

Southern Connections

Southern
Nursing
Research
Society

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Letter from the President

Welcome to the first issue of Southern Connections in 2007. With this issue, we introduce and welcome a new Southern Connections Editor, Dr. Carol Boswell from Texas Tech University School of Nursing. Again, we extend a large "Thank you" to Dr. Joe Burrage for his service as the newsletter editor. The newsletter also contains introductions of the newly elected Governing Board members as well as a variety of updates and announcements.



The 2007 SNRS annual meeting in Galveston was a huge success! The five co-hosting Universities coordinated and collaborated to create a superb event! The number of attendees was the largest in our history. We enjoyed a new format for poster presentations, with joint regular and student posters organized by topics. The University of Florida sponsored our first-ever Cyber Café. Our inaugural Silent Auction generated more than \$3000 in funds for research—many thanks to both those who donated items and those who purchased items. The Board applied these funds to our 2007 small grants program, resulting in TWO dissertation awards at \$3000 each, and one \$5000 general research award. Many individuals contributed to the success of this meeting. Our Executive Director, Mr. David Stumph, and the outstanding staff that work with SNRS (from membership director Kristi Klinke to meeting planner Liz Ketchmer), helped in many of the organizational details. The members of the Galveston Local Planning Committee, led by VP Linda Freeman and LPC co-chairs Dr. Judith Drew and Dr. Nancy Busen, worked tirelessly for over 12 months. Ms. Julie Best and the members of the Galveston community created a welcoming environment for the SNRS membership. The numerous exhibitors and sponsors contributed to the financial success of the conference and provided resources for attendees. Of course, those who presented their work at the conference and those who invested in travel to spend time networking, attending Research Interest Group meetings, receptions and other events—all contributed to the excitement and enthusiasm that were the heart of this special event. On behalf of the Governing Board, I extend our gratitude to all!

During the 2007 Business Meeting, the membership considered and approved, with modification, a major revision of the SNRS bylaws. The approved By Laws will be available on the SNRS web site. The most visible change will be the term of office for President-Elect, which will require the election of a new President-Elect in the fall of 2007, to take office in the spring of 2008. Service as an officer of SNRS is an incredible opportunity to shape and advance nursing research in the Southern Region and I encourage all who have been members in SNRS for at least 2 years to consider running for office. Dr. Kathy Jo Ellison has agreed to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee and you can look for-

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The 2007 Board of Directors, seated from left: Cynthia Russell, PhD, RN, Vice President; D. Patricia (Patty) Gray, PhD, RN, President; Elaine Amella, PhD, APRN, FAAN; President-Elect. Standing from left: Darlene Gilcreast, PhD, RN, Secretary; Martha Alligood, PhD, RN, Director of Membership; Jennifer Wenzel, PhD, RN, Director of Research Interest Groups; Patricia B. Crane, PhD, RN, Director of Awards; Nan Smith-Blair, PhD, RN, Director of Communications; and Carolyn Lewis, PhD, RN, CNE, Treasurer.

From the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the Southern Connection under my direction. This experience of serving as the editor for a newsletter is a new challenge for me. I look forward to the opportunity of disseminating information about SNRS members, opportunities, and successes.

With the assistance of Resource Center for Association, the SNRS management company, three online issues of the newsletter are anticipated each year. Each issue is envisioned to provide interesting and valuable information to help the membership remain connected with the organization. Since I am in the learning phase of this process, please give us your innovative suggestions (and literacy contribution) so we can present a newsletter that is resourceful and significant to you. Guest editorials from our members are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know of your interests. Also if you have pictures of SNRS activities such as members at the convention, etc. that you would be willing to share, please send them to us with a caption of the individuals in the picture.

This edition is focused on letting the membership become more aware of the Board members. Individual pictures with a short biographical piece from each of them are provided for your review. A list of the individuals who received awards at the annual meeting this past February in Galveston is showcased. I encourage you to email me at carol.boswell@ttuhsc.edu. I look forward to working with and hearing from you in the forthcoming months.



2006 RIGs Leaders Meeting in Galveston, February 2007

Front row (near railing L to R): Jennifer Wenzel (incoming RIGs Chair), Nancey France (Qualitative Co-chair), Susan Letvak (Community Health/Public Health Chair), Cynthia Russell (Qualitative Chair), Ruby Morrison (Administration Chair), Karen Robinson (Aging/Gerontology Chair)

Middle row (L to R): Pat Messmer (representing Research in Clinical Settings), Sarah Farrell (Psych/Mental Health Chair), Susan Beidler (Academic Nurse-Managed Clinics Chair), Elaine Amella (Outgoing RIGs Chair), Sheila Davis (Health Promotion Chair), Anne Turner-Henson (Parent-Child Chair)

Back row (L to R): Ellen Buckner (Education Co-chair), Judy Martin (Minority Health Chair)



The 2007 Leadership in Research Award

The Leadership in Research Award is to recognize outstanding leadership, contribution, or promotion of nursing and health care research. The Award will be bestowed on an intermittent basis at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

To be considered for this award, a member must actively participate in nursing practice, education, research, service, economics, or administration, and must have made a significant contribution to research in nursing and health care.

This year's recipient of the Leadership in Research Award is Dr. Jean McSweeney. Dr. McSweeney received her PhD from The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing. Her academic career spans 25 years at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. She is currently a professor in the College of Nursing, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas. She has received numerous teaching awards including her most recent in 2005: The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Chancellor's University Teaching Award, Graduate level. She currently mentors multiple students and nurse scientist.

Dr. McSweeney has been a member of SNRS since 1989 and as contributed to the organization by serving on planning committees for conferences, a session moderator, abstract reviewer, State liaison, poster judge, and more recently, President from 2002 to 2004. Under her leadership the organization grew and made changes that are currently affecting SNRS. She has also received the D. Jean Wood Award for Outstanding Nursing Scholarship and was designated the SNRS research scholar by The American Nurses Foundation.

Dr. McSweeney's research has made a significant contribution to our understanding of women's symptoms of a myocardial infarction. Her research has a qualitative foundation that gave a voice to an understudied population. The findings from her research have changed the way health providers think about women and heart disease. A title from one of her presentations exemplifies this: "There Was Never an Elephant on My Chest." Her research has had a



SNRS Director of Awards, Patricia B. Crane, PhD, RN, 2007 Leadership in Research Award Winner Jean McSweeney, PhD, and D. Patricia Gray, RN, PhD, President, SNRS

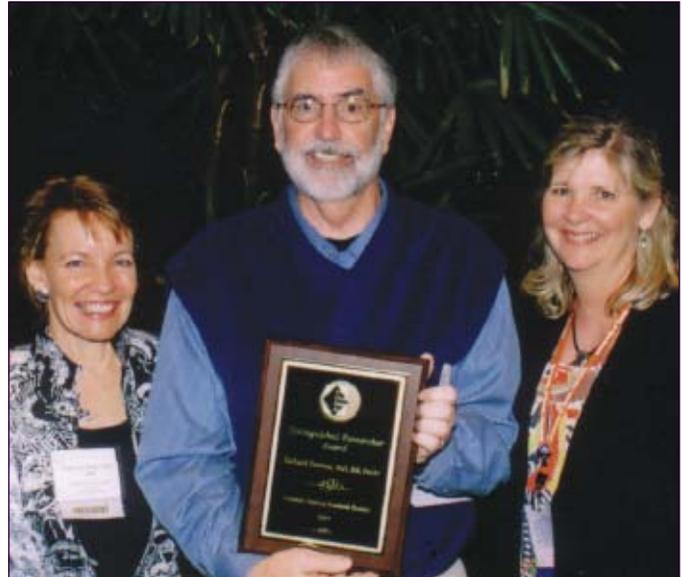
national and international attention. She has been interviewed by numerous radio and television stations nationally and internationally including the British Broadcasting Communications and CBS. This research has also been recognized by the American Heart Association and the National Institute of Nursing Research. To date, she has had over \$3 million in funding. Further, her research has been widely disseminated through scholarly presentations and publications. Recently she was awarded the AHA Council on Cardiovascular Nursing's Research Manuscript of the Year. Most recently, she was invited to serve on the NINR Advisory Board.

Because of her significant contributions to nursing science, the Southern Nursing Research Society honors, my colleague, friend, and leader in our profession: Dr. Jean C. McSweeney with the Leadership in Research Award.

2007 Distinguished Researcher

Dr. Richard H. Steeves received his BSN in 1981 and his MSN in 1983 from the University of North Alabama (Florence). In 1988 he was awarded a PhD in Nursing science from the University of Washington (Seattle). He has a lengthy clinical and academic career ranging from a staff nurse in the emergency room, a hospice visiting nurse, a family nurse practitioner, and professor. He is currently a Professor at the School of Nursing at the University of Virginia. He has received many awards and honors, including a Fellow in the American Academy of Nurses and in 2003 the honor of Distinguished Professor, and serves as a member of the NINR Initial Review Group for career development awards.

Dr. Steeves has 39 publications and a strong sustained program of research in the area on bereavement, survivorship, and experiences related to death and dying. His research is qualitative primarily focusing on those with cancer. He has also explored grief in other populations such as children after the murder of one spouse by the other, burn patients and children, and elderly who have lost a spouse. He has been consistently funded by the NIH since 1991 and is currently



D. Patricia Gray, RN, PhD, President, SNRS; 2007 Distinguished Researcher Richard H. Steeves, PhD, and SNRS Director of Awards, Patricia B. Crane, PhD, RN

completing a study addressing the experience of domestic violence. Dr. Steeves also serves as a mentor. As one nominator stated, "He not only is contributing to the development of nursing science through his excellent research and methodological papers, but also through his generosity to beginning nursing researchers." His contributions to nursing science and to the southern region support his award as Southern Nursing Research Society 2007 Distinguished Researcher.

2006 Small Grant Award

We are pleased to announce the winner of the SNRS Small Grant for 2006 as awarded to Daurice A. Grossniklaus, RN, MS, Med. The winning project title was "Factors Associated With the Energy Density of Food Intake in Overweight Adults." We extend our congratulations to Ms. Grossniklaus!

*Patricia Crane, PhD, RN, SNRS Director of Awards;
Daurice A. Grossniklaus, RN, MS, Med;
and D. Patricia Gray, RN, PhD, SNRS President*



2006 Conference Awards

The D. Jean Wood Award Winner was Lieutenant Colonel Karen Weis, RN, PhD. The title of her manuscript was "Prenatal Maternal Identity Formation in a Military sample.

Session I:

Winner:

"Effects of the Women's Health Initiative on Hormone Replacement Therapy Use" Catherine Greenblum, MSN, and Dr. Kathaleen Bloom

Honorable Mentions:

"Paper or Plastic: Innovative Use of Electronic Diaries in Research" Sigrid Ladores, MSN, PNC

"Children's Quality of Life after Heart Transplant: Parent and Child Views" Angel Green, MSN

Session II:

Winner:

"Identification of a Nosocomial Pathogen by PCR Genotyping," Drs. Deborah Jones, Todd Kitten, & Cindy Munro

Honorable Mention:

"Mothers' Experiences Viewing their Neonate Through ANGEL EYE" Sara Rhoