A Message from the Dean
Dr. Richard L. Sowell PhD, RN, FAAN

The growth and advancement of Kennesaw State University (KSU) in serving the northwestern corner of Georgia continues to be extraordinary. Since coming to KSU, I have been extremely impressed with both the potential and determination of the KSU faculty to move the university to an ever-increasing level of excellence. Consistent with the overall momentum of KSU, the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) is experiencing rapid movement in the areas of teaching, scholarship and service to the community. New faculty who have joined the College during the past year bring new energy and expertise to an already outstanding faculty.

Teaching excellence has long been the trademark of the CHHS faculty. Faculty in the College continue to be recognized for teaching excellence by their peers. A faculty member in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, Dr. Berme Gottline, was recognized as the KSU Outstanding Educator of the Year for 2002-2003. Dr. Chris Horne recently won the Georgia League for Nursing Outstanding Educator of the Year. Additionally, the new report during the recent national accreditation (CCNS) visit for the School of Nursing could not have been more complimentary. The quality and success of the graduates of the CHHS continue to serve as a testimony to the standard of excellence established by our faculty. This high standard becomes even more impressive when considering the growth in the College. Professor Amy Howton has undertaken the evaluation and reorganization of the HPS 1000 (Fitness for Living) general education course. The faculty who have offered a growing number of sections of this course have been an important component of responding to the growing KSU student population. Dr. Marie Brenner has taken a leadership role in establishing an accelerated baccalaureate program for second-degree students in the School of Nursing. Additionally plans are under way to offer this accelerated program on the Floyd College campus in Rome. The focus on teaching excellence is alive and well in the College.

Yes, as KSU moves to a more nationally recognized university, there is a clear understanding the College of Health and Human Services must take a leadership role in Scholarship. It is time for our College to better disseminate information concerning the many outstanding teaching and service initiatives already underway. The Human Services Department’s work with non-profit agencies, the School of Nursing’s work in providing healthcare to the underserved, and the HPS Department’s SPARKS and PLAY programs are all examples of programs that need to be recognized as models on a national level. The key is for our faculty to make the national audience aware of these outstanding initiatives. For that reason, the College has established a national emphasis on publishing data concerning our programs as well as supporting the applied research activities of our faculty. A major step in moving the scholarship agenda of the College forward has been the hiring of an Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. Knowing the fierce competition for highly qualified research data, I am extremely pleased to announce Dr. Timothy Alers has joined the College in this role. Dr. Alers was a scholar scientist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta before joining the College. Dr. Alers, in his short time as part of the faculty, has proven to be a stellar champion of faculty scholarship and partnerships with other universities, locally and nationally. His energy is contagious. A number of partnerships and grant proposals are already under development. National and regional colleagues are visiting the KSU campus, exploring ways we can develop interdisciplinary and interagency teams to make significant contributions to the health and wellness of citizens.

I look forward to sharing our achievements in the scholarship area in future issues of excellence.

With the quality of our faculty, the expertise of Dr. Alers, and the support of our alumni and friends, there is little doubt that the College of Health and Human Services is on track to take leadership in moving KSU to the next level.*
History of teaching and service on which to build our scholarship. This is a formula for unprecedented success. The opportunity and challenge for each such success is ours. We plan to take it.

New Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Joins Staff

Dr. Timothy Akers brings a unique blend of applied research, programmatic, and administrative experience to Kennesaw State University and the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). Prior to his new position as the first Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies for CHHS, Dr. Akers was a Senior Behavioral Scientist for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), based in Atlanta, where he worked in the area of HIV/AIDS programmatic research and evaluation for the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. In addition, he was in the Office of the Director at CDC addressing minority health related issues as the senior project officer. Throughout his tenure at CDC, Dr. Akers administered, managed, and developed scientific protocols that became multi-million dollar grant contracts, and cooperative agreement projects undertaken by academic institutions, state and local health departments, corporations and nonprofit community-based organizations.

He was the first in the nation to organize a meeting of national experts from the federal and state governments, academia, community-based organizations, and think tanks to call to the attention of CDC and other public health agencies, the importance of developing a national standardized HIV/AIDS prevention intervention taxonomy. Dr. Akers has researched, authored, and managed numerous studies drawing in methodology and context, encompassing such diverse areas as community-based crime prevention, corrections, minority health, technological changes in the nonprofit human services sector, HIV/AIDS prevention intervention, geographical information systems (GIS), evaluation, classification and standardization in surveillance data collection, the role of business in developing healthy communities, environmental/health, and many other areas.

He further brings to the KSU community experience as a faculty member and senior research scientist for the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University where he conducted research in the area of African-American male health-related issues. Dr. Akers has sat on or established numerous national boards and review panels for public health projects. He brings an excitement in working with our disciplinary diverse faculty across the university and college. He has also enjoys mentoring students, faculty, and other professionals throughout his career from a multitude of different backgrounds — racial, ethnic, religious affiliations, and sexual orientation. As he reflected on his experience, he shared with faculty now he receded with clarity, an exact moment in 1979, his desire to become a "researcher." While smiling, Dr. Akers stated, "at the time, all I knew was that a 'researcher' really knew a lot of cool things." However, his career choices took a rather circuitous route in order to meet his goal.

Apart from having attended a vocational school for two years to become an electrician, Dr. Akers also brings unique experience as a former U.S. Air Force Security Police, where he received extensive training in nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare, especially while serving as an Emergency Services Team (EST) member, an elite anti-terrorism unit for the Air Force. In 1985, his research skills were further noted by the U.S. Department of the Air Force when they awarded him an Air Force Achievement medal, stating "Airman Akers' outstanding professional skill, knowledge, and leadership aided measurably in identifying problem areas in the field of security and in developing and implementing research projects capable of solving these problems." As a non-traditional student, Dr. Akers went on to receive a B.S degree in criminology and criminal justice from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado, and joint M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Criminal Justice and Urban Studies and Environmental Science (Resource Development) and Urban Studies from Michigan State University, respectfully. Dr. Akers refers to himself as a "hopeless generalist" because he loves the diversity and breadth of broad research ideas and methodologies that can be deployed to address many of society's social, economic, environmental, technological, and health issues.

Dr. Akers expressed with genuine excitement, "I feel so very fortunate to be part of the KSU and CHHS community and look forward to working and partnering with everyone across colleges to continue to build on the national reputation that KSU already enjoys in the areas of teaching, research, and service."

ALUMNI ALERT

If you have been recently promoted, accepted a new position, working on an interesting project either personally or professionally please let us know.

Send notification to: vrebner@kennesaw.edu, fax to 770-420-4486 or mail this form to: Alumni Office, College of Health & Human Services Newsletter, Kennesaw State University, 1000 Chastain Road, #601, Kennesaw, GA 30144

Name ____________

Address __________

City ____________ State ____________

Phone _______ Email ____________

Major ____________ Year Graduated ____________

Employer ____________ Position ____________

News from ____________
Beyer Works on Rural Health Grant With Voorhees College

Dr. Christine Beyer, associate professor of health education, Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science, is working in a joint practice-agreement Spring semester with the Center of Excellence in Rural and Minority Health at Voorhees College, Denmark, South Carolina. Dr. Beyer wrote the grant entitled "The Digital Generation Divide: Utilizing Computer Technology to Enable Rural Seniors to Access Health Care Information," while at Voorhees. The grant received funding by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Beyer is currently training the personnel who will implement the grant in rural areas. Her assistance in the preliminary preparation assist the Voorhees staff to move forward and maintain the timelines envisioned when she wrote the proposal.

Laura Overstreet Named CCHS Outstanding Student and Regents Scholar

Lauren Carter Overstreet is the ultimate example of the strength of the human spirit and determination to make a positive difference in the lives of others. This 23-year-old KSU Department of Human Services Senior has managed to overcome being confined to a wheelchair to excel as a scholar, leader, and inspiration.

Laura attends classes at KSU accompanied by her service dog, Jenny, a specially trained golden retriever. Confined to a wheelchair since she was 10, Laura suffers from a rare disease known as Transverse Myelitis that affects her spinal cord. Originally paralyzed from the neck down, Laura went through extensive rehabilitation that allowed her to regain limited use in her arms. She rarely misses a class and maintains an impressive 3.88 GPA.

In her spare time, the Savannah native volunteers her time at Kennestone Hospital. She also is a member of Alpha Delta Omega, Human Services Honor Society and is past President of the Disabled Students Association. She also supports Cool Girls, Inc., a group that serves young women in Atlanta's inner city. Currently, Laura's advanced internship is at Cobb Family Resources, assisting with the women's mentoring program and parenting workshops. Her career goal is to obtain a Master's degree, with a focus in clinical casework.

As a result of Laura's extraordinary circumstances, academic and leadership excellence and selfless volunteerism, the CCHS is proud to recognize Laura as its Outstanding Student of the Year and Kennestone State University's Outstanding Student of the Year.

The Center for the Prevention of Violence

The Center for the Prevention of Violence has a very productive record since its inception in June 2002. The Center was established by Dr. Alan Kirk, responding to a stated community need for a forum for violence prevention and intervention initiative in the Northwest Crescent of Georgia. According to Center Director Dr. Arichid Peters, "The mission of the Center for the Prevention of Violence is to collaborate with community partners to promote violence prevention and intervention. To date, these collaborations have been highly successful."

During the Fall semester, internal and external communities were served by three days of training opportunities for professionals and students, offering 15.5 CEUs (NASW and LPC). Two of the days, taught by Dr. Kirk, focused on critical incident debriefing. The third all-day conference included speakers on DeKalb County Homeland Security Initiatives, Lessons from Columbine, Working with Survivors of Violence, Advocacy in Domestic Violence and Personal Self-Defense.

A town hall meeting provided an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to meet with representatives of the KSU and Kennestone Police and the Cobb County Sheriff's Department. About 90 participants braved the rain and last minute change of venue to attend the session. Michelle Miller, intern with the Center, who also serves as advisor to the KSU NAACP Chapter, envisioned, planned and implemented this highly successful initiative.

The definition of "community partners" is rapidly expanding, as is the work on a variety of fronts. An invited proposal is under review for critical incident debriefing training for counselors in the University System of Georgia. Work is underway on a collaborative grant application with Georgia State University for funding under the Violence Against Women Act, with Dr. Lester Bill serving as the point person for KSU. If funded, the Center would provide a center point for the project on our campus.

Within the next several months new opportunities arise from the Center's projected move (with the Center for Nonprofit and Public Leadership) to a house on Frey Lake Road. The arrival of Dr. Tim Aker, as Assistant Dean for Research, has added energy and impetus to the development of the Center. The Center's location in the College of Health and Human Services provides the opportunity for innovative and exemplary interdisciplinary collaboration among professionals who have an interest in preventing violence. Please let Dr. Peters know if you are interested in being involved in Center initiatives or have ideas for new initiatives. (bpeters@kennestown.edu)
American Humanics

The American Humanics program is an innovative course of study that equips university students to become skilled professionals and leaders in America's youth and human service agencies. American Humanics is the only national nonprofit organization meeting this need. To ensure students' success, American Humanics provides leadership opportunities, internships, and financial aid, as well as its education curriculum. Part of the American Humanics program is to be a member of the American Humanics Student Association and attending the American Humanics Management Institute (AHMI). At AHMI, students participate in rebranding sessions, strategic planning seminars, fundraising classes, and meet with other American Humanics students. This year’s event was held in Las Vegas with more than 600 students representing 80 schools in attendance.

The American Humanics Student Association at Kent State University had several triumphs this year. The first ones came when students attended AHMI in Las Vegas. Student Mobile Gallagher won an award for Best Practices in Strategic Planning and Dr. Louise Bill won the Best Practices in Strategic Planning for a facilitator. The KSU group was given further accolades as first runner-up in Best Public Relations for the school in promoting the American Humanics program.

In January, the Center for Violence Prevention, the American Humanics Student Association, and the African-American Student Association collaborated on special events for the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A bust of Dr. King, commissioned by AHSA, was dedicated on that day. The Empty Bowl Lunch, that followed, raised almost $400 for the Laura Williams Feed the Hungry and Homeless Foundation. Ceramic bowls were created by KSU art students and served as both fundraisers and take home reminders of those who are hungry. SODAHO Food Services donated food.

Community Partnerships

The College of Health and Human Services has a long tradition of working with our local community to undertake initiatives that serve the common good. This tradition of community partnerships remains a major thrust of our College faculty. Currently, the College is undertaking several new initiatives designed to align the work of our faculty with new academic and community partners.

One of these initiatives involves the relocation and renovation of a house on Frye Lake Road to house the Center for Public and Non-Profit Leadership. Several community agencies are placing offices in the Frye Lake House to support an initiative that will colocate academic and community activities in one location that will support an innovative synergy in the development of new research and service initiatives. The overarching purpose of the collaborative housing of community and academic faculty/staff is to develop a strong new model for community collaboration for the Department of Human Services and the College. Having community agencies and faculty in the Department of Human Services working in a centralized location will facilitate a “think tank” concept that allows faculty with expertise in outcome evaluation and community agency staff with expertise in service delivery to develop “best practices” initiatives in the area of nonprofit leadership and service delivery.

Other community collaborative and innovative partnerships focusing on scholarship with colleagues spanning the academic, community-based, and governmental sectors. The College of Health and Human Services has taken the lead to bring partners together to develop a proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) “Partnership for Innovation” program. The proposed project is entitled the “Georgia Partnership for Technological Education and Commerce in Health” (GAPTECH). The goal of the project is to introduce the science of health informatics for possible workforce enhancement and microenterprise development to underserved, underrepresented, and special needs populations. The partners include the Cobb Microenterprise Council, Center for Black Women’s Wellness, Cobb and Douglas Counties’ Community Services Board, Morehouse School of Medicine, Macon State College, University of Georgia, and with many strong letters of support from the Safe America Foundation, Cobb Works, Georgia Department of Industry and Trade, Goodwill Industries, Northwest Cancers Cancer Coalition, and others. These partnerships exemplify the active role undertaken to build our university/community collaborative and innovative partnerships. Many other initiatives in the college, ship, and area are in the works.
Collaboration Between Kennesaw State University and Atherton Place, a Retirement Community for Independent Living

Atherton Place is a residential community, and part of the WellStar Health Care System, offering both independent living apartments (168) and assisted living apartments (40). In an assisted living apartment, the resident still must be somewhat independent, but more services are available to help maintain independence longer. Residents must be at least 60 years of age. There is a choice of apartments from efficiencies, one bedroom, two bedrooms, and barrier free, all with or without balconies. Amenities include full kitchen, emergency call system, 24-hour security, laundry facilities on every floor, a tondrosha shop, a hair salon, a recreation area, overnight guest rooms, cable-ready TV capabilities, a health services office, transportation service, housekeeping, and dining services.

Last year was the first year the Joint Commission could accredit those Assisted Living facilities for Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO) and Atherton Place applied to be surveyed. (Currently this is a voluntary process as opposed to a mandatory one.) The JCAHO committee surveyed Atherton Place and it passed with flying colors, only the second facility in Georgia to do so.

Dr. Vanice Roberts, Associate Dean of the College of Health & Human Services, initiated the partnership in July 1995 after the resignation of the Atherton health resource manager. Dr. Roberts contacted the AP administrators and began planning the collaboration. Dr. Carol Denes routinely placed several clinical students at AP each week and was working on her doctorate in nursing education with an emphasis on older adults. Thus, she was named as the faculty member to fulfill the obligations at AP each week. During the academic year, nursing students help with these obligations.

The collaborative efforts between KSU and Atherton Place is a unique partnership because of what each partner brings to the other. For KSU, this synergy provides a nursing faculty practice position in which Atherton Place contracts directly with KSU for 24 hours of the facility member’s time each week. During this time, Community Health nursing students (NUR 4412) have the opportunity to participate in clinical experience in the facility. Thus, students enhance the accomplishments of Dr. Denes each week. The significance of the rapidly increasing numbers of older adults served as the stimulus for examining the possibility of such collaboration. A proposal was accepted for the faculty member to fulfill the position of the Health Resource manager was made to AP by KSU. This contracted arrangement has, thus far, worked to the satisfaction of both parties involved. The residents of AP benefit from this agreement by seeing new youthful faces of the nursing students in the facility and enjoying interacting with people who do not live in the facility. They take advantage of the health promotion programs conducted for their benefit. For example, some of the programs that have been implemented include stroke screening, health fairs of various types, updating emergency data sheets, medication (of various types) education, blood pressure, paryland flu injections yearly, and individual assistance with using a computer. A research study was conducted with a group of residents in an effort prevent falls. This study included a specific exercise program for muscle strengthening. The program was then implemented in the general community. One factor that gives the residents great satisfaction is feeling that they contribute to the educational process of the students. Loneliness is a problem for many residents and students help ease this problem.

