

# The Center for Nursing Research

The University of Alabama School of Nursing, UAB

April 2008



## CNR Mission Statement

As a Center for Nursing Research in a Research I University, the mission of the CNR is to initiate, innovate, facilitate and support the development, implementation & evaluation of nursing & health-care research that can improve the health, well-being and quality of life of individuals, families and communities.

## Excellence in Mentorship-Dr. Susan Appel



Congratulations to Dr. Susan Appel who is a distinguished recipient of the 2008 Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentorship. The Dean's Excellence in

Mentorship Award recognizes full-time UAB faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments as mentors of graduate students and/or postdoctoral fellows. The award was created by Dr. Bryan Noe, Dean of the Graduate School and 2008 marks its seminal year. Dr. Appel was one of 16 UAB Professors who was nominated for this important and prestigious award.

In 2007, the Graduate School invited current and former undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to nominate faculty whom they believe provided excellent mentorship. For a faculty member to be selected

for the award, at least three letters of nomination had to be submitted on their behalf.

When making their recommendations, the nominators were asked to consider the nominee's personal characteristics as well as their expertise in teaching, their excellence in mentoring and communication skills as an educator, mentor and professional role model.

One of Dr. Appel's former students, US Army Major, Jennifer Brannon wrote; "...she is a beaming representation of what a mentor represents. Her true compassion and drive for excellence showed in every class she conducted and how thoughtfully she guided her students." Natalie Floyd, MSN, ANP, BC a PhD student in the School of Nursing stated; "Dr. Appel is an inspiration and has a wonderful relationship with all of her students. She has an infectious passion for health disparities and women's health. I am grateful for the opportunity to conduct research with her as she continues to positively impact the lives of others".

## From the Desk of Karen Meneses

In January 2008, the CNR staff conducted an evaluation of CNR research and service activities among faculty. We received 36 surveys and we thank you for your helpful input. One vital suggestion was to continue to support faculty development in research scholarship. Thus, we are pleased to announce that an all day research retreat will be held on Thursday, June 12. We are planning a series of informal presentations during the morning session and

several small breakout groups in the afternoon. A special thank you celebration will be held at the end of the retreat. Please mark your calendars to attend all or part of the day. As always, we thank you for your valuable suggestions and feedback!



*Karen Meneses*

## Announcements



**Dr. Duck-Hee Kang**

"Biobehavioral approach to nursing research: Psychoneuroimmunology"

**April 17, 2008**

**3:00-4:15**

Light Refreshments

CNR-Room GO20

**R.S.V.P.**

Angel Bailey 205-934-0614  
or angelh@uab.edu

## CANS Reminder!

2008 National State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research, October 2-4 in Washington D.C.

Online registration at

<http://www.nursingscience.org>

## Save the Date

**June 12, 2008**

CNR Research Camp  
All SON Faculty are welcome to attend!

**R.S.V.P.**

Angel Bailey 205-934-0614  
or angelh@uab.edu



# SNRS Wrap-Up

The 2008 SNRS meeting, *Health Disparities: Evidence into Action*, was the largest conference ever in SNRS history with over 768 participants. SNRS is now the largest regional nursing research society in the United States.

The doctoral student pre-conference was attended by approximately 130 students. The focus of the pre-conference was on career development, as well as publishing, presenting and funding dissertations. Drs. Kang, Rice, Turner-Henson, and Park presented at the doctoral student pre-conference.

Dr. Martha Hill presented the keynote address, *The 2002 IOM Report "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Ethnic and Racial Disparities in Healthcare"* – A five year follow-up. She discussed how her program of research developed and her connections with community leaders as a facilitator of her research. Her keynote address encouraged participants to consider the community context in planning and implementation of research.

The UAB School of Nursing faculty and students (doctoral and undergraduate honors) were well represented at podium sessions, RIG (Research Interest Group) sponsored symposia and poster sessions.

Congratulations to Dr. Nancy McCain, a UAB alumna who received the SNRS Distinguished Researcher award. The award recognizes the contribution of an individual whose established program of research has enhanced the science and practice of nursing in the South.

Special thanks to the Local Planning Committee from UAB who worked diligently to make this a very successful meeting. Members included: Dr. Anne Turner-Henson, chairperson, and Drs. Marti Rice, Carol Dashiff, Karen Meneses, Duck-Hee Kang, Yvonne Eaves, Angela Jukkala, Rhonda McLain, Mary Umlauf, Jean Ivey,

Lynda Harrison, & Susan Appel.

Thanks also to the Alabama Schools of Nursing colleagues who served on the Local Planning Committee: Dr. Susan Lacey; Auburn University: Drs. Kathy Jo Ellison and Regina Bentley; Samford University: Drs. Janet Alexander and Gretchen McDaniel; University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing: Dr. Felicia Wood; University of Alabama in Huntsville: Dr. Faye Anderson; Jacksonville State University: Ms. Christie Shelton; University of South Alabama: Dr. Mary Candice Ross. The UAB School of Nursing along with Alabama sponsoring schools (Auburn University, University of Alabama in



Huntsville, Samford University, University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing, Jacksonville State University and University of South Alabama) hosted the Civil Rights Institute event on Friday evening. Three hundred SNRS participants toured the living institute. This event provided opportunities for networking as well as bringing alive the conference theme, health disparities. Participants commented that touring the institute was a humbling and thought provoking experience.

