

College of Health & Human Services

# excellence

- service
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## New dean for the college

Richard Sowell assumed the position of professor of nursing and dean of the College of Health and Human Services in August. Sowell, a native of southeast Georgia, has traveled a winding path to the deanship of the college. He received a Bachelors of Arts in Journalism from the University of Georgia in 1969 and joined the Air Force during the Vietnam conflict. During his military tour, he served in the 54th Weather Resonance Squadron in Guam and in the 318th Special Operations Squadron located at Fort Bragg, N.C.

After completing his military duty, Sowell entered the School of Nursing at Georgia State University where he earned both an Associate Degree and Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing. He began his nursing career in the Pulmonary Intensive Care Unit at Grady Hospital where he later became a head nurse and relief supervisor. In 1983, Sowell obtained his Master's in Nursing Administration from the Medical College of Georgia and became the director of critical care nursing in Athens, Ga. After completing his doctoral education as a part of the first doctoral class at the Medical College of Georgia, Sowell served as faculty at MCG from 1990 to 1992. In 1992, he had the opportunity to apply and extend his doctoral work in case management in persons with HIV/AIDS by becoming the director of client services at AID Atlanta Inc. During his tenure at AID Atlanta, Sowell, with the assistance of a group of dedicated staff and volunteers, was able to develop the AID Atlanta Case Management Model. This model became nationally recognized for its solid "systems" approach to the delivery of HIV/AIDS social services. While at AID Atlanta, Sowell also became the principal investigator for a CDC-funded research project that investigated the psychosocial issues facing women with HIV infection in Georgia. This work was done in collaboration with researchers from Emory, Georgia State and the Medical College of Georgia and it represented one of the first in-depth investigations of HIV-infected women in the South. Additionally, Sowell wrote and implemented a grant with the Division of Public Health, Georgia Department of Human Resources, designed to educate public health nurses in the care of persons with HIV/AIDS in rural Georgia. This outreach model has been widely emulated.

Returning to academia in 1995, Sowell became the chair of the Department of Administrative and Clinical Nursing at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. During his tenure as chairperson of this department, several new educational programs, including a psych-mental nurse practitioner program, were funded and implemented. While serving at the University of South Carolina, Sowell received several research grants, including a \$1.2 million NIH grant to continue his work with HIV-infected women and the prevention of perinatal transmission of HIV infection. Sowell has authored or co-authored more than 100 articles, book chapters and editorials in the past 15 years. He has served as the editor of the Journal of the Association of Nursing in AIDS Care (JANAC), and he is frequently invited to do national and international presentations. Additionally, Sowell has served on a number of community advisory boards, national review panels and is a reviewer for several national refereed journals.



Richard Sowell - new dean of the College of Health and Human Services

In applying for the position of dean at Kennesaw State University, Sowell saw the opportunity to link his interest in community, education and scholarship. "When I look at Kennesaw and the College of Health and Human Services I see an opportunity for great achievements," Sowell said. "We have a wonderful faculty who are already excelling in many, many ways. The work the faculty has done in developing outstanding educational programs and community partnerships sets the stage for making the College of Health and Human Services a national force."

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Programs in all three of the college's departments represent significant innovation and commitment to making a difference in the community. The Department of Human Services offers the American Humanics Certification program to educate future leaders in nonprofit administration. The establishment of the Center for the Prevention of Violence, focusing on the



## ● Community Connections

prevention of violence in a wide range of settings, represents a dynamic step by the college. The PLAY and SPARHKS programs in the Department of Health Promotion, Physical Education and Sports Management are outstanding community programs that support physical and social activity in children with disabilities and senior citizens respectively. The future holds not only the implementation of these programs, but the systematic evaluation of the programs so they can be improved. The School of Nursing is recognized as one of the best in the state. The faculty of the School of Nursing continues to implement innovative programs with a new BS to BSN track coming on-line in fall 2002. Further, plans to develop relevant programs to address the state's nursing shortage are under way. Many of the faculty are developing research programs and the College of Health and Human Services at Kennesaw State University is on target for becoming a college nationally recognized for its innovation in teaching and applied scholarship. Sowell added, "It is a college with its sights set on making an even greater difference in our local and national communities. After all that is the Kennesaw way."

### Nurse practitioner program named in honor of WellStar

The Master of Science in Nursing Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program was recently named the WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program in honor of the long-standing commitment and financial support of WellStar Health System Inc. to nursing education programs at Kennesaw State University.

This ongoing partnership dates back more than 30 years. At that time, the administrators at Kennestone and Cobb General Hospitals, today's WellStar Kennestone Hospital and WellStar Cobb Hospital, agreed to help fund faculty positions to start a nursing education program at what was then Kennesaw Junior College. Since then, WellStar has provided more than \$3 million in support of nursing education at KSU with the most recent contributions directed to the MSN Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program.

"The partnership between WellStar and the School of Nursing has allowed the implementation of an innovative nurse practitioner program at Kennesaw State University that is providing high quality advanced practice nurses to the local community and throughout Georgia," Richard Sowell, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, said. "The naming of the primary care nurse practitioner program in honor of



WellStar Health System represents recognition of the vital partnership between the School of Nursing and WellStar in responding to the health care needs of our community."

A decorative plaque commemorating the naming of the nurse practitioner program for WellStar is located in the lobby of the administrative offices of the College of Health & Human Services.

### Welcome Alan Kirk to the Human Services Department



Alan Kirk recently joined our faculty as chair of the Human Services Department. He comes to us from Southeastern Louisiana University where he served as director of the Social Work Program. Kirk has been a practicing social worker in various clinical settings, including the Veteran's Administration, the U.S. Air Force and private practice in the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. area.

He has held teaching appointments at Florida State University, Barry University and Southeastern Louisiana University.

Kirk has written or co-authored four textbooks and has contributed articles to several national and international professional journals. Kirk's extensive full-time practice experience, along with his academic experience, will help us to continue to build and strengthen community partnerships, as well as build creative and innovative academic programs.



## Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership

The Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership has been re-energized and expanded this academic year. Developed in 1998, the center offers assistance to public and nonprofit human service agencies in the areas of training, program development and research to substantively address specific areas of concern throughout Georgia and the nation. The center actively seeks out partnerships, grants and activities to highlight the value Kennesaw State University places on community service and engagement.

The Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership, as part of the Department of Human Services at Kennesaw State, facilitates community-based collaborations in order to develop leaders in nonprofit and public organizations. The center includes two separate but interrelated programs.

**Professional Development Program:** As part of the Department of Human Services, the center offers opportunities for professional development and enhancement through formal education, emphasizing the linkage between knowledge and practice. Examples of these opportunities include conferences, teleconferences and on-site workshops that involve academicians and practitioners.

**Community Action Research:** The center uses social science research as one way to address community needs. Activities within this area include, but are not limited to, responding to local, state and federal requests for funding, research, consultation or technical assistance in a particular area of expertise. For example, faculty who are interested in welfare reform may respond to a grant request to conduct an evaluation for a particular program to put welfare mothers back to work. This evaluation may be a team effort consisting of human service faculty, faculty from other departments and students.

## Crisis in America: A series on threat, violence and fear

The events of September 11th changed the way the American people feel about biological and chemical threats, the daily confrontations of violence and the expectation and impact of fear on our lives. As our country faces terrorism and increasing violence in our society, health care professionals, nurses, counselors and social workers must respond to a new reality. The threat of violence is real-how prepared and how to respond has quickly changed. Both the threat and actual violence result in unprecedented levels of fear. The Crisis in America Series was designed to assist health care professionals to learn about these threats and become part of the solution. The first seminar, Biological and Chemical Threats: Response and preparedness was held Nov. 30, with more than 100 professionals in attendance.

## Second seminar in the series: Disaster and violence in the schools

The Center For Public and Nonprofit Leadership held an intensive workshop focused on school violence. The workshop was designed for educational, health and mental health professionals whose practice arena includes public or private schools. The keynote speaker was Monette Park, LCSW. Park was the school social worker at Columbine High School during the nationally publicized disaster there. She spoke about the shootings and the emotional after effects of the trauma for students and faculty. In addition to the morning sessions with Park, the breakout sessions featured training in critical incident debriefing, compassion fatigue among providers, establishment of community-based violence prevention programs and development of bullying prevention programs.

## Third seminar in the series: Responding to crisis-related fear, assisting others to cope.

This exciting and timely seminar is scheduled for Sept. 27, 2002 on the KSU campus. For additional information, contact Anne Hicks-Coolick at 770-499-3398.

## Center for Prevention of Violence

Family violence, disaster (both man-made and natural) and the risk of crime victimization have become all too common in our culture today. Training, outreach and research is essential to effectively combat this growing problem. The College of Health and Human Services is pleased to announce that the Center For Prevention of Violence has been established at KSU. The center will be under the direction of Alan Kirk, our new Human Services Department chair. The start-up team will be composed of nursing and human services faculty. The team will be working closely with Gerald Landsberg who directs similar work at New York University.

The CPV will be commissioned in April 2002 during a regional workshop on school-related violence at KSU. We are excited about the potential of this new work and look forward to the center having a positive impact on the work against violence in our community.



### 2002 University Board of Regents' Research Award

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce that the RN-BSN Track Online Program has been selected as the program recipient of the 2002 Regents' Research in Undergraduate Education Award. The program was chosen for this prestigious honor from a group of 36 other portfolios submitted from across the University System of Georgia. The submitters for this award were Beverly Farnsworth, Janice Flynn and Christina Horne-faculty members who have been very instrumental in making the program a reality and conducting the research in program outcomes.

Since the fall of 1997, the faculty of the baccalaureate nursing program at KSU has been developing and implementing a vision for the integration of advanced technology, including Web-based courses, into the curriculum in the RN-BSN Track. In addition to integrating technology into the curriculum, the department has had a long-standing commitment to providing an accessible, relevant and high-quality undergraduate education for registered nurse students. The KSU program is designed especially for the registered nurse with an associate degree or a diploma who wants to complete a bachelor's degree. As a result of the implementation of this program, nurses are able to complete their BSN in a flexible, highly interactive and learner-centered environment while maintaining their job and family responsibilities.

This award recognizes a unique aspect of the KSU online RN-BSN option that sets it apart from many other programs offering online courses. In order to assure integrity and quality in online courses, the faculty implemented an evaluation plan to compare the differences in educational outcomes between online and traditional on-ground courses. The faculty conducted further research to gain an understanding of the experience of students in online courses. The findings of these quantitative and qualitative studies have resulted in validation of the effectiveness of the online strategy, determination of its equivalence to the on-ground option.

Teaching innovations are a hallmark of the School of Nursing. The acknowledgement of this successful initiative and the meticulous evaluation of educational outcomes reflect the quality standards maintained at KSU and expected in the School of Nursing.

### Patient simulator helps prepare nursing students for the real thing

Kennesaw State University is the first nursing program in Georgia to add a human patient simulator as a training tool to its curriculum. This computer-controlled, programmable, life-size mannequin is capable of exhibiting physiological symptoms and reacting to medicines and interventions like an actual person. This adult simulator can be programmed to imitate various health conditions of either a man or a woman. Nursing facilitators can improvise and write their own scenarios.

The simulator, created by Medical Education Technologies Inc. (METI) arrived on campus in December. Purchase of the \$200,000 state-of-the-art teaching tool was funded by a collaborative project between the WellStar Health Care System and Kennesaw State.



The METI Human Patient Simulator (HPS) is fully interactive. The mannequin blinks, speaks and breathes, has a heartbeat and a pulse and accurately mirrors human responses to such procedures as CPR, intravenous medication administration, intubation, ventilation and catheterization. Nursing students are able to use the simulator to acquire hands-on experience and master a high level of competence before they work directly with patients.

At the beginning of the nursing program, the simulator teaches students the normals, like heart sounds and breath sounds during physical assessment. Abnormals can be introduced with the help of the simulator.

The public is invited to a reception featuring this impressive addition to the learning strategies used to educate the critical thinker of the future. The reception and demonstration is schedule for Monday, April 29th from 3 p.m. until 5, in the Nursing Building Ground Floor Simulation Laboratory.



### Scholarship in response to the nursing shortage

Audrey Morgan, long-time KSU friend and generous supporter, is establishing The Audrey Morgan Nursing Scholarship to help address the critical nursing shortage in Georgia. Morgan, who is a successful businesswoman, wife and mother, is especially sensitive to this shortage through her service as a member of the DeKalb Medical Center Board of Directors. The endowed scholarship will benefit undergraduate students who are majoring in nursing and have a demonstrated financial need.

### Kaiser Permanente of Georgia provides \$25,000 in scholarships for KSU nursing students

To help address the severe shortage of nurses in the state, Kaiser Permanente of Georgia has announced \$500,000 in nursing scholarships to increase the number of nursing graduates at area colleges. Over the next five years, Kaiser Permanente will award \$100,000 annually in scholarship funds. Clayton College and State University in Morrow, Georgia Perimeter College in Clarkston, Georgia State University in Atlanta and Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw will each receive \$25,000 per year in scholarship support. Scholarship recipients are not required to work at Kaiser Permanente after they graduate.

"The nursing shortage is one of the most pressing issues in health care today and will continue to become even more severe unless we take proactive steps to address this critical problem," said Carolyn Kenny, president of Kaiser Permanente of Georgia. "Our \$500,000 commitment represents Kaiser Permanente's response to the growing shortage of nurses in Georgia. By helping nursing students prepare for their roles in the 21st century, we are building healthier communities."

A recent report released by the Georgia Hospital Association indicated that in metro Atlanta, the shortage of all nurses – registered, licensed professional and nursing assistants – grew 38 percent from 1999 to 2001 in Georgia. Additionally, the Department of Labor estimates Georgia will need 27,000 new RNs between 1996 and 2006 to fill new and existing positions. Georgia ranks 44th out of 51 states (including the District of Columbia) in the number of RNs per 100,000 population.

Kaiser Permanente Georgia is the state's largest nonprofit health plan, providing comprehensive health care services to more than 282,000 members through nine medical facilities in metro Atlanta and a network of affiliated hospitals and physicians.

### Grady Health System contributes \$16,000 for KSU nursing scholarships

Grady Health System has created the Grady Scholars Program for nursing students. Through partnerships with Kennesaw State University, Clayton State College and University, Georgia Perimeter College and Georgia State University, the health system will provide scholarships for at least four qualifying senior nursing students at each institution for the current academic year.

Following graduation and successful completion of the National Comprehensive Nursing Exam, scholarship recipients will be employed at Grady Health System for a minimum of 12 months. Betty Blake, senior vice president of patient care stated, "We are very excited about our partnerships with four outstanding institutions of higher education, and we are hopeful that our combined efforts will be a catalyst for increased enrollment and employment in the field of nursing."

"This is the beginning of a new and exciting collaboration," says Edward J. Renford, president and CEO of Grady Health System. "By working together to promote nursing education, more nursing professionals will become available to provide patient care."

### Wellness works at Kennesaw State University

The Employee Fitness Center opened its doors July 10, 2000. Since that time, there have been more than 15,000 visits to the Fitness Center. The center is open to KSU employees and their immediate family members. Employees and family members who want to join must complete an orientation, fitness evaluation and health risk appraisal. The fitness evaluation is required to ensure that physical exertion will not be dangerous to them and identify special needs. The information collected is also used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. There are currently more than 450 members.

One of the unique benefits of the Employee Fitness Center is release time. Employees that have their supervisor's approval can receive 90 minutes of release time to exercise each week. Time restraints are one of the major reasons why people do not exercise. The release time allows employees some flexibility with their work schedules and helps them find time to exercise.

The goal of the program is to develop a sense of community and enhance morale among faculty and staff, while reducing absenteeism and health care costs. The individual benefits include better overall health and increased self-esteem.



The Fitness Center has a variety of equipment including elliptical trainers, treadmills, rowing machine, stair climbers, recumbent bikes, free weights, weight machines and stretch trainers. Aerobic classes are also offered at the Fitness Center.

In February, members had an opportunity to sign up for Health Trip. Health Trip is a fictitious journey across the country to some familiar sounding cities where travelers learn how to make changes to improve their health. Participants receive hand-outs at every stop and a personal passport log to record mileage earned through physical activity, recreation and movement. Participants practice healthy lifestyle choices, log their activity points and receive recognition and rewards along the way. Some of the cities that will be visited include Cholesterol Springs, Col., Albuquerque, N.M. and Las Veggies, N.V.

Membership fees are \$5 a month for employees and \$7 for each additional family member. Retirees of Kennesaw State University can use the facility free of charge. Payment can be made either through monthly payroll deduction or paying the yearly fee at the Bursar's Office.

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

## Health Educator of the Year

*Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*

Jane Petrillo, an assistant professor of health education/teacher education in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, was named the College/University Health Educator of the Year by GAHPERD in early April. Petrillo is a graduate of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and earned her doctorate at University of Cincinnati in health education.

Petrillo is characterized by her unique ability to "bond" with students. Petrillo demonstrates a passion for mentoring students that is recognized by her peers as exemplary. This has been demonstrated through shared presentations with students at several conferences and the time that is given to students outside the classroom. Petrillo's commitment to bringing out the "best in students" is valued by both students and colleagues. Petrillo is highly involved in the school and community. In 1998, Petrillo was nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Award at Kennesaw State University and is an honorary member of the Golden Key.

## Physical Education Teacher of the Year

*Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*

Tom Donovan, an associate professor of health and physical education in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, was named the GAHPERD College/University Physical Education Teacher of the Year in early April. Donovan has served as the coordinator of P-12 Health and Physical Education Programs. In Donovan's nomination packet a student said, "Dr. Donovan has the uncanny ability to make a student feel like they are the only person that matters." Donovan's commitment to teacher education is evidenced by his committee involvement for the Professional Teacher Education Unit (PTEU) at KSU. Donovan has also served as the vice president, general division, of GAPHERD from 1999-2001. As vice president he consistently attempted to make the professional organization more attractive to future professionals. One of his former students said, "I overcame many obstacles to reach my dreams of teaching and I owe more to Dr. Donovan than he will ever imagine." Tom Donovan is a tireless advocate for his students and our profession. Donovan is a very worthy candidate for this GAPHERD honor.

## Seniors participating in activities relating to health at Kennesaw State

The SPARHKS program is designed to positively affect the health, sense of well-being and the health knowledge of older adults while providing a service learning opportunity for KSU students. SPARHKS is in its 5th year of operation with Diane Lowry as director. Seniors, at least 60 years of age, come to Kennesaw State on Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for nine weeks. Many live independently in the community while others travel by bus from Atherton Place and Eden Gardens.

Most of the KSU students are majoring in exercise and health science but the program is open to anyone interested in working with senior citizens and able to make a 10-week commitment. The students work one-on-one with an assigned partner in a variety of activities relating to health, fitness and recreation. It is not uncommon to find groups in the weight room, pool, walking around the Campus Green or bowling in the gym. In addition, each week a speaker provides up-to-date health information to help the partners make informed choices about



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their health. The activities are designed to improve the quality of life for the seniors and to provide a social time, not only with a student but also with other seniors. Of course, a major goal is for all is to have fun!

Angela Lanier joined the KSU and SPARHKS staff this year as assistant director. It is hoped that coupled with the steady growth in the program and the addition of Lanier's expertise, SPARHKS can expand to provide opportunities for seniors to work-out on Mondays and Wednesdays in addition to the current Friday schedule. A greater fitness benefit would be provided for the seniors and it would enhance the learning opportunity for the students.

SPARHKS is a unique opportunity for both the KSU students and seniors from the community to interact and learn from each other. One student said, "Even though the syllabus says the class is four hours long, it seems like about one hour. This class goes by so quick because you are having fun."

Lowry and Lanier love to have visitors drop in any time and observe the program. If you know a senior that would benefit from this program, call the director at (770) 423-6488.

## Department of Nursing renamed School of Nursing

In December 2001, the Board of Regents approved changing the name of the nursing unit at Kennesaw State University from the Department of Nursing to the School of Nursing. During the summer of 2001, the Baccalaureate Nursing Program and the WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program were combined into the Department of Nursing. The arrival of the new dean of the College of Health and Human Services, Richard Sowell, initiated a review of the existing structure and resulted in a recommendation to KSU administration the department be redesignated as the School of Nursing. David Bennett will be the chair of the new School of Nursing and serve as the program representative to external organizations.

Changing the name of the nursing unit from department to school offers a number of strategic advantages to the university and the nursing programs. The designation of "School of Nursing" is a nationally recognized organizational unit for nursing education programs across the United States. KSU's Department of Nursing consists of an undergraduate program, a master's program in primary care nursing, with tracks in family and adult nurse practitioner, health clinics providing services for diverse populations, a strong online educational initiative, international programs and collaborations with a growing number of health care institutions. Both the undergraduate and graduate programs have student enrollments that are among the highest in the state. Among units with similar numbers of faculty, programs and students, the most commonly used designation is "School of Nursing." The designation of School of Nursing will increase the profile of the nursing unit at the state, regional and

national levels. The school is already a leader in nursing education in the State of Georgia, changing the name of the unit to School of Nursing recognizes the complexity and elevates the visibility of the unit within the professional and the university communities.

An additional reason for creating the School of Nursing is to allow KSU to attract highly qualified faculty members in a time of faculty shortage. Potential faculty members prefer to affiliate with a School of Nursing as opposed to a Department of Nursing. Qualified nurse educators are in short supply and even in the metropolitan Atlanta area, applicant pools are shrinking.

Future departmental goals include the development of a fast-track option for students who already have baccalaureate degrees in other fields. This option would provide opportunities for students who already hold college degrees to complete a nursing degree more rapidly, thus increasing the supply of nurses.



For undergraduate students, affiliation with a School of Nursing is more desirable. This designation is more important to students seeking second degrees, certificates and to graduate students.

In summary –

Changing the name of the nursing unit at Kennesaw State to School of Nursing provides a strategic advantage on many fronts. Raising the profile of the nursing programs among peer institutions and funding agencies can facilitate many of the goals of the school. Student and faculty recruitment would be enhanced. The attractiveness of the institution to potential donors, funding agencies and potential community partners would also be increased. In summary, changing the designation will provide an opportunity to move the nursing unit at KSU to the next level of prominence in the state, region and nation.