



COUNTRY SIDE

*Newsletter from the Rural Health Care Research Center
at the University of Virginia School of Nursing*

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Spring 2007

THIRD ANNUAL RHCRC CONFERENCE TO BE MAY 2

On May 2, researchers from various disciplines will present their studies and findings at the RHCRC's Third Annual Conference. ***Improving Services, Access, and Treatment for Rural Minority Families: Challenges and Opportunities*** will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UVA Harrison Institute and Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library Auditorium. The conference is supported in part by the School of Nursing Class of 1968 Lectureship Fund. **William Harvey**, UVA Vice President and Chief Officer for Diversity and Equity, will begin the event with welcome remarks.

According to **Melvin Wilson**, PhD, the Rural Health Care Research Center (RHCRC) at the University of Virginia's School of Nursing (UVA SON) is "one of the few research centers in the country looking at health care access issues for rural people." Wilson, of UVA's psychology department, is co-director for culturally responsive research at the RHCRC and has been working with investigators at the UVA SON for nearly 15 years. He assists RHCRC researchers with generating ideas focusing on diversity in rural settings and incorporating persons of color into their research projects.

Ivora (Ivy) Hinton, PhD, coordinator of data analysis and interpretation for the RHCRC, is the other co-director for culturally responsive research. She notes that the Conference is intended to unite researchers, clinicians, advocates, consumers, and policy-makers who "want to address issues related to improving services, access, and treatment for rural minority families."

Research projects being presented include assessment and measurement of cognition

in rural vs. urban populations, education of health care professionals on diversity issues, managing diabetes with rural African Americans, preventing sexually transmitted infections and intimate partner violence in rural women, racial and ethnic disparities in rural mental health care, and meeting the mental health needs of Hispanic populations.



2006 Conference Session

For the full agenda and to register, please visit our website at www.nursing.virginia.edu/research/rhrcr/May2_FlyerAgenda.pdf

Southern Nursing Research Society 2007 Conference

The Center's symposium on Rural Center Research was part of the Southern Nursing Research Society's 21st annual conference in Galveston, Texas, in February 2007.

Director **Elizabeth I. Merwin**, PhD, RN, FAAN, began with a brief overview of the symposium followed by **Sharon Williams-Utz**, PhD, RN, presenting *Recruiting Research Participants in Rural Minority Communities: What Works?* Other Symposium presentations included: **Hyekyun Rhee**, PhD, RN, offering *Application of Computer-Assisted Intervention and an Online Data Collection Method in Rural Adolescents with Asthma*; *Issues in Recruiting Abused Women Living in Rural Areas* presented by **Melissa Ann Sutherland**, PhD (c) and **Kathryn Laughon**, PhD, RN; and *Developing a Secondary Dataset Appropriate for Nursing Research on Rural Health: Theoretical, Practical, and Methodological Issues* by **Marianne Baernholdt**, PhD, MPH, RN.

More than a dozen additional presentations were given by UVA School of Nursing faculty and students. For a complete listing of presentations, please visit our website.



Richard H. Steeves, PhD, RN, FNP, FAAN, Madeline Higginbotham Sly Professor of Nursing, was recognized as the 2007 Distinguished Researcher Award winner at the Southern Nursing Research Society's annual conference. His acceptance address was "Notes on Scientific Method."



(L to R) Symposium presenters RHCRC Director **Elizabeth I. Merwin**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Madge M. Jones Professor of Nursing; **Melissa Sutherland**, PhD (c), APRN, FNP; Assistant Professor **Marianne Baernholdt**, PhD, MPH, RN; Associate Professor **Sharon Utz**, PhD, RN; and Assistant Professor **Cathy Campbell**, PhD, RN, APRN-BC.

CATHY CAMPBELL WINS AWARD

Assistant Professor **Cathy Campbell**, PhD, RN, APRN-BC, was awarded the American Nurse Foundation 2006 Gloria Smith and Eleanor Lamberston Award for her research study *Factors influencing end of life decision-making by elderly African Americans*.

KUDOS TO RANDY JONES

Randy Jones, PhD, RN, was recognized by the UVA Cancer Center when his rural clinical study was featured as the "Clinical Trial of the Month" in their March E-news publication. The study was *Decision-making for Prostate Cancer Screening Among Rural Black Men*. In addition, his dissertation manuscript was just published in the *Oncology Nursing Forum* (Jones, R., Taylor, A., Bourguignon, C., Steeves, R., Fraser, G., Lippert, M., Theodorescu, D., Mathews, H., and Kilbridge, K. (2007). Complementary and alternative medicine modality use and beliefs among African American prostate cancer survivors. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 34(2), 359-364.

LAURA FUSARE LEAVES RHCRC



“That position gave me rewards that will last a lifetime,” Laura Fusare enthused about her year-long stint as the first Administrative Coordinator for the Rural Health Care Research Center (RHCRC) at UVa’s School of Nursing (SON). Ironically it was her positive experiences at the Center that propelled her to leave - to pursue a master’s degree in public administration at Penn State Harrisburg. As testimony to her admiration of the Center, she admitted that during her first two months at school she was still promoting the Center to new people she met. The environment at the SON allowed her to thrive because “faculty and staff work together as a unit to advance the programs of the SON - all are respected for the contributions they make.” In that affirmative work environment, she was able to help the new Center grow and develop, setting up research conferences and bringing in new researchers.

In particular, she felt that Beth Merwin, Director of the RHCRC, had the greatest impact on her decision to continue her advanced education. Laura states that she “enjoyed working for Beth because she has vision and a passion for what she is doing --- she is passionate about people who need health care.” A trip with Dr. Merwin to the Virginia Rural Health Association Conference played a pivotal role in her decision to go to graduate school because at the conference she met many researchers with Masters Degrees in public administration who were making strides in rural health care. She realized that by furthering her education she would be better able to help others in need.

Laura is going to graduate school year round, while working full-time, and hopes to graduate in 2008.

WELCOME TO CASSANDRA CHRISTMAS

When Cassandra Christmas first interviewed for the Administrative Coordinator position back in July 2006 she knew very little about rural health research. Yet as Dr. Ivy Hinton and Dr. Barbara Parker told her about their studies she felt a growing connection with the Center because of her background; Louisa County had been her home for many years and recently her mother had died after a long struggle with Type II diabetes. Sandy explained her immediate reaction while listening to the researchers talk about their work with the Center: “Finally someone --- is doing something about these issues.”

In the eyes of the Center’s researchers, Sandy’s experiences growing up in a rural area made her better suited than other hopeful applicants to become the new Administrative Coordinator. Dr. Ivy Hinton acknowledged the value of Sandy’s past experiences to the Center, “That’s why I was attracted to (her)—(her) personal knowledge could contribute to the Center.” With her insider perspective, Sandy serves as an effective liaison to the community since she can empathize with those in rural settings who have health problems.

While RHCRC benefits greatly from having Sandy as an employee, she has, in return, also received benefits. She now has access to skilled researchers with whom she can talk about health issues that interest her, such as diabetes and asthma. As a result of her own research and the conversations she has had with members of the staff, Sandy is much more proactive about her health; she is now committed to going to the gym and living a healthier lifestyle. From a professional perspective, she enjoyed working with the Center’s teleconference system and, as a former computer programmer, she is looking forward to updating RHCRC’s website.



These stories by Communications Intern Vanessa Crandall

PILOT STUDIES HIGHLIGHTS

Year 3 Pilot Studies address such questions as: Why are African-Americans with cancer more likely to die in the hospital rather than in hospice care? What are the attitudes and beliefs about prostate cancer screening among rural black men? Could a dementia screening tool help family members to alert a rural patient's primary care physician to a decline in competence or personality change?



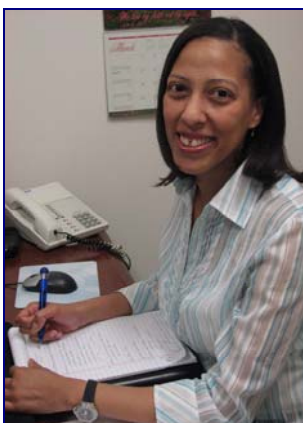
Factors Influencing end of life Decision-making by Rural Dwelling Elderly African-Americans with Advanced Cancer (Year 3)
P.I. Cathy L. Campbell, PhD, RN, APRN-BC; Co-Investigator Ishan Williams, PhD

This qualitative, descriptive study will describe personal, clinical, environmental and social factors that have led African-Americans with late stage cancer to choose hospice services or other options to hospital care at the end of life. In addition, it will analyze the decision-making steps that led to that choice of care. The goal is to use this fresh understanding of end-of-life decision-making to improve the quality of and access to end-of-life care.



Decision-making for Prostate Cancer Screening among Rural African-American Men (Year 3) P.I. Randy Jones, PhD, RN; Co-Investigators Richard Steeves, PhD, RN, FNP, FAAN and Ishan Williams, PhD; Consultant Kerry Kilbridge, MD, MSc

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among all men in the US; black men are two to three times more likely to be diagnosed than white men. This study will describe how rural black men make the decision whether or not to have a prostate cancer screening and will identify facilitators and barriers in their decision-making process. Understanding the attitudes and beliefs about prostate cancer screening may lead to more effective early screening and reduced mortality through development of culturally sensitive aids.



The Use of Family Caregivers in Detecting Dementia in a Rural Community Sample (Year 3) P.I. Ishan Williams, PhD; Co-Investigator Emily J. Hauenstein, PhD, RN; Clinical Nurse Researcher Anita Thompson-Heisterman, MSN, APRN, BC, FNP

In rural communities, there is often a lack of mental health specialists; therefore most people receive care from primary care physicians who face significant barriers in delivering a systematic program of care for older adults with dementia. Early diagnosis could help reduce the symptoms (not always evident in the physician's office) and delay the progression of the disease while delayed diagnosis may lead to a more rapid decline in patients and a greater burden on their caregivers. This study will test the usefulness of a dementia screening method and provide preliminary data for a proposal to examine the utility of the modified-Clinical Dementia Rating and the modified-Frontal Behavioral Inventory tools in a rural community setting. Social, cultural and personal factors will be examined to identify any unique patterns among rural elders.

Photos from top down:
Assistant Professor
Cathy Campbell,
PhD, RN, APRN-BC;
Assistant Professor
Randy Jones, PhD,
RN; and Research
Assistant Professor
Ishan Williams. PhD.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS & PUBLICATIONS

This listing includes presentations, posters and publications produced since the last issue of our *Countryside* newsletter.

- Aretakis, D, Di Martile-Bolla, C. & **Thompson-Heisterman, A. & (2006)**. Homelessness, Poverty, Mental Illness and Teen Pregnancy. In M. Stanhope and J Lancaster. *Foundations of Nursing in the Community* (pp. 439-463) St. Louis. Mosby.
- Baernholdt, M.**, Clarke, S. P. (2006). Internet research in an international context. *Applied Nursing Research*, 19, 48 – 50.
- Creasia, J. L., Parker, B. J.** (2007). *Conceptual Foundations: The Bridge to Professional Nursing Practice*. (4th ed). Mosby, Inc.
- Hauenstein, E.**, Petterson, S., **Merwin, E., Rovnyak, V.**, Heise, B., Wagner, D. (2006). Rurality, Gender, and Mental Health Treatment. *Family Community Health*. Vol 29(3). 169-185
- Jones, R., Utz, S.**, Wenzel, J., **Steeves, R.**, Hinton, I., Andrews, D., Murphy, A., Oliver, N. (2006). Use of complementary and Alternative Therapies by Rural African Americans with Type 2 Diabetes. *Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine*. Vol 12 No. 5, 34-38.
- Kulbok, P.A.**, & Reed, J. (2006). Guest Editorial: PHN competencies. *PHN*,23(2).
- Laughon, K.**, Annan, S., L. (2007). Violence as a Health Care Problem. In J. L. Creasia & B. J. Parker (Eds) *Conceptual Foundations: The Bridge to Professional Nursing Practice*. (4th ed., pp. 425-434). Mosby, Inc.
- Merwin, E., Snyder, A.**, Katz, E. (2006). Differential Access to Quality Rural Healthcare: Professional and Policy Challenges. *Family Community Health*. Vol 20(3). 186-194.
- Ratliff, C.R.**, Drake, D. B. (2006). Time to Heal. *Advance for Directors in Rehabilitation* 15(2), 17-18
- Rose, K. M., Keeling, A. W.** (December 2006) Richmond Instructive Visiting Nurse's Association—A Glimpse into the Care of Older Adults: 1900 to 1929. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* Vol. 32 No. 12, 37-42.
- Southall, V. H.** (2007) Rural Health Considerations. In J. L. Creasia & B. J. Parker (Eds) *Conceptual Foundations: The Bridge to Professional Nursing Practice*. (4th ed., pp. 409-424). Mosby, Inc.
- Stanhope, M. K. & **Lancaster, B. J.** (2006). *Foundations of Nursing in the Community: Community Oriented Practice*. St. Louis: Mosby, Inc. (ed. 2).
- Thompson-Heisterman, A. (2006)**. The client with a cognitive disorder. In W.K.Mohr (ed.), *Psychiatric Mental Health, 6th Ed.* (pp. 723-768). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkens.
- Thompson-Heisterman, A. (2006)**. The older adult with a mental health issue. In W.K.Mohr (ed.), *Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, 6th Ed.* (pp. 811-830). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkens.
- Thompson-Heisterman, A. A.** (2006). The Older Adult with a Mental Health Issue. In W.K.Mohr (Ed.), *Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing* (pp. 812-875). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.
- Thompson-Heisterman, A.** (2006). The client with a cognitive disorder. In W.K.Mohr (ed.), *Psychiatric Mental Health, 6th Ed.* (pp. 723-768). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkens
- Utz, S. W.** (2006). Nursing-Sensitive Outcomes: State of the Science. *Family & Community Health*, Vol 29, No 2, 158.
- Utz, S. W., Kulbok, P. A.** (2007). Professional Nursing Roles: focus on Nursing Case Management. In J. L. Creasia & B. J. Parker (Eds) *Conceptual Foundations: The Bridge to Professional Nursing Practice*. (4th ed., pp. 81-104). Mosby, Inc.
- Utz, S., & **Kulbok, P.A.** (2006). Professional Nursing Roles. In Creasia, J. & Parker, B. (Eds.) *Conceptual Foundations: The Bridge to Professional Nursing Practice, ed. 4*. Mosby, Inc.
- Utz, S. W., Steeves, R. H.**, Wenzel, J., **Hinton, I, Jones, R. A.**, Andres, D., Muphy, A., Oliver, N. (2006). "Working Hard With It" Self-management of Type 2 Diabetes by Rural African Americans. *Family Community Health*. Vol 29(3), 195-205.
- Wenzel, J., **Steeves, R. H., Hinton, I., Jones, R. A.** (2006). Stories of Diagnosis From Rural Blacks with Diabetes. *Family Community Health*. Vol. 29(3), 206-213.
- Williams, I. C.**, Corbie-Smith, G. (2006). Investigator beliefs and reported success in recruiting minority participants. *Contemporary Clinical Trials* 27, 580-586.
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McLeod Hall, Box 800782, Room 2015
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COMING EVENTS

First Monday of the Month - Think Tank Meetings – Check Web site for details

May 2 - Third Annual Conference –

Improving Services, Access, and Treatment for Rural Minority Families: Challenges and Opportunities

UVA Harrison Institute and Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library Auditorium

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Reception at 4:00 p.m.

For full agenda and to register, visit

www.nursing.virginia.edu/research/rhcrc/May2_FlyerAgenda.pdf

REGISTRATION DUE BY APRIL 20, 2007

www.nursing.virginia.edu/research/rhcrc

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