



COUNTRY SIDE

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

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Spring 2006

UVA RURAL RESEARCHERS RECOGNIZED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES

UVA Rural Researchers Catherine Kane, Emily Hauenstein, and Elizabeth Merwin have each been honored with either awards or opportunities to speak at recent and upcoming National conference series.

At this year's International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses Conference Catherine Kane, PhD, RN, FAAN gave the Melva Jo Hendrix Lecture on *Gaps In Care - Growing or Shrinking?* She spoke on the challenges of obtaining adequate primary and mental health services in rural America, stating "rural and frontier counties suffer the greatest shortage of Mental Health Professionals." Also at ISPN, Emily Hauenstein, PhD, APRN-BC, received the 2006 Research Award in recognition of her contribution to the development of new psychiatric-mental health nursing knowledge and the impact of her research on clinical practice improvements, care delivery, and/or policy. (For more details, go to www.nursing.virginia.edu, click on Press Releases, and click on linked headline.)



L to R: **Catherine Kane**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Associate Professor of Nursing and **Emily Hauenstein**, PhD, LCP, APRN, BC, Professor of Nursing, Director of the Southeastern Rural Mental Health Research Center.

The bi-annual National Rural Women's Health Conference is to be held November 16-18, 2006, in San Antonio, Texas. Elizabeth Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Dr. Emily Hauenstein are both slated to be the opening and closing keynote speakers. Dr. Merwin will open the conference with a presentation on *Rural Mental Health Issues and Health Service Delivery: Conducting Interdisciplinary Research to Improve the Quality of Rural Mental Health Care* and Dr. Hauenstein will provide closing remarks with her presentation on *The Future of Women's Mental Health Research*. Conference registration information can be found at: <https://www.hmc.psu.edu/ce/RWH2006/register.htm>



Elizabeth Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN, Madge M. Jones Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Rural Health Care Research Center.

PILOT STUDIES HIGHLIGHTS

Year 2 Pilot Studies include ***Testing a Group Intervention for Managing Diabetes with Rural African Americans*** (P.I. Sharon W. Utz, PhD, RN) and ***Preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections and Further Intimate Partner Violence in At-Risk Rural Women*** (P.I. Kathryn Laughon, PhD, RN)

Dr. Utz's research is focused on recent data from the Diabetes Control and Complication Trial and a recent study of Medicare recipients that showed a correlation between African Americans and worse glycemic control, especially in the older population and those who are illiterate. She is creating a culturally-tailored intervention for Type 2 diabetic rural African American adults consisting of an education program and regular monitoring of HgbA1C levels.



L to R – Kathryn Laughon, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Sharon Utz, PhD, RN, Associate Professor of Nursing.

Dr. Laughon is focusing a nursing intervention on rural women in family planning clinics in Louisa, VA. She plans to prevent the incidence of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as decrease further intimate partner violence (IPV). Data from this study will serve as support for a subsequent research grant application to conduct a randomized clinical trial of the intervention.

ADDITIONAL UVA SON RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECTS

Rural Nurses and Quality of Care

Marianne Baernholdt, PhD, RN, a new faculty member completing post-doctoral studies, is collaborating with researchers at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to study how nurses in rural acute care settings define quality of care, to identify attributes of the work environment that help and hinder care, and to assess the availability of internet accessibility in these hospitals. Past studies have shown that quality of care directly impacts overall patient satisfaction and mortality. However, the majority of these studies have been completed in urban acute care centers.

Adolescent Female Non-Smokers

Pamela Kulbok, RN, DNSc, Associate Professor of Nursing, is the principal investigator for a joint project with Carilion Health Systems and Virginia Tech. The Carilion Biomedical Institute has granted an award to investigate Caucasian and African American non-smokers, ages 16-17 years who reside in rural areas of Virginia and the protective factors that influence this decision. She will be specifically looking at family communication patterns and their contribution to the development of interventions to reduce tobacco usage among female adolescents in Virginia.

Asthma Outcomes in Rural Children

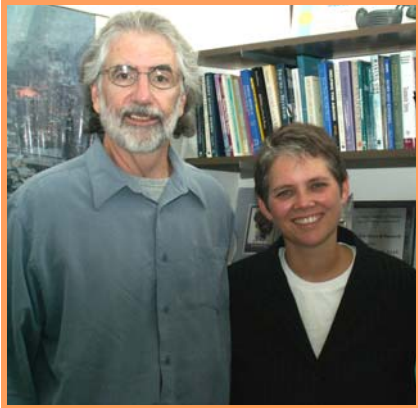
Mary C. O'Laughlen, PhD, RN, successfully defended her dissertation on *Improving Asthma Outcomes in Children: A Pilot* this Spring. She created an intervention for health care providers in rural clinics to increase adherence to current recommended guidelines from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP). The goal of her study was to ultimately improve the asthma outcomes of rural children. Her research was funded by an NIH Fellowship and sponsored by Patricia J. Hollen, PhD, RN.

AND IN OTHER NEWS....

DR. MERWIN APPOINTED TO BOARD OF VA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Dr. Elizabeth Merwin was appointed to the 2006 Board of the Virginia Rural Health Association. The Virginia Rural Health Association (VHRA) is a group of individuals spread out across the Commonwealth and dedicated to improving the overall health care of rural residents. This group is instrumental in efforts to bring health care services closer to home and to assist these communities with advocacy for their various health care needs.

WORKSHOP HELD IN OCTOBER



The Rural Health Care Research Center sponsored a workshop on Rural Research Methods on October 13, 2005. Presentations were led by Rebecca J. Davis, PhD; Kathryn Laughon, PhD, RN; Rick Steeves, PhD, RN, FAAN; Stephen Petterson, PhD; Emily Hauenstein, PhD, APRN-BC; and Elizabeth Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN. Dr. Merwin spoke on how to establish a funded research program and Dr. Davis, former Executive Director of the Virginia Rural Health Association, highlighted meeting the health care needs of rural communities. Drs. Petterson & Hauenstein focused on mental health treatment for rural poor minorities. Dr. Steeves introduced Dr. Laughon for her presentation on the recruitment of persons in vulnerable populations.

L to R: Dr. Rick Steeves & Dr. Kathryn Laughon

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH ENHANCEMENT SUPPORT SYSTEM (CHESS)

On February 7, 2006, the School of Nursing held a presentation on the CHESS computing system that deals with information on social and behavioral change, decision making, and support for people facing health care crises. Dr. David Gustafson, PhD, a Professor of Industrial Engineering and Preventative Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, led the discussion focused on Wisconsin's Center of Excellence in Cancer Communications Research. His research has shown thus far that patients who access diagnosis related information on the internet do not gain more knowledge than controls, but those with access to CHESS do because of the organized, safe, and easy accessibility to content.

VIRGINIA TELECONFERENCE SERIES

UVA School of Nursing served as the site for the first of three teleconference series presented by the National Rural Health Association on January 18, 2006. The event, open to members of the Virginia Rural Health Association, enabled participants to collaborate with other rural health providers nationwide. Forrest Calico, MD, MPH, Senior Advisor for Quality, National Rural Health Care Association, served as the mediator and Edward Gamache, C.H.E., Administrator, Deckerville Community Hospital, Deckerville, Michigan, and Paul Sherry, C.E.O., Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Anchorage, Alaska, led the discussion. Mr. Gamache spoke on quality improvement through collaboration, highlighting his work with the Michigan Critical Access Hospital Quality Network and Mr. Sherry focused on the needs of telemedicine in his native Alaska.

CENTER FOR NURSING RESEARCH FORUM & DAY OF CONSULTATION

On November 7-8 the School of Nursing hosted Dr. Jane Dimmit Champion, PhD, RN and Associate Professor in the Department of Family Nursing, University of Texas-San Antonio. She led presentations on recruitment of vulnerable populations and the transition from a pilot study to an R01 intervention study. Dr. Dimmit Champion, a Certified Nurse Specialist in Adult Health Nursing and a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, focuses her research on minority populations and behavioral risks and interventions.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS & PUBLICATIONS

- **Hauenstein, E.J.** (2005). Depression and Women: Overview and Research Agenda, Fitzpatrick, J.J. Ed. Encyclopedia of Nursing Research.
- **Farrell, S. P. and Rigney, D. B.** (2005). "From Dream to Reality: How a Parish Nurse Program Is Born," *Journal of Christian Nursing*, 22, no. 2 (Spring), 34-37.
- **Jerome-D'Emilia, B. and Begun, J.W.** (2005). Diffusion of breast conserving surgery in medical communities. *Social Science in Medicine*, 60(1), 143-151.
- **Jerome-D'Emilia, B.** Public Health and Primary Health Care Systems. In Stanhope, M. and Lancaster, J. (eds.) (2007) *Community and Public Health Nursing*, 7th edition. St. Louis: Elsevier. In publication.
- **Kulbock, P., Rhee, H., Hinton, I., Botchwey, N., Bovbjerg, V., Anderson, N.** (2005, November). "Too cute to smoke": Protective factors and youth nonsmoking behavior. Paper Presentation. The 133rd American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. 2005, November.
- **Lancaster, J.** (2005). Bonding of Nursing Practice and Education Through Research. Looking Forward/Looking Back: Nursing Education Perspectives.
- **Parker, B., Steeves, R.** (2005). The National Research Service Award: Strategies for Developing a Successful Proposal. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, Vol 21 (January – February), 23-31.
- **Reasor, J.E. & Farrell, S.P.** (2005). The effectiveness of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses as Psychotherapists. *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*, 19(2), 81-92.
- **Rhee, H., Miles, M.S., Halpern, C.T., & Holditch-Davis, D.** (2005). Prevalence of recurrent physical symptoms in US Adolescents. *Pediatric Nursing*, 31(4), 314-319.
- **Rhee, H.** (2005). Racial/Ethnic Differences in Adolescents' Physical Symptoms. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 20, 153-162.
- **Steeves, R.H. & Kahn, D.L.** (2005). James' Story: A Narrative Analysis of the Good Death. In B.Ferrell & N.Coyle, (eds.), *Textbook of Palliative Nursing*. Second Edition. University of Oxford Press: Oxford.
- **Utz, S., Wenzel, J., Steeves, R., Jones, R., Hinton, I., & Andrews, D.** (2005). "Working hard with it": Self-management of type 2 diabetes by rural African Americans. Abstract published in *Diabetes*, Volume 54, Supplement 1, p.A563.



McLeod Hall, Box 800782, Room 2015
Charlottesville, VA 22908-0782

COMING EVENTS

- May 3, 2006 Rural Health Care Research Center Conference
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
UVA Special Collections Library Auditorium
- June 13-14, 2006 A Community Based Participation Research Workshop
UVA School of Nursing McLeod Hall 5044

www.nursing.virginia.edu/centers/rhcr

email to: rhcr@virginia.edu

434-243-0021 or Toll Free 1-866-807-2816