

## *Progress Along Collaborative Time Line*



The writing collaborative continues to make steps toward its goal. The timeline was adjusted in October 2006 after creating the two international groups (Group A and Group B). Both groups are meeting the first week of each month. Attendance has been good, hovering around 80% for WIG participants and 75% for Coordinators. The months of December and January

have presented some challenges to attendance due to the holiday vacations.

South Africa and the USA traditionally have school breaks during the month of December. Brazil has holiday breaks from Christmas through the end of January. We anticipated that some would be absent during this period of time.

The January meeting for Group A was attended by Lucila and Dianne. Lucila has requested that some time in future meetings be dedicated to a discussion on *critiquing manuscripts*. She also, requested an expedited review of her drafted manuscript. She will need to comply with the Univer-

sity's timeline for faculty submission of manuscripts for publication. She has been paired with Dr. Lynda Harrison in a mentor-writer relationship.

Group B met on 16 January 2007. Attendees included Chuck, Shelly, Emmernetia, Belilinda and Ione. There was no coordinator in attendance. From the archives it was noted that the group asked questions regarding mentorship pairing. Chuck will provide feedback regarding how the review process will be coordinated. He is in possession of four of six manuscripts. The plan is to submit the six manuscripts for review by the coordinators so that mentor pairing can occur. A member of the group brought up the question of the group collaborating on a single manuscript that addresses the issue of HIV/AIDS in multiple countries. The group remains enthusiastic regarding tackling this collaborative effort in the near future.

We are on track to resume monthly meetings in February 2007.



## *Dr. Lynda Harrison Provides Online Instruction on Manuscript Development*

On the 7th (Group B) and 9th (Group A) of November 2006, Dr. Lynda Harrison provided an interactive online tutorial on manuscript development. The slide presentation was emailed to each WIG participant and used during the presentation. The participants met in their respective WIMBA chat rooms and used the text mode to ask questions and share ideas. Only Dr. Harrison was allowed to use the voice feature to communicate as the rest followed along using the PowerPoint slide presentation. Dr. Harrison tailored each presentation to each group based on subject matter and type of manuscript the participants stated they are developing.

This turned out to be a very effective forum for knowledge transfer and getting a uniform understanding of the process. All feedback from the participants was positive. Additional resources were suggested and made available by either the presenter or participants. These materials were distributed to the participants via email.

This forum for dissemination of information will be used on an as-needed-basis as we move forward with this project.

## *STTI Offers Resources to International Virtual Writing Collaborative*

As mentioned previously, STTI has invited the International Virtual Writing Collaborative to participate in its pilot communities. Subsequently, it is making some STTI resources available to the pilot communities. The resources include:

- Home page within STTI's Web site
- Link from STTI's Web site to existing community
- Electronic forum/discussion board
- Listservs for community members
- Teleconferencing
- Face-to-face meeting space @ Research Congress and Biennial Convention
- Promotion of community in STTI marketing materials.

Phone: 205.838.1291

E-mail: rich1955@uab.edu

DIANNE M. RICHMOND

## *Writing Assistive Mentorships*

The groundwork has been laid for the completion of the Writing Assistive Mentorships. Seven Mentors have been identified and will be paired with one or two WIG participants. The primary responsibilities of the mentor include the following:

Provide timely feedback to participants throughout each phase of manuscript development process

- a. Title Development
- b. Outline Development
- c. First Draft
- d. Second Draft
- e. Final Draft

Provide guidance that will assist WIG participants to the end point of developing a manuscript worthy of publication in a peer-reviewed nursing journal.

Make participants aware of tools and resources that may aid in manuscript development.

Use email as the preferred mode of communication and exchange of ideas, resources and other material helps

Next Steps include (1) Collecting CVs from all mentors and (2) completing the pairing of mentors with WIG participants

## *Coordinator News*



Lyn Middleton, South Africa



Maria Helena Caliri, Brazil



Dianne Richmond, USA

### **IRB Approval ( IRB Protocol X060825007)**

We are pleased to announce that the expedited review of “*A Description and Analysis of the Process of Initiating and Implementing an International Virtual Writing Collaborative*” has been completed and approved effective 01 December 2006. A copy of the approval was sent to the University of Sao Paulo to aid in the review and approval process for Rho Upsilon Chapter (Brazil). The review process for Tau-Lambda Chapter (Africa) continues with approval expected early this year. The UAB Institutional Review Board requires evidence of approvals from both the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of Sao Paulo prior to initiating any work related to this protocol.

### **Abstract Submission**

The following abstract has been submitted to STTI for the 2007 Biennial Convention scheduled in November. Dianne and Lyn plan an oral presentation. Maria will not be able to attend this year. However, once the project is completed we will submit an abstract for a symposium possibly at the 2008 Leadership Academy or the 2009 Biennial Convention. This forum will provide an opportunity for multiple levels of participants to attend as presenters.

### ***Communities Without Borders: an International Writing Collaborative***

**Abstract:** Technological advances and the proliferation of e-communication have contributed to the ever shrinking size of the globe. Such factors have made it possible to create communities without borders. This description of the process of initiating and implementing an International Virtual Writing Collaborative is an example a community without borders. Sigma Theta Tau International members on three different continents (Africa, Brazil and North America) joined together to create a virtual community with a focus on assisting 12 participants in the process of individual manuscript development. The time line established to complete the manuscripts is a 12-month period that will be followed by and additional 6-month period of analysis of the interactions that transpired in the virtual meeting rooms. There is one Writing Collaborative Coordinator for each continent. Two groups of six participants each have been created. Each group has a Team Leader. Each participant has been attached to a Mentor who has experience in writing, editing, reviewing and submitting manuscripts. The desired project outcome is the production of 12 manuscripts worthy of submission for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The total number of persons participating in this community is twenty-five.

### **Teleconference by STTI**

Telephone conferences with the community facilitators have been planned by STTI. The conferences are designed to allow facilitators to share background information about the community initiative and discuss the vision for community evolution and share ideas and concerns about the role of facilitator. The telephone conferences are planned for mid to late February 2007.