King wins Barnett nursing-care award

UAB Hospital Nurse Practitioner Wilma King (Women & Infants Services) received the 2003 Jo Ann Barnett Award for Compassionate Nursing Care, presented by the UAB School of Nursing. She was recognized at the School’s second annual Alumni Night dinner Oct. 30. King received her BSN in 1980 and her MSN in 1992. She has devoted her career to the care of ill newborn infants, first as a staff nurse, then as a charge nurse in the RNICU and now as a neonatal nurse practitioner. King compassionately works with newborns suffering life-threatening and sometimes terminal disorders. Established in 2002 by the School of Nursing Chapter of the UAB National Alumni Society, the award recognizes nurses who exemplify the best in nursing care.

Elliott tapped for panel on caregivers

The Johnson & Johnson/Rosalyn Carter Institute for Caregivers Program appointed Professor Timothy Elliott (Psychology) to an advisory panel of national experts on the challenges facing caregivers. Elliott was one of 11 experts selected for the panel that convened Nov. 13-14. He was to present Education and Support in Context with Other Interventions for Caregivers. Each panel member will write a book chapter based on their presentations. The chapters will be compiled into a book that will become part of a series of academic books on care-giving.

At UAB, Elliott directs the Acute Care, Disability and Rehabilitation domain in the UAB Injury Control Research Center and is a scientist in the Center for Nursing Research. Elliott’s research focuses on the factors that influence personal and family adjustments following chronic illness, disability and stress. He is conducting clinical trials to determine the efficacy of home-based, problem-solving interventions for family caregivers of individuals with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy and brain injuries.

Southern Bell is really a ‘steel magnolia’

BY STEPHANIE HABROUCK
Reporter Staff

Eighteen years ago, when Nancy Bell was asked in a job interview where she saw herself in five years, she did not waver in her response.

“I said, ‘Not at this level,’” Bell said with a laugh. The late Roland Weinsier was her prospective employer at the time, and Bell was interviewing for a secretarial position. Though she knew she would not remain at the entry-level position, little did Bell know the extent to which her career would evolve within the department.

“I’ve been very fortunate because I’ve been able to stay here in the department and move up,” she said. From secretary to financial assistant to business officer to her current role as financial associate and lead administrator with the Clinical Nutrition Research Center (CNRC), Bell said she has enjoyed every moment of her career at UAB.

“I came to UAB at age 31 because I knew UAB had a lot to offer. They will pretty much teach you anything you want to learn,” she said.

“I have absolutely loved every job I have had here, at every level, because I’ve been able to stay in the same department and make some good, solid friends, meet new faculty and watch the growth of the department,” she said. Bell’s dedication to the department and the CNRC has garnered her the title November Employee of the Month.

“Ms. Bell perceived my anxiety and opened a channel of communication that greatly contributed to my quick adaptation to Southern culture.

“When I have doubts about the appropriate way of dealing with a situation or the appropriate Southern protocol, I go into her office for advice. Her sparkling smile and motivation is contagious and motivates others to perform to the best of their abilities.

“Ms. Bell believes in being a Southern belle and offers a lot to our department on business. As a new faculty member. Coming from New York City, I was extremely concerned about the cultural challenges I would face in the South and the way people would react toward my direct and liberal way of addressing issues. After my second week here, I knew exactly the reason why Ms. Bell was so well respected by the other faculty of the department: she was not only a great professional, she was also an incredible human being with a respectful sense of spirituality and the wisdom of a person who is in touch with her own human nature and has learned to respect other people’s humanity,” he said.

“Ms. Bell, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with for many years since my arrival at UAB in the spring of 2001,” said Professor David Allison (Biostatistics). “Since that time, she has consistently proven to be an enormous resource to me, the Clinical Nutrition Research Center at UAB and the UAB community overall. She has, without a doubt, elevated our standing in the scientific community, helped us to secure research funding, and thereby helped us fulfill UAB’s educational and scientific missions,” he said.

Assistant Professor Jose Fernandez (Nutrition Sciences) said Bell is worthy of praise for both her work ethic and demeanor.

“A year ago, I joined the department of nutrition sciences as a new faculty member. Coming from New York City, I was extremely concerned about the cultural challenges I could face in the South and the way people would react toward my direct and liberal way of addressing issues. After my second week here, I knew exactly the reason why Ms. Bell was so well respected by the other faculty of the department: she was not only a great professional, she was also an incredible human being with a respectful sense of spirituality and the wisdom of a person who is in touch with her own human nature and has learned to respect other people’s humanity,” he said.

“Ms. Bell perceived my anxiety and opened a channel of communication that greatly contributed to my quick adaptation to Southern culture.

“When I have doubts about the appropriate way of dealing with a situation or the appropriate Southern protocol, I go into her office for advice. Her sparkling smile and motivation is contagious and motivates others to perform to the best of their abilities.

“When we joke about her being a Southern belle, I always say that she is more than that: this wonderful lady is a steel magnolia dipped in sugar,” he said.

Bell said she enjoys being a Southern belle and offers Southern hospitality. One of the most rewarding aspects of her job, she said, is interacting with guests who travel to her department on business.

“It’s fun to play hostess to them when they come to dinner Oct. 30.”

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