The 2009 SNRS conference will be hosted by the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

-Anne Turner-Henson

## Dr. Duck-Hee Kang, Marie L. O'Koren Endowed Chair



Dr. Duck-Hee Kang will be the featured speaker in the next CNR Endowed Chair Lecture series. Her presentation will take place on April 17, 2008 from 3:00 to 4:15 in GO20, light refreshments will be served. If you would like to attend please R.S.V.P.

to Angel Bailey (934-0614 or angelh@uab.edu).

Dr. Kang's program of research lies in biobehavioral research, particularly psychoneuroimmunology. More specifically, she investigates various populations to understand the effects of stress, social support, mood, and other psychosocial factors on immune and physiological

responses, which, in turn, affect health-related outcomes. Most recently, Dr. Kang has studied immune response in women diagnosed with breast cancer.



## Doctoral Student Corner- Focus on Heather Sobko



Heather J. Sobko is a doctoral student specializing in Nursing Informatics in the School of Nursing. She completed the Master's portion of the PhD program as an undergraduate in the

UAB nursing program, taking graduate courses while completing her BSN.

Ms. Sobko's focus is in provider-patient communications and provider-patient trust. Her previous research shows that better communication between the patient and their health care provider and health care system can potentially enhance patient adherence to prescribed treatment regimes. Ms. Sobko believes that using technology to build stronger connections between patients and providers has the potential to reduce health care costs significantly while patient care and outcomes can be improved. "Technological advances are changing the format of health care delivery. Embracing technology by participating in the design and implementation of communication tools for provider-patient information exchange gives us the opportunity to have a positive impact on patient care and outcomes. The advantages and benefits of technological applications in health care are phe-

nominal. However, it is critically important that we remain cognizant of the therapeutic component of nursing care - if used correctly, technology can enhance this care" says Sobko.

Currently, Ms. Sobko is designing a study to measure components of patient trust in provider-patient communication exchanges, with data collected from two outpatient clinics in the metropolitan area. Her research will examine the differences between patients who used email in addition to face-to-face interactions with their health care provider versus those who use only face-to-face communications with their health care provider. In addition, Ms. Sobko is also a member of the research team on an AHRQ funded project to improve the safety of medication administration headed by Dr. Jacqueline Moss.

Ms. Sobko received a GAANN award for 2007 - 2008 as well as a scholarship from the Alabama Board of Nursing.

### Recent Graduates

#### **Pamela Binns-Turner**

"Perioperative music and its effects on anxiety, hemodynamics, and pain in women undergoing mastectomy"

Chair: Lynda Harrison, PhD, RN, FAAN



#### **Susan McLennon**

"The physical and mental health of spouse caregivers in dementia: Finding meaning as a mediator of burden"

Chair: Eric Pryor, PhD, RN

### GAANN Grant

The GAANN Grant (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need). The School of Nursing makes this award to a select number of PhD students in an effort to prepare nurse scholars for future teaching and research positions that will ease the shortage in nursing education and leadership for academics.

# Congratulations

**Ms. Pennie Bosarge, MSN, CRNP, FAANP** has been selected as a 2008 Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

**Mr. Richard Brown, MSN, CRNP, JD** has been elected to serve as the Alabama representative for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

**Dr. Yvonne Eaves** has been selected to participate as a scholar in the Health Disparities Research Training Award Program.

**Dr. Rebecca Greenwood** has been selected as one of the recipients of the 2008 UAB President's Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Dr. Glenda Smith** has been selected to attend the 2008 Dietary Supplement Research Practicum, sponsored by the NIH.

**Ms. Annette Wright, MSN, CRNP** has successfully defended her dissertation in the UAB Department of Education.

## Getting to Know-Dr. David Vance



### Tell me a little bit about your research

I study cognitive aging and aging with HIV.

### Where did you go to school?

Virginia Tech (BS), Miami University (MGS), University of New Orleans (MS), and UAB (PhD & Post-doc).

### Do you belong to any professional organizations?

Yes, several; Gerontological Society of America, American Society on Aging, American

Psychological Association, American Psychological Society, International AIDS Society, National Association of HIV Over Fifty, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and SNRS.

**Where are you from?** I grew up in Abingdon, Virginia.

**Do you have any pets?** 2 sister cats, Jasper & Bandit.

**Who has had the greatest influence on your life?** My Mom and Dad.

**What was the last book you read?** The Bhagavad-Gita, I would definitely recommend it to others.

**Do you have any hobbies?** Painting abstracts, I also make my own canvases, I love watching movies (especially science fiction), and reading.

**What was your first job?** I sold GRIT newspapers outside of a Kroger's grocery store when I was 12 years old.

**Anything else you would like to share?** In another life, I'd like to be a Park Ranger, but with money! I can definitely see myself driving around in a jeep telling tourists not to feed the bears.

## CNR Services

### Grant Preparation

Application preparation  
Budget development  
Institutional grant processing  
Statistical consultation

### Grant Management

Post award management  
Hiring personnel  
Budget forecasting

### Editorial Services

Research grant review  
Research manuscript review

## Angel's Advice-Meeting Refreshments



When planning for a meeting where refreshments are to be served remember that UAB may pay for meals and refreshments which are served during formal internal meetings whose primary purpose is UAB business. Prior to the meeting an "Event Approval Form" (on the R drive) must be submitted to your department's chair and processed for approval.

After the event, the following documentation must be submitted; the approved event form, receipts, date

of the event, location of the meeting, a list of all attendees, and the UAB business purpose of the meeting.

If the meeting participants leave their normal business activities to go out to a restaurant, the presumption will be that the primary purpose was to eat, rather than to conduct UAB business, even if UAB business was discussed. When meals are incidental to a meeting, it is expected that the group will continue through the meeting's agenda with little interruption, rather than breaking for the meal.

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