Students benefit from the relationship through interacting with a “well” group of older adults in a community setting. All too often, students work with very sick hospitalized older adults and get a very different impression of them than they do of “well” senior citizens. They learn to implement health promotion activities rather than approaching the study of aging from an illness perspective. They are able to practice functional assessment skills, cognitive assessment skills, health history assessments, communication skills, teaching skills, working with groups of people, as well as many other skills. Collaborative arrangements of this type have implications for nursing practice and research and implications for other disciplines. Some of the other disciplines that have sent students to AP include: history, sociology, human services, and even graduate students such as physician’s assistants, and nutrition students. In nursing this type of collaboration has the potential to integrate theory, research, and practice. Since the number of older adults is so dramatically increasing and the direction of healthcare in today’s society is directed toward health promotion, the timing of this relationship is very appropriate.

COMMENTS

If you have any comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please let us know.

Send to: wabers@kennesaw.edu, fax us 770-422-4631 or mail this form to Editor, College of Health & Human Services Newsletter, Kennesaw State University, 330 Chastain Road, N.E., Kennesaw, GA 30044
KSU Graduate Students Meet Governor Perdue

In a remarkable chain of events, a group of 86 Kennesaw State University Graduate Nursing Students had the opportunity to meet Governor Sonny Perdue at his office in the Capitol in January at the beginning of the current legislative session. The group was attending a tour of the Capitol and a lecture on the legislative process given by Connie Graves of the 13th District Georgia Nurses Association.

"This is the second year that we have organized this well attended and important program at KSU," said Troy Spicer, Assistant Professor at KSU. Even the normally unapproachable Graves was caught off guard when the group was ushered into the Governor's office after presenting themselves as nurses from all over the State of Georgia interested in meeting the governor. "I think the key was that we introduced ourselves to his staff as a group of nurses from Dalton to Thomasville. Maybe the size of the group was also a factor," said Patricia Bullock of Cairo.

Joan Hooks of Dalton was impressed by the relaxed, personable style of the governor. "We got a taste of his famous sense of humor," she said.

The group did not miss the opportunity to lobby the governor on the issue of prescriptive authority for advanced practice nurses.

"He showed interest and asked several very pertinent questions," according to Jill Santamaria of Kennesaw. All agreed his willingness to hear the arguments in favor of granting prescriptive authority was to his credit.

After talking to the group for approximately 15 minutes, the governor concluded by asking, "Is there anything else I can do for you all?" The students did not miss the chance. They asked the governor to "sign" copies of the latest prescriptive authority bill, just introduced the previous day. "You all are tough customers," was the governor's reply as he beamed the group by autographing several copies of the bill. According to Dr. Genie Dormant, Program Director of the Whitewater Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program at KSU, the Governor paid the students a high compliment with his parting words: "My goal for Georgia is a well-educated and prosperous citizenry. And it looks like you all are on your way to both."

The copies of the "signed" prescriptive authority bill attracted much attention at the GNA Legislative Reception, which the students attended following the Capitol tour and legislative lecture. At the reception, the students had the chance to meet with legislators from across the state. Prior to the reception, the group met briefly with other legislators including Senators Charles Tendley of Vinings, Peg Bitch of Homerville and Nadine Thomas, RN of Elberton.

The students were impressed by the day's events. According to Barbara Rhodes of Marietta, the lecture and tour was very informative.

"I now have a better appreciation of how the legislative process works. I see that legislators are genuinely interested in their constituents' opinions. And what's more, how often do you see the governor's door and are invited in?"

Attending the Capitol tour and lecture with Connie Graves were Angela Bevins, Patricia Bullock, Lynda Campbell, Sarah Chapman, Pat Denn, Debbie Flowers, Sandra Goss, Joanne Hooks, Brandi Knight, Kathryn Kruska, Denise Long, Diana Longenberger, Barbara Rhodes, Michelle Rich, Kara Ross, Jill Santamaria, Cynthia Shuler, Christopher Vreeland, Mary Parham and Troy Spicer.
Dr. Christina Horne Named Outstanding Nurse Educator

KSU Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Christina Horne, PhD, RN, was recognized as Georgia's Outstanding Nurse Educator for 2011.

The Jan Van de Verde Nurse Educator Award was presented by Georgia League of Nursing President Freda Fuller-Jarap, RN, DNS, at its annual convention luncheon held February 21 in Columbus, Ga.

Colleague Dana Meeks-Stephens, KUS nursing instructor, nominated Dr. Horne for mentoring her to teach her first pharmacology course at KUS last year.

"Chris has made a significant impact on me as a new faculty member at KUS," Meeks-Stephens said. "I witnessed firsthand her deep commitment and caring attitude for her students while co-teaching last year. She also cited Dr. Horne's dedication and hard work that enabled KSU School of Nursing to sail through two years' accreditations that could not have been accomplished without Dr. Horne's leadership and guidance.

Dr. Horne, originally from Fort-water, NY, wanted to be a nurse ever since childhood.

"When I was really little," she recalled, "I used to love to play 'school.' I would come home in the evenings and, by myself, had imaginary students and each had their own little folder. I actually did the assignments and would grade each paper."

Teaching runs in her family. Both her brother and sister are high school teachers in history and math, respectively. Her grandmother, aunt, and three cousins are also educators.

However, it was nursing that was always a part of Dr. Horne's life. Her mother was an RN and the two of them often role-played, acting as teacher and nurse.

"She made it very clear from the start that nursing wasn't an easy career," Dr. Horne said. She headed her mother's advice to first volunteer in a hospital to see if she still had a passion for nursing. She became a Candy Stripper, ward secretary, nurses assistant, train, and a college nurse. Dr. Horne has been a member of the KSU School of Nursing faculty since 1999.

An active member of Sigma Theta Tau International, Dr. Horne holds a BSN degree from De La University and PhD and MS Nursing degrees from Georgia State.

Bobbie Bailey Awards Given to Outstanding High School Athletes

Outstanding high school female athletes were honored at the 12th Annual KSU National Association for Girls and Women in Sports (NAGWS) Day on February 3. The event organized by Mrs. Susan Whistock and sponsored by the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science was held in the Stillwell Theater. Additional funding was provided by Dr. Bobbie Bailey, the Department of Athletics, and a grant from the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Athletes from 28 high schools from area counties (Barrow, Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas and Paulding) were nominated by the coaching staff at their respective schools to receive the Bobbie Bailey Award. Many of the women honored excel in the classroom as well as in their sport. Several have already signed national letters of intent to compete at colleges and universities in the fall.

This highlight of the evening was Toressa Edwards' message as the athletes Edwards led the University to Georgia to three SEC championships and a final Four appearance in 1985. The UGA graduate is America's only two-time Olympic in basketball. She played professional basketball in the United States and Europe and currently is a basketball commentator.

Dean Receives ANAC Lifetime Achievement Award

Richard L. Sommerville, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and Dean of the College of Nursing at Kent State University, was awarded the 2002 Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) Lifetime Achievement Award at the ANAC National Conference in San Francisco this past November. The award was presented in honor of Dr. Sommerville's contributions to HIV/AIDS care nursing in the areas of research, service, and education. Dr. Sommerville currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) and has published extensively on issues related to HIV/AIDS Care. Congratulations on this honor.
Northwest Cancer Coalition

The Northwest Cancer Coalition (NWCC) recently received one of eight planning grants from the Georgia Cancer Coalition for the development of a Regional Program of Excellence. The NWCC covers 14 counties (1.7 million individuals), representing urban, suburban, rural, and underserved populations. To meet the needs of this community, collaboration between multiple planners exists, representing seven health care systems, six public health districts, two public academic institutions, and numerous community agencies such as the American Cancer Society. Kennesaw State University faculty has played a key role in providing support to the planning grant process. The Dean Richard Sowell of the College of Health and Human Services serves as chairperson of the Education subcommittee and several faculty from the School of Nursing participate on committees and developed a research project "Factors Considered Important to Quality of Life of Cancer Survivors in the Northwest Crescent." (Dr. Jo Anne B. Flynn, Dr. Lois Rabeley and Dr. Gloria A. Taylor) which will be submitted as a component of the planning grant.

The faculty at CHHS has been instrumental in providing technical assistance to our friends at the Northwest Crescent Cancer Coalition (NCCC). Faculty are actively participating in NCCC's Task Force committees and providing extensive reviews in their application materials. Additionally, CHHS is working with the NCCC in developing research proposals to be submitted under their overall application to the Georgia Cancer Coalition. One such proposal, among others, has been developed by Dr. Joseph Johnson, M.D., Ph.D., Annette Banker, B.S.N., M.N., Ph.D., Sandra Hillman, B.S.N., Ph.D., and Timothy Aker. M.S., Ph.D., entitled "The Impact of Complementary and Alternative Therapies on Objective and Subjective Outcomes among Cancer Patients in the Northwest Region of Georgia."

Do Not Be A Fool About Your Health!

The Center for Health Promotion and Wellness, along with the American Cancer Society, held a spring health fair at Kennesaw State University on April 4 at Carriage Student Center.

Students, staff, faculty, and community members attended the free event which offered checks on height, weight, blood pressure, heart rate, body composition, pulmonary function, instruction on breast and cervical self-exams, vision and glaucoma screenings; checks on bone strength and lower back flexibility; stress management; and visual evaluation; hemoglobin and glucose screening; chair massage; and more.

Various organizations were invited to participate including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, the American Lung Association, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Inc., and the American Dietetic Association.

The major goal of the health fair was to inform students of the health resources available to them at KSU and throughout the Kennesaw area, while at the same time promote awareness of important health issues. The health fair also provided a caring experience for HPS and nursing students. As part of the Fitness Evaluation and Exercise Prescription class, the HPS students earned class credit for participating and nursing students gained clinical experience.

First Southeast Latino Tobacco Prevention Conference – Constructing a Healthy Future

The unprecedented growth of the Latino community in Georgia and the Southeast has led to an increased awareness of their health status and issues. Latinos are struggling to develop and appropriate infrastructure for their new residents who do not speak English and may lack legal status in the United States. Public health workers also struggle to effectively deliver prevention messages to this growing community, while potentially health-damaging behaviors develop, eventually creating a public health crisis.

This conference was attended by more than 175 participants from the Tobacco Use and Prevention Coalition and other health care workers who work with the Latino population in the Southeastern United States. The purpose of the conference was to help attendees better understand and communicate with this growing population and develop effective health messages.

The conference was sponsored by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, U.S. Georgia, the Cobb and Douglas Boards of Health, the National Council of La Raza, Georgia Cancer Coalition, and the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness, School of Nursing and the Center for Hispanic Studies at Kennesaw State University.
Recent Publications


Grants

Bennett, D. & Bremner, M. (2002). ICAPP funding with Corporate Partner WellStar. $77,280.00.

Bremner, M., Soward, R., & Bennett, D. Kent State University and Floyd College ICAPP funding with Corporate Partner's Envy Care, Canton Medical Center, Floyd Medical Center, and Redmond Regional Medical Center. $193,100.00.

Program Evaluation Contracts

Kirk, A. & Hicks-Coolick, A. (Jan.-Oct., 2003). Program Evaluation Contract: Cobb Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPCP). This grant funded a partnership among the Cobb County division of Family and Children Services, the Family Connection Partnership and Cobb Community Collaborative for the purpose of preventing children from entering the child welfare system. ($4,093.00)

Kirk, A. & Hicks-Coolick, A. (Jan.-Oct., 2003). Program Evaluation Contract Drug-Free Communities Support Program (DFCSP). The DFCSP utilized the "Communities That Care" community development model, an empirically-based prevention approach designed to help communities promote the positive development of children and youth, thereby preventing and reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use among adolescents. ($7,125.00)

International Faculty Awards

Wang, J. The ICHEPERSD Biennial Award for Distinguished Service at Director of the Sport Psychology Commission, received at the 44th World Congress of the International Council of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in Taipei, Taiwan (2002).


