower patients. Together these interventions provide a snapshot of current efforts around the country to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Results of the MSM/KSU collaboration will help Finding Answers and RWJF understand what works—and does not work—to improve health care for minority patients.

RWJF is the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted to improving the health and health care of all Americans. Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change is a research and tracking program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and based at the University of Chicago. The Finding Answers program is the cornerstone of the Foundation’s national strategy to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care by 2008. To learn more about Finding Answers visit: www.SolvingDisparities.org.

**The Georgia 2006 HIV/AIDS Community Services Assessment: A Statewide Needs Assessment, Resource Inventory, and Gap Analysis**

Dr. Barbara Blake, Associate Professor in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, has been actively engaged in providing the State of Georgia’s Department of Human Resources with an updated HIV/AIDS Community Services Assessment (CSA). Other members of the KAREnet team include Dr. Donna Sewell, project manager; Quienton Nichols, human services faculty; Vickie Ogunlade, adjunct human services faculty; and Kathy Rodgers, administrative support, along with a dedicated group of interdisciplinary student research assistants (RAs).

Dr. Blake’s KAREnet team were funded over $266,000 to conduct a mixed method analysis, incorporating qualitative and quantitative data, such as focus groups, one-on-one interviews, and provider surveys, to determine the type of HIV/AIDS services available, needed and used by Georgians over 28,000 AIDS cases. The KAREnet team has conducted overall 100 in-depth interviews of HIV/AIDS infected adults, youth, and refugees throughout the State of Georgia, not including dozens of key informant interviews of HIV/AIDS community-based providers to help determine the overall gaps in services. This current study, combined with the KAREnet team’s 2004 CSA report, serves as baseline data for Georgia’s public policy administrators in need of high-quality data to aid them in making decisions to allocate and direct millions of dollars in HIV/AIDS funding throughout Georgia.

The Office of Research in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services continues to work closely with faculty students, and community members in furtherance of
Camp Kudzu

A warm summer evening, sitting by the pool with your feet in the water and watching the movie, Femi Butler's Day Off, doesn't sound like a clinical nursing experience; however, it was for 23 undergraduate nursing students and four graduate nursing students from the WellStar College. In June, 2006, students spent one week at Camp Kudzu, an overnight camp for children with diabetes. The week-long experience was a 24/7 immersion into the health care needs of children with diabetes.

The nursing students functioned in many different roles at Camp Kudzu and used all of their nursing assessment skills to the fullest, dealing with questions like: Is this eight-year-old camper cranky because she is tired from a long day or is her blood sugar dropping?

Mornings started at 7:00 AM by all campers out of bed to get dressed and report to their clinicians for morning blood sugar checks before 8:00 AM breakfast. At breakfast, lunch, and dinner, students helped campers count the number of carbohydrates in everything they ate. At the beginning of the week, the children were novices on carb counting by Friday, their carb counting skills reached an expert level. Carb counting is critical for children with diabetes; it is the guide for giving short-acting insulin after meals.

After breakfast, it was off to one of the multiple camp activities. Before any high-energy activities, such as swimming, high ropes course, or kayaking, KSU students checked all campers’ blood sugar levels. Any camper with high blood sugar level had to wait until their sugar came down, and any with low blood sugar level had to be treated with a high carbohydrate snack. Students quickly learned that one of the fastest ways to bring a high blood sugar into range was to hydrate the camper with a bottle of water.

Students’ day did not end at the end of the campers’ day. All campers had blood sugar checks again at midnight. Any campers with carbohydrate levels that were out of range were treated until they were within normal range. Getting kids in range could take up to two hours which made up for a very long day that started all over again at 7:00 AM the next morning.

Even though students left at the end of the week very tired, they felt that participating at Camp Kudzu was an incredibly valuable clinical experience.
SERVICE AND TEACHING

Enjoy teaching in a variety of different contexts at Kennesaw. In the department of Health, Physical Education, and Sports Science (HPS), I teach Research Methodology and team-teach (with Diane Lowry) Physical Activity and Health Promotion for the Older Adult and help out with her wonderful exercise laboratory, SPARHKS (Seniors Participating in Activities Related to Health at Kennesaw State). Both our students and community older adults benefit from this program. In the School of Nursing, I team-teach (with Carol Holtz) Gerontological Nursing. I also lecture on aging for the R.N. Refresher/Reentry Program and for the Professional Development in Gerontological Certificate Program.

At the graduate level, we (Dr. Carol Holtz, Nursing, Barbara Karcher, Sociology, and Chris Ziegler, Psychology) are moving forward with a Concentration in Gerontology, to be offered at the master’s level. Another interdisciplinary initiative (in collaboration with Drs. Lois Robley, Nursing and Mitchell Collins, HPS) is the development of a Research Learning Service and Teaching Certificate Program, involving faculty from HPS, Human Services, and Nursing.

REFERENCES


Publications


PUBLICATIONS

Gordy Palmer Distinguished Speaker Series

The Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science is pleased to announce that Dr. Paul Ribisl will be our 2007 Gordy Palmer guest speaker. Dr. Paul Ribisl is a professor at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, where he has served as Chair of the Health and Exercise Science Department since 1991. He has held several executive, editorial, and board positions for professional organizations in the areas of health, exercise physiology and cardiac rehabilitation. Dr. Ribisl is currently co-investigator on a Department of Defense grant and three NIH research trials. His wealth of knowledge stems from over 30 years of experience in research and training of under-graduates and graduate students. Please join us on Thursday, April 12 as Dr. Paul Ribisl speaks on the diabesity threat to cardiovascular health. For more information, call (770) 423-6216.
Presentations:


