We have continued to make progress in the development of the plans for the new Health Science Building. We have welcomed a new Associate Dean, Dr. Laura Tis, and Dr. Mary de Chesnay as the new Director of the School of Nursing. Both women come to KSU and our college with a wealth of academic experience. The School of Nursing has fully implemented the nursing satellite program in Jasper, Georgia, while graduating the largest number of pre-licensure nursing students in Georgia. We have graduated our first class of students in the Masters of Social Work Program. The Health, Physical Education and Sport Science Department admitted in August, 2008 its first class into the new Masters in Applied Health and Exercise Science degree program. Many of these accomplishments and additions to the administrative team are highlighted in this issue of "Excellence."

Clearly, there are many exciting things happening in the WellStar College. My challenges continue to be determining which of the many achievements of our faculty and staff to share with you. However, there is one area in which the WellStar College is taking leadership and making major contributions not only to the KSU community, but also to the international community. Our global partnerships and initiatives are growing in number and significance.

The WellStar College's Global Center for Social Change is the focus of many of our international partnerships. Under the direction of Dr. Ben Johnson, Associate Dean for Community Partnerships and Global Initiatives, the WellStar College is increasingly being recognized for its efforts in the area of development through disability sport and the use of sport for peace. This year, the University, through the work of the Global Center for Social Change has signed partnership agreements with the University of Alexandria and the Helwan University (two major universities in Egypt) and with the Egyptian Sports Authority. These partnerships, in conjunction with the KSU Global Institute, are focused on developing programs and student learning opportunities in the Middle East and are built on previous work of Dr. Johnson who has received grants from the U.S. State Department to develop cooperative programs with Egypt and other middle-eastern countries to promote disability rights through sport.

During May and June, the WellStar College was honored to host two high-level delegations from Egypt. I had the personal pleasure of visiting Egypt and observe the outstanding spirit and commitment of our Egyptian colleagues. Currently, a group of the faculty in the School of Nursing is working collaboratively with Egyptian colleagues in developing continuing education programs in the area of diabetes; the programs will be offered in Egypt later this year. Adding to the momentum, we are pleased to report that Dr. Ibrahim Elsayw from Alexandria University has joined the Global Center for Social Change as a visiting professor for the 2008-2009 academic year. Additionally, Ms. Waela Compton has joined the Global Center to take leadership in developing the Academy of Women’s Leadership. During this year, the Global Center is poised to implement two programs focusing on disability rights through sport in South Africa and the Middle East. These initiatives are funded by the U.S. State Department.

Dr. Mitchell Collins, Chair of the HPS Department, and Dr. Bernie Goldfine, HPS Professor, in collaboration with the University of California-Long Beach and two universities in Brazil, continue to successfully implement the Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant to develop a cross-cultural, educational and environmentally-based model for advancing solutions concerning youth obesity. Dr. Goldfine will be spending the fall 2008 semester in Florianopolis, in southern Brazil, at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. Moreover, during
The Dean Speaks • Inside This Issue

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The Dean Speaks (continued from pg. 1)

Meymoot: the HPS department offered in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, SA’s a course on Sport Governance. A faculty member and five students from the University of Pretoria were hosted at KSU facilitating this joint course offering.

A number of other faculty members within the WellStar College actively supported the University’s goal of educating citizens for a global society. Dr. Carol Holtz, Professor of Nursing, completed her 13th year of taking nursing students to work and learn in Oaxaca, Mexico. Dr. Louise Bill, Professor of Social Work Administration, organized a service learning course with human services/social work students to work in rural Argentina. Dr. David Bennett and Genea Dorman worked in Cuernavaca, Mexico, establishing a service learning course with human services/social work students. They fully supported the University’s goal of educating citizens for leadership, service, and professional development for the health care community, blending the success of academia and education, research, and community service.

The WellStar College contributed to the XVI International AIDS Conference that was held beginning of August, 2008, in Mexico City. Drs. Ping Johnson and Jin Wang provided the College a presence in Beijing, China, during the 2008 Olympic Games. The WellStar College continues to increase its contributions to the health, education, health and welfare of Georgians. Yet, while making outstanding contributions at home, the College, through its faculty members, is making a global difference. Our international partnerships and presence seek to bring about understanding, cooperation, and positive relationships around the world. Through such efforts, we enhance the education and opportunities we offer to our students, our faculty, and our community. We feel we are truly making a difference and promoting EXCELLENCE in education, research, and community service.

Continuing Education Courses for Professional Development

Kennesaw State University is committed to facilitating continuing education for life-long learners. Courses are available in a wide range of topics to support the 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
- On-campus, May and December
- Critical Care Nursing
- Getting into Diabetes
- Nursing in Faith Communities
- January

Contact Us:
- Program Director: Dr. Anna White (770) 423-6067 anna@kennesaw.edu
- Support Staff: Mt. Debra Riddle (678) 797-2087 driddle@kennesaw.edu
- To Register by Phone: Call (770) 423-6765 • toll free: 1-800-869-1151

New Associate Dean • Nursing Practicum

WellStar College of Health and Human Services Welcomes a New Associate Dean of Academics, Sponsored Programs and Technology

Dr. Laura Tis has joined the WellStar College of Health and Human Services as the Dean of Academics, Sponsored Programs and Technology. She has earned her doctorate in Sports Medicine at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. She comes to us from Georgia State University where she was appointed as the Coordinator of the Graduate Sports Medicine Program, the Coordinator of the Musculoskeletal Injury Research Laboratory, and as the Associate Professor of Sports Medicine, dedicating 15 years of service. Dr. Tis developed and coordinated the doctoral program in physical rehabilitation sciences at GSU. She is the author of dozens of professional articles, book chapters and books and reviews that appeared in scientific sports and health publications. Throughout her academic career, Dr. Tis has secured well over a million dollars in external funding, primarily supporting graduate assistant athletic trainers from local universities and high schools, as well as funding instructional equipment and research projects. In addition, Dr. Tis is involved in legislative and fund-raising campaigns directed toward research efforts and prevention of athletic sudden cardiac death.

Dr. Tis serves as an executive board member of Wild and Water Swimming, Inc., a non-profit organization teaching swimming and water safety to the economically-disadvantaged youth in metro Atlanta and providing access to competitive swimming in elite leagues to interested youth. Dr. Tis is a Certified Athletic Trainer from the National Athletic Trainers Association, a Licensed Athletic Trainer from Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers, and a Red Cross Professional Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Emergency, and

International Experience – Nursing Practicum in Oaxaca, May 2008

Dr. Carol Holtz, Professor of Nursing and Course Coordinator, along with Dr. Astrid Wilson, Professor of Nursing, took a group of 12 student nurses to Oaxaca, Mexico, during Maymester (May 3-18), 2008. This was the 13th year that the Nursing Practicum course was offered as a 3 credit-hour nursing elective. Students and faculty traveled together leaving Atlanta, changing planes in Mexico City, and arriving in Oaxaca after a long day. They brought money that the KSU Student Nurses Association collected from bake sales and 13 boxes of donated medical supplies to give to the local healthcare community. In addition, students personally donated food, dishes, medical supplies and money to needy individuals and organizations, including the Department of Health for the state of Oaxaca, and to Coasada, the state’s HIV/AIDS organization. Students lived individually with local middle-class families, worked one week in the hospital in Oaxaca’s inner city hospital for indigent patients, as well as in the Hospital de la Niñez, the main state-referral pediatric hospital. During the week, after a busy day at the hospitals, the evenings were filled with conversational Spanish lessons given by faculty from University of Oaxaca, and trips to Plaza de la Constitucion de Oaxaca (Zocalo) where students could enjoy shopping and listening to local music. Weekends were full of local cultural activities such as the Folkloric Ballet and dinner excursions to the Monte Alban Pyramids and visits to local villages to see crafts, woodcarvings, tapestry weaving and black pottery making. Students are presently writing their papers for course completion and recalling how this experience has changed their perspectives on their own lives, never having the same attitudes again. They

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Social Work Professor and Students Study and Provide Help in Argentina

This summer, Dr. Louise Bill, Professor of Social Work Administration at KSU, returned to Seclantes, a small artisan village located high in Argentina’s Andes mountains. During her last year’s visit that was featured in the fall, 2007 EXCELLENCE, Dr. Bill met and worked with Seclantes’ community leaders to establish groundwork for developing a microenterprise in order to increase the resources of the community.

This summer’s trip was a sequel to Dr. Bill’s first visit. Thirteen graduate and undergraduate social work students accompanied her to learn and begin a project to improve Seclantes’ community economy. This time around, Dr. Bill and the students stayed as guests of Senor Adban, a Seclantes resident, and his family. The service and academic components of the trip were to demonstrate to students how theory, knowledge and skill come together with service to build community capacity and sustainability.

The students decided to draw upon the artisanic weaving skills of the community artisans and to build community capital. Using their technological skills, students began brainstorming different ways to approach this issue and chose to create a web-site through which the artisans could reach a bigger audience. Because community involvement is fundamental to community intervention, as a first step, the students needed to build relationships with the artisans.

Students visited village artisans and discussed their participation in the project. Susan Chase, President of the Susan Chase Educational Foundation and co-sponsor of the trip, Sara Porter, human services student Luise Tochada, tour guide; and Senor Frido Adban, community leader and KSU group’s host, were interpreters helping students communicate. The conversations also turned to the artisans’ everyday lives and their struggle to provide food for their families. But the artisans also spoke about their happiness and gratitude for what they had - for their family, community, the nation, and the simplicity of life that most Americans can hardly imagine.

From right to left are students Robby Garriott and Belushi Griffin with artisans, Eduardo Cheque and his wife, Hilda. Luisea Yates, student, is on the far left. As part of the community development project, the students were interviewing artisan families and taking photos of them and their weavings for use on a website the students are developing to provide the artisans with a market for their products through the next steps so that the hope to increase artisans’ sales would become a reality. A critical element that the students heard over and over was that many people can only sell their products, making promises to help improve their lives, but none have followed through on their commitments. “Not on our watch!” the students replied. The website is in progress and on time. It will be completed this fall semester.

Global Center for Social Change ‘Gets Global’

The Global Center for Social Change, directed by Associate Dean Ben Johnson, has rapidly accelerated KSU and the We!Star College of Health and Human Services onto the global scene. Through its broad and ever-expanding international network, the Center is rapidly becoming a major player in disability rights, women’s leadership, health and wellness, and the sports movement in Egypt and beyond.

Dr. Johnson submitted two federal grant applications to the US Department of State in early 2008, targeting international projects in disability rights. He was successful in acquiring funding for both, thereby enabling the Global Center to work in South Africa and the Middle East. Each project is utilizing disability sport to shed light on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities in the respective countries.

In the case of South Africa, the Global Center will be working with faculty from the University of the Witwatersrand and Stellenbosch University to reveal the needs of and to provide opportunities for youth with disabilities in the townships around Johannesburg and Cape Town. Young women with disabilities in the townships are virtually invisible in society and are among the most under-served populations on the globe.

The Middle East project, in partnership with local non-Governmental Organizations, will engage women in promoting rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities in the Middle East. Women and disability sport leaders will be engaged to take on leadership roles in ensuring that persons with disabilities are afforded the same societal opportunities as the able-bodied population. The project will culminate in a national disability sport and cultural festival highlighting the capabilities of persons with disabilities in sport, physical activity and the arts.

The Global Center’s ongoing work in Egypt through its past and current grant funding was further solidified following a visit in March to Egypt by Dean, Dr. Richard Sowell. Global Center’s Director for Development, Harry Stern, and Dr. Johnson. During the visit to both Cairo and Alexandria, several significant partnerships were forged with Egyptian institutions and organizations to further complement Dr. Johnson’s long-standing partnership with the Egyptian National Paralympic Committee. The College delegation met with several notable leaders including the Vice-Minister of Higher Education, the Presidents and/or Vice-Presidents of Alexandria University, Helwan University and Ain Shams University. In addition, very fruitful meetings were held with the Board of Directors of the Egyptian University Sports Federation, Wayana International Foundation, and the Consortium of Special Needs NGOs in Alexandria. Under Dr. Johnson’s leadership, KSU has since signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with Alexandria University, Helwan University, the Egyptian University Sports Federation and Wayana International Foundation. It is expected that an agreement will be signed with Ain Shams University in the late fall of 2008 or early spring, 2009. The University-to-University MOUs provide comprehensive opportunities for each university, thereby enabling any department or college of the University to work with the other in the area of exchanges, projects, research and educational programs.

According to Dr. Johnson, “The goal of the Global Center for Social Change through its significant and ever-growing relationships in Egypt is to expand first into the Arab world and Middle East and eventually into Sub-Saharan Africa. We view and respect our unique bond, hope to influence disability rights and women’s leadership in the region. As we further develop our budding relationships with South African universities, it is our long-term plan to also work from the southern region of Africa toward North Africa, including Egypt and its neighbors to the west, as there is a multitude of social needs on the African continent.”

Kennesaw State Forges Unique Sports Partnership with Egyptian Universities

Kennesaw State University is entering into a partnership with the Egyptian University Sports Federation (EUSF) to advance sport, physical activity and recreation opportunities for persons with disabilities in Egypt and other countries. KSU President, Daniel S. Papp, signed the agreement with Dr. Essam El-Helaly, general secretary of the Egyptian University Sports Federation, in June, 2008, at Kennesaw State University.

The agreement establishes an exchange of students, faculty and staff as well as institutes joint programs and conferences in the fields of health, physical education, exercise and sport science.

According to Benjamin Johnson, Associate Dean for Community Partnerships and Global Initiatives in the We!Star College of Health and Human Services and Director of the Global Center for Social Change, KSU plans for the October to collaborate with the Egyptian organization in programs aimed at youth sports education, expanding sport opportunities for persons with disabilities.

An exchange of 20 Egyptian youth with disabilities is planned for this fall, allowing them to come to KSU for leadership training in partnership with BlazeSports America, a non-profit organization.
Nurses SOAR! in Lesotho – Associate Professor of Nursing Volunteers as a Mentor in Africa

Georgetown University School of Nursing and Health Studies in Washington, D.C., is the recipient of an award from the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The overall goal of the grant is to strengthen the clinical and professional leadership capacity of nurses in three Southern African countries to provide HIV/AIDS services. Nurses SOAR! (Strengthening Our AIDS Response), a program that evolved from the funding, is currently active in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. SOAR! targets nurses, clinicians, educators, and managers across a spectrum of settings who contribute to the provision of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) provides logistical support for the Knowledge Building and Clinical Mentoring component of the program. ANAC raises awareness among its members of mentorship opportunities and conducts the initial screening process for persons expressing interest in pursuing these opportunities. ANAC also facilitates arrangements for mentor trainings, but Georgetown University School of Nursing and Health Studies faculty select the mentors, provide the mentor training, and oversee and evaluate the mentorship activities.

As a member of ANAC, Dr. Barbara Blake, Associate Professor in the WellStar School of Nursing, applied to serve as a mentor in early fall, 2007. Dr. Blake made the decision to volunteer because she wanted to share her expertise in community health nursing and HIV/AIDS with international nurses involved in this project. She also believed that the experience would make her a better nurse and teacher. Shortly after applying, Dr. Blake was invited to attend the first mentor orientation that was held at ANAC’s annual convention in November, 2007.

In early spring, 2008, Dr. Blake was asked if she would be interested in going to Lesotho as a mentor. Lesotho is a developing country located in southern Africa bordered by South Africa, Botswana, and Malawi and encloses—entirely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. According to the 2006 Census, Lesotho has a population of approximately 1.881 million; 23.8% of the population live in urban areas and 76.2% live in rural areas. Lesotho has been severely impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. According to recent estimates, the prevalence of HIV is about 29%—one of the highest in the world. In 1990, the life expectancy in Lesotho was 45.9 years; however, because of HIV/AIDS, the life expectancy dropped to 42 years in 2006.

On May 23, 2008, Dr. Blake left with three other mentors for Lesotho. The other mentors included Dr. Donna Talafarro, Associate Dean of Research at Barnes Jewish College of Nursing, St. Louis, MO; Dr. Rebecca Carr, Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina Upstate, Greenville, SC; and Dr. Robert Dodge, Assistant Clinical Professor, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Raleigh, NC. These four mentors were the first to be sent to Lesotho by Georgetown. The mentors were housed in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, but worked primarily in Roma, a city about 21 miles southeast of Maseru.

In Roma, Drs. Blake and Talafarro worked with nursing faculty from the National University of Lesotho (NUL). At NUL, they reviewed nursing curriculum for HIV content, provided in-services to faculty on HIV-related topics, and provided mentoring on writing for publication. In addition to working with the faculty from NUL, Drs. Blake and Talafarro worked with three nurses who operate the Lesotho Nurses Association’s Wellness Center. The center is a Becton-Dickinson and International Council of Nurses initiative to provide health and wellness services to healthcare providers working on the front lines in Lesotho. It opened in November, 2007, and is located in Maseru. While working with the center’s nurses, Drs. Blake and Talafarro, helped with the development, implementation, and evaluation of two workshops. The first workshop was Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and the second was Behavioral Change and Communication.

Dr. Blake worked in Lesotho as a mentor for Project SOAR! from May 26 – June 20, 2008. She describes Lesotho as a beautiful mountainous country and the nurses were incredibly receptive to her as a mentor. According to Dr. Blake, this experience has affected her personally and professionally. This experience allowed Dr. Blake to see the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa first hand. She states that it will influence how she approaches teaching about HIV/AIDS and culture in the future. It also made her realize the impacts of defunding the HIV/AIDS epidemic from an international perspective. She believes the world will continue to lose ground in the battle against HIV/AIDS if countries like Lesotho do not receive ongoing support from outside sources.

It is the nurses in Lesotho that have close connections with the community and who persons in the community seek out for advice. Therefore, her experience has also led her to believe that nurses should take the lead in helping to decrease the number of new HIV infections and increase the quality of life for people living with HIV. Dr. Blake was honored to have the opportunity to work with the nurses in Lesotho through Nurses SOAR! and continues to interact with several of them via the Internet. There is a lot of work to be done regarding HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in Africa, and she hopes that Georgetown continues to be funded so that the program can continue. If the opportunity to go to Africa and function again as a mentor through SOAR! arises…Dr. Blake says she would just ask, “When do I leave?”

Global Center Secures Women’s Leadership

The International Academy for Women’s Leadership and Health announced the hiring of Ms. Walaa Compton to lead that division of the Global Center for Social Change. Ms. Compton, who completed an MBA in the Coles College of Business in July, 2008, began in May. Most recently, she has worked with President Emeritus, Betty Siegel, on projects in the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character. Walaa has been very active in the planning and implementation of the annual Phenomenal Women’s Conference. Dr. Benjamin Johnson, Director of the Global Center for Social Change, stated: “I met Walaa soon after starting here at KSU and quickly realized that she was well connected internationally and highly motivated to make a positive difference in the world. We have been talking for some time about many of the unique possibilities that KSU can bring to developing nations such as Egypt. The Global Center is very excited to bring Ms. Compton on board to take the leadership role in the International Academy for Women’s Leadership and Health. I truly believe that KSU can and will make a difference for women and girls in the Arab World under her leadership.”

Sports Governance from an International Perspective

Dr. John David Johnson (Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science) and Dr. Salmar Burger (Department of Biokinetics, Sport, and Leisure Sciences, University of Pretoria) co-taught an international sport governance course during Maysemester. KSU and the University of Pretoria, South Africa, who offer the course, have an agreement for collaboration including faculty exchanges, research and student study abroad. Five South-African students traveled from Pretoria, SA, to KSU to study sport governance with KSU’s Sport Management faculty. The team-led course explored the governance of various sport organizations ranging from professional and Olympic to youth sport organizations. The class offered students the opportunity to explore the similarities and differences between the American and South African sport governance. In addition, students visited various sport organizations in the metropolitan Kansas City area. As part of their study KSU students were provided the opportunity to learn more about a World Sport organization. Southern African and the South African students along with Dr. Johnson are planning to visit with several of the South African organizations and meet with the South African students along with Dr. Papp shared their passion for the game of rugby.

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KSU & Social Work Faculty Provide International Training in Disaster Recovery. Students Participate through Study-Abroad Program.

Dr. Alan Kirk announced that KSU will once again partner with the American College of Sports Medicine to offer a comprehensive training seminar for professionals who are interested in serving on disaster relief teams. This seminar will bring together professionals from around the world to learn how to rebuild communities and help individuals who have been affected by a disaster. The first seminar in this series was held in November, 2007 and attracted more than 80 participants from 21 countries.

KSU’s Nursing Satellite Program, a Success at Appalachian Tech

The Kennesaw State University’s School of Nursing satellite program at Appalachian Technical College (ATC) is underway and thriving. In 2008, funding in the amount of $189,000 was received from the Georgia Board of Regents Nursing Education Task Force - Georgia Nursing Initiative to provide nursing education to 30 students in this satellite. These funds allowed for an addition of three faculty positions to work exclusively with the students on the ATC Campus in Jasper, Georgia. Another faculty member was increased to a 12-month contract to provide teaching and program leadership. Instruction has been augmented by KSU full and part-time faculty members who travel to ATC to provide class-room and clinical instruction. KSU also purchased $34,798 in equipment and supplies to be used in this program.

Children’s Hospital

Throughout his career, John has attempted to engage students in the research process. As such, 10 of his published journal articles, 10 of his published abstracts, and 21 of his professional presentations have included students among the co-authors, all of which were peer-reviewed. John has also performed several invited speeches at student organizations. In addition, he serves on the editorial board of the International Journal of Exercise Science, a refereed journal dedicated exclusively to manuscripts with at least one student author.

Distinguished Scholar Awards

On April 4, during the WellStar College of Health and Human Services faculty meeting with KSU’s president, Dr. Daniel Papp, three faculty members were honored with WellStar College of Health and Human Services Distinguished Achievement Award. Dr. James Long, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was honored with the Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. John McLester, Associate Professor in the Health, Physical Education and Sport Science Department, with the Distiguished Teaching Award and Dr. David Mitchell, Distinguished Scholar in Gerontology and Professor of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, with the Distinguished Scholar Award.

Visit to Grady Memorial Hospital

The visit to Grady Memorial Hospital had another special occurrence. One distinguish graduate, Ms. Tao Bartleson, graduated Magna Cum Laude and was chosen as the M.S.W.’s first Outstanding Student of The Year during the inaugural hooding ceremony on May 10, 2008. In addition, Ms. Bartleson is currently working as the KSU Health Clinic’s Social Worker and will begin co-teaching this fall as lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Human Services.

Responding to the Call of Georgia’s Community M.S.W. Program Grants Degrees to First Cohort

In a time during which professional social services are fighting for survival due to a lack of qualified job applicants, Kennesaw State University’s Master of Social Work program is responding to the call of Georgia’s community needs by graduating the inaugural class from the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program.

On May 12, 2008, the Social Work and Human Service Department in the College of Health and Human Services congratulated 34 M.S.W. graduates at the Spring Convocation Ceremony. Seven graduates completed the Child Welfare Scholars Program and currently enjoy positions as Social Service Case Managers, Family Preservation Supervisors, Intake Supervisors as well as Foster Care Supervisors. These KSU alumni will serve as Social Workers in the Department of Family and Children’s Services Child Protective Unit in counties as far as Polk, Floyd and Whitfield as well as metropolitan counties including Douglas, Bartow, Cherokee and Cobb. Other M.S.W. graduates have obtained positions in state and local government such as Cobb County Schools, Devereaux Treatment Centers, Family Intervention Specialists and The Sober Living Foundation.

One distinguish graduate, Ms. Tao Bartleson, graduated Magna Cum Laude and was chosen as the M.S.W.’s first Outstanding Student of the Year during the inaugural hooding ceremony on May 10, 2008. In addition, Ms. Bartleson is currently working as the KSU Health Clinic’s Social Worker and will begin co-teaching this fall as lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Human Services.

The graduation of the first cohort is a milestone in the development of KSU’s Master of Social Work program and represents one of the final steps in the Council on Social Work Accreditation process. The M.S.W. Program will receive its final site visit this fall and is scheduled to receive full accreditation in spring, 2009.

Once again, congratulations to all the M.S.W. students and Social Work faculty and staff.
Alcohol Use: How Many Students Make High Risk Choices? I Bet You Are Wrong……

Perception of the norm is a powerful predictor of personal behavior; whether this behavior is alcohol use, cigarette smoking, substance abuse, seatbelt use, bullying, etc. The social norms model proposes that many problem behaviors may be due to the desire to fit within one’s social group. Research has documented that perception of a campus drinking norm is a significant predictor of students’ personal alcohol use. The KSU Wellness Center is kicking off their social norms campaign this fall to battle misconceptions KSU students have regarding alcohol use on campus. The numbers may surprise you.

There are various causes of misconceptions. One of these causes is the attribution theory which assumes that people will interpret their environment in such a way as to maintain a positive self-image. Secondly, social communication mechanisms which are the extreme incidents that stand out in people’s minds. For example, hearing students standing in the hallway talking about how “drunk” they got at a party on Saturday night. Thirdly, cultural or mass media images use to glamorize the use of alcohol and drugs in music, videos, movies, television, and the news. And lastly, the well-meaning individuals who state, “It’s what most kids are doing.” These distortions of the truth become greater over time if not challenged.

With the social norms approach, credible data from the campus are collected and then distributed by various communication methods to tell the truth of the actual health, protection, and avoidance of risk behaviors. With repeated exposure, the misconceptions are reduced and the target population begins to act in accordance with the true norms of their peers.

In fall 2007, 3,000 students were randomly invited to participate online with the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment (507 students completed the survey). This comprehensive assessment is used by numerous colleges nationwide and addresses variety of health topics and will be used for Kennesaw State University’s social norms campaign on campus.

One of the questions on the National College Health Assessment asked, “The last time you partied/socialized, how many alcoholic drinks did you have?” Almost 55% of KSU students responded 0.2 drinks. This response indicates that most KSU students are making low-risk choices when it comes to alcohol use. When asked their perception of the typical student at their school, the response was quite different with 10.6% reporting that students drink 0.2 drinks the last time they partied/socialized. The misconception on campus is that almost 80% of students perceived their peers to consume 3-4 drinks the last time they partied/socialized. As you can see students perceive their peers to be participating in high-risk behaviors, when in reality they are not.

To help correct misconceptions regarding alcohol use on campus, the Wellness Center will promote true norms to students by mailing postcards, hanging posters, posting vinyl banners above parking deck entrances, and having social norms messages printed on various giveaways that will be distributed to students throughout the year. For more information on this campaign, please contact Sherry Grable at sgrable@kennesaw.edu.

Annual Research Conference Addresses Health Disparities

“Health Disparities and Working with Vulnerable Populations” – Annual Research Day, Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, Mu Phi Chapter and WellStar School of Nursing

On April 23, 2008, the WellStar School of Nursing and the Mu Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International, Honor Society of Nursing, held their annual Research Day to promote evidenced-based practice in nursing and the Kennesaw State University’s nursing students to participate in an actual research conference. Over 100 WellStar School of Nursing faculty and nursing students as well as a few community nurses participated in this wonderful opportunity.

Dr. Jan Flynn, Interim Associate Director of Undergraduate Nursing Programs, and Dr. Katie Adduddell, Associate Professor and President of the Mu Phi Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers. Dr. Carol Holtz, Professor of Nursing, served as the keynote speaker and discussed global health issues, access and treatment in vulnerable populations. She also showed the participants various slides related to the health issues in our world and some fascinating pictures of her visits to different areas of the world. Dr. Kathy Adduddell then presented some interesting statistics and facts related to our state as well as regional and local areas.

After a break to review the scholarly poster presentations from WellStar School of Nursing senior class, Dr. Barbara Blake, Associate Professor of Nursing, and Dr. Gloria Taylor, Professor of Nursing, addressed health disparities among people living with HIV. They have done extensive research in this area and provided valuable information related to people living with HIV/AIDS and the health disparities they face. The last speaker of the day was a community nurse leader, Dr. Diana Meeks-Sjostrom, Director, Center for Nursing Excellence, from Saint Joseph’s Hospital in Atlanta. She enlightened the audience on the disparities related to our elders by providing a summary of her research on clinical decision-making of nurses regarding elder abuse.

Finally, an exciting opportunity for the participants involved listening to a panel of students who have worked with vulnerable populations in our area. The panel included graduate and undergraduate students who have been involved in the clinic program under the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, Center for Community Health Care. The students gave the audience some thoughtful insights in working with vulnerable populations from a student’s perspective. WellStar Health System was the approved provider for continuing nursing education contact hours through the Georgia Nurses Association, and over 10-15 local health care agencies provided vendor displays during the day.

Annual Research Conference (continued)

KSU’s Project Ideal Creates Public-Service Annoucement Video to Educate Latino Communities About Diabetes, Nutrition and Fitness

The Initiative for Diabetes Educational Advancement for Latinos Project (Project IDEAL) with the help of the Georgia Baptist Health Foundation has created a video aimed at educating America’s Latino community about diabetes, as well as the role of proper nutrition and fitness in combating a disease that impacts health and quality of life.

The 20-minute video was filmed in May at the Tomney Noba Center in Cobb County as part of the project’s efforts to raise diabetes awareness for a critical population facing a disproportionate increase in a disease that has many health impacts.

“We must raise awareness of the disease in ways that speak to the unique differences among different populations. All groups are considered unique, and health care providers should consider cultural differences in educating patients,” said Janice Long, Assistant Professor of Nursing in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, and head of the project.

The Latino community in America is not monolithic and is comprised of people from different regions and nations, each with their own cultural characteristics and diabetes issues among subsets of the larger community. The videos reflect the diversity of the Latino community and includes people from multiple nations and territories such as Mexico, Venezuela, Puerto Rico and other areas.

KSU Outstanding Student Teacher Award Goes to HPS Graduate

Mr. Kenneth Burchette, a KSU graduate (BS in Health and Physical Education, P-12 Teacher Education), was selected as the “KSU Outstanding Student Teacher for Spring Semester, 2008.”

From Left to Right: Dr. Kandice Johnson, HPE Coordinator; Mr. Kenneth Burchette; Dr. Tom Donovan, Associate Professor and Student Teaching Supervisor.
KSU Wellness Center, Dean Recognized

Dean Recognized for Investing in Community Healthcare

On April 10, 2008, a delegation of KSU faculty and administrators met with administrative and clinical staff at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, GA, to discuss potential clinical and administrative initiatives between the two organizations. At the luncheon meeting, the Henry W. Grady Health System Foundation presented Dr. Richard Sowell, Dean of the WellStar College, with an award recognizing his long-term commitment to excellence in nursing and his investment into community health care.

This recognition was especially meaningful since Dr. Sowell had started his nursing career in 1976 as a staff nurse in the Grady Memorial Hospital Intensive Care Units. Dr. Sowell shared that Grady Hospital had provided him with unparalleled experience that established a firm foundation for his nursing career. Dr. Richard Sowell, Dean, recognized for his long-term commitment to excellence in Nursing and his investment into community health care.

Awards and Announcements

Student Activity Awards Recognize Members of Student Nurses Association at KSU

The Student Activity Awards, an annual event, recognizes students and student organizations for their accomplishments. On April 25, at the awards ceremony, Jamie Brice, a BSN graduate and the Student Nurses Association’s (SNA) president, was one of three finalists for the Nancy S. King Student of the Year Award and received a plaque for that achievement. She was nominated for this award for her dedication to the SNA organization as a president.

The Student Nurses Association of Kennesaw State University, a professional organization open to nursing majors and persons enrolled in the undergraduate Nursing Program in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, received the Outstanding Organization Certificate of Excellence. SNA serves to aid students in their quest for a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing and transition into practice as well as encourages students through leadership experience and career networking in preparation for a career in Nursing.

Janean Amason, Assistant Clinical Professor of Nursing, and Donna Chambers, Lecturer of Nursing, were awarded a Certificate of Excellence as Outstanding Organization Advisors. Kirstin Harbaugh, a student in the Accelerated Nursing program at KSU, was the recipient of the Certificate of Excellence for Service. Kirstin has been featured in the Spotlight on Students segment in the ‘07 Fall edition of EXCELLENCE.

Family Receives the 2008 KSU Foundation President’s Award for Establishing Scholarship for Nursing Students

The KSU Foundation President’s Award is presented annually to individuals who have provided exemplary service to Kennesaw State University, either through university-affiliated organizations or through individual initiatives. In selecting recipients for this award, the university community considers those friends whose commitment, active participation, and leadership most significantly impact KSU’s ability to provide strong educational opportunities for its students.

The 2008 KSU Foundation President’s Award was given to a family that established the Dr. Carol Holtz Scholarship for students that cared for one of the family members and saved his life.

School of Nursing Announcement

Janice Long, RN, PhD successfully defended her dissertation on July 10, 2008 for a Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Health Studies. Janice Long completed her doctoral study at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan where she was one of three nurses selected to attend the program in a cohort of twelve. The program of study features a balanced curriculum of research, policy and teaching. The title of Janice’s dissertation was: PERCEPTIONS OF QUALITY OF LIFE OF LATINO WITH DIABETES OF ORIGIN.

In 2007, Dr. Holtz, director and developer of the Nursing Practicum, was accompanied by a group of student nurses on an international health-care study program in Latin America. The student nurses provided care to a patient in the intensive care unit of the city hospital, where the KSU nursing students were working. The patient’s family was highly impressed with the students’ depth of caring, literally rolling up their sleeves to amass blood for a transfusion that saved this person’s life. The family decided to honor Dr. Holtz with a scholarship to benefit these students and the international health program.

Department of Social Work & Human Services Announcement

Dr. Sharon E. Williams, Associate Professor of Social Work, has been appointed to the Commission on Curriculum and Educational Innovation (CCOE), by Ira Colby, president of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CCOE identifies pedagogical concerns in social work education and works with other CSWE bodies to address these issues. The commission reviews current CSWE programs that are related to educational policy and planning and suggests activities that strengthens and expands CSWE’s leadership role in matters of education. Finally, the commission periodically writes a statement of social work curriculum policy that is used by the Commission on Accreditation to formulate CSWE’s accreditation standards. Dr. Williams previously served as a Commissioner on the Commission for Diversity, Social and Economic Justice. She has been appointed to serve on the Commission on Curriculum and Educational Innovation for a two-year term.
Retirement of Dr. Christina D. Horne

If you were an undergraduate nursing student enrolled in Pharmacology at Kennesaw State University, then you probably had Professor Christina Horne introduce you to the many drugs nurses are to be familiar with when caring for today’s patients. After 26 years as a college faculty member, Dr. Horne will no longer be at the classroom podium teaching pharmacology or continue in her role as the Director of the Undergraduate Nursing Program. She is retiring from Kennesaw State University.

Dr. Horne joined the Kennesaw State faculty in 1992 from Clayton State College & State University where she taught for 10 years, advancing from instructor to assistant professor. While at Kennesaw State, she taught in both the associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs. Her teaching assignments included courses from the freshmen to senior levels (fundamentals, adult health, and community health nursing). She had particular interest in the areas of pharmacology and RN-BSN education, and she was responsible for developing and implementing new courses.

During her tenure at Kennesaw State, Dr. Horne led the development of several innovative programs within the WellStar School of Nursing from the initial organization and chartering of the Nursing Alumni Club (the first campus constituent alumni club) to School of Nursing, from the initial organization and charting of the Undergraduate Nursing Program. She is retiring from Kennesaw State University.

In March 1998, they obtained an extramural grant to fund the development of multiple online courses. Outcomes of their work have been shared in multiple national and international presentations, publications, and earned them the 2002 Georgia Regents Research in Undergraduate Education Award for an Academic Program and the 2005 Kennesaw State University Foundation Prize of Excellence for their scholarly publication pertaining to the online program. Today, the online program continues to flourish within the WellStar School of Nursing.

After her successful leadership of an accreditation review by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for both the baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs, Dr. Horne was asked to join the University’s Assurance of Learning Council in recognition of her expertise in outcomes assessment. This latter spring, she was named an Associate Professor, as she will no longer hold the title of associate professor, and will be recognized as a faculty member for developing and implementing an online distance education program for undergraduate nursing students in collaboration with Drs. Beverly Farnsworth and Janice Flynn.

Dr. Horne received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northwestern State University; Masters in Nursing from Emory University; and Doctor of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. While at KSU, Dr. Horne has been involved in leadership activities at the department, college, and university levels. Dr. Horne has served on several national and international committees and has published extensively in the areas of pharmacology and education. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She has held numerous leadership positions in professional organizations including Sigma Theta Tau International, Oncology Nursing Society, American Nurses Association, and Georgia Nurses Association.

New Faculty and Nursing Advancement

WellStar School of Nursing Welcomes a New Director

Mary de Chesnay, DNS, RN, CS, FAAN comes to WellStar College of Health and Human Services from Seattle University School of Nursing where she served as Acting Dean and N. Jean Bushman Endowed Chair and Professor. She is assuming the responsibilities as the Director of the WellStar School of Nursing.

Dr. de Chesnay was previously Dean and Professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She holds a Doctorate of Nursing Science with specialization in Community-Mental Health from the University of Alabama and a Master of Science in Psychiatric Nursing from Rutgers University. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and a Fellow in the Society for Applied Anthropology. She has practiced as a Family Therapist since 1973. Her 2005 book entitled Caring for the Vulnerable was named 1st in the Community Health Category and received the American Journal Book of the Year Award. The 2nd edition was published this year. She has a considerable amount of international experience, particularly in Nicaragua, where she was Principal Investigator and Project Director on two funded projects benefitting Nicaraguan nurses. We are pleased to welcome Dr. de Chesnay to Kennesaw State University.

New Nursing Faculty

Dr. Becky Shabo, RN, PNP-BC, PhD joins KSU as an Associate Professor of Nursing. She received her BSN from the University of North Alabama and her MSN in Pediatric nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she also completed a traineeship in developmental disabilities at the Sparks International Research Center. She received her PhD in nursing from Georgia State University. She comes to KSU from a faculty position at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing at Mercer University and has previously taught at Auburn University and Kennesaw State University. She is a recipient of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the National League for Nursing, and the Georgia Nurses Association for excellence in teaching.

Dr. Shabo is a member of the American Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau International.

Appointment of Interim Associate Director at WellStar School of Nursing

Dr. Janice B. Flynn assumed the position of Interim Associate Director of the WellStar School of Nursing (WSON) for Undergraduate Programs on August 1. Dr. Flynn has been a nurse educator for over 25 years, including the past 15 years at Kennesaw State University (WSON). She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northwestern State University, Masters in Nursing from Emory University; and Doctor of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. While at KSU, Dr. Flynn has been involved in leadership activities at the department, college and university levels. Dr. Flynn has devoted her service to the WSON in the areas of curriculum development and evaluation, faculty advisement, and development and evaluation of online programs. Dr. Flynn has been the recipient of the College of Health and Human Services Distinguished Teaching Award. She currently holds certification as a Socrates Online Facilitator, Oncology Nursing Society Cancer Genetics Educator, and Quality Matters Peer Reviewer for Online Courses. In addition, she serves as a site evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Dr. Flynn holds membership in professional organizations including Sigma Theta Tau International, Oncology Nursing Society, American Nurses Association and Georgia Nurses Association.

Dr. Benjamin Johnson, director of Global Center for Social Change, said: “We are most fortunate to have Ibrahim join our staff in the Center. He has been volunteering his time with the Global Center since arriving on campus last year to work as a scholar on projects in the Center for Conflict Management. With his valuable input and communications with colleagues in Egypt, we have truly accelerated our efforts and successes in his home country.

Egyptian Scholar Joins Global Center for Social Change

Dr. Ibrahim Elsayw has been appointed by President Dan Papp and Provost Lynn Black as a Visiting Professor and Global Scholar to work in the Global Center for Social Change, effective August 1, 2008. Dr. Elsayw is on the faculty of Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt. His academic background is in sports psychology. He also has expertise in the areas of early childhood physical education and special needs populations.
HPS Department Welcomes New Faculty (continued)
followed acute cold exposure. During her spare time she is an avid volunteer with both the American College of Sports Medicine and American Red Cross.

Dr. Hultquist is a native of California. She earned a B.S. in Kinesiology/Athletic Training from San Diego State University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Exercise Science from The University of Tennessee. Her research focuses on the behavioral aspects of exercise particularly in women. Dr. Hultquist worked extensively in the fitness industry and consults on personal training and group exercise program development. She enjoys traveling and attending sporting events.

Human Services Department Welcomes a New Faculty Member

Dorcas Bowles, Ed.D, MSW, BS will join the Social Work faculty as the first Eminent Professor of Social Work. Dr. Bowles is a nationally-recognized social work educator, having a distinguished career as a social work clinician and administrator. Dr. Bowles received her BS degree from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. While at Cleveland State University of Denver and her M.A. in Physical Education from San Diego State University Mrs. Rendini has been a university lecturer, health and fitness instructor, and personal trainer for over 15 years.

Mrs. Lori Scheck is a native of New York. She earned a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from Ithaca College and her M.S. in Physical Education from the University of Arizona. She has taught Health and Physical Education at the elementary, middle and high-school levels in New York, Florida and Atlanta. Mrs. Scheck is married and has a daughter.

Grants Awarded to the Global Center for Social Change.

US Department of State Awards Three-Year Grant to Global Center for Social Change

The WCHHS Global Center for Social Change was awarded $530,900 with $400,000 coming from the US Department of State for a three-year project beginning September 1, 2008. The grant, entitled Values to Rights Disability Project: Building Systems of Freedom through Disability Awareness and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities in the Middle East, will be conducted in partnership with BizSportsAmerica, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization based in Atlanta. This initiative will be intensive, field-based program, conducted in conjunction with a Sports Festival and Camp, Train-the-Trainer Workshop, University Student Training and Citizen Exchange Programs. The Principal Investigator on this grant will be Dr. Ben Johnson, Professor, Director of the Global Center and Associate Dean in the WebStar College.

US Department of State (BECA) Awards Grant to Global Center for Social Change

The WCHHS Global Center for Social Change was awarded $206,000 with $10,000 coming from the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs under their International Sports Programming Initiative. The grant, entitled Collaborative Project for the Development of Disability Sport and Recreation Programs for Girls, Boys and Young Women in South Africa, will be conducted in partnership with the University of Western Cape in Johannesburg, South Africa; the Stellenbosch University in the Western Cape Province, South Africa; and BizSportsAmerica, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization based in Atlanta. This initiative will be intensive, field-based program, conducted in conjunction with a Sports Festival and Camp, Train-the-Trainer Workshop, University Student Training and Citizen Exchange Programs. The Principal Investigator on this grant will be Dr. Harry Stann, Director of Global Development in the WebStar College.
CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS


PRESENTATIONS

Collard, C. S., Woll, R. L. (2009). Impact of poverty on adult learn- ing. In J. Lowenstein, L. Fronde-Mey, J. Romano (Eds.), Teaching strategies for health education and health promotion with patients, families and com- munities (pp. 41-54). Boston: Jones and Bartlett

Howton, A. (April, 2008). “Incorporating global learning into your fitness/wellness course.” Annual Convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Fort Worth, TX


Johnson, P. H., K. M. Johnson, J. A. Petritto (April, 2008), “Strategies to engage students in a contemporary health issues course.” Annual Convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Fort Worth, TX


McCurley, J., J. Wickwire (February, 2008). “Comparison of physical performance parameters with use of various SCBA’s.” Annual Conference of the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine, Orlando, FL


McCurley, J., J. Wickwire (February, 2008). “Comparison of physical performance parameters with use of various SCBA’s.” Annual Conference of the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine, Orlando, FL


Dr. Richard Sowell and Carol Holtz, along with Dr. Gabriella Velasquez, director of the New Mexico AIDS organization COESIDA, presented a poster entitled, “HIV infection returning to Mexico with migrant workers: An exploratory study” at the 17th Annual International AIDS Conference in Mexico City Aug. 3-8, 2008.


J. Wang (2008). “Psychology of 2008 Beijing Olympics.” Invited Keynote Speaker Committee to make a presentation at the Sport Psychology Summit for the preparations of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (Attendees were the Registered Sport Psychology Consultants for the USOC)


Wang, J. (2008, September 2008). "Psychology of 2008 Beijing Olympics." Invited Keynote Speaker Committee to make a presentation at the Sport Psychology Summit for the preparations of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (Attendees were the Registered Sport Psychology Consultants for the USOC)


J. Wang (2008). “Psychological Strategies of Job Seeking at the Competitive Society in China.” Invited Presentation to the Scholarship Committee to make a presentation at the Sport Psychology Summit for the preparations of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (Attendees were the Registered Sport Psychology Consultants for the USOC)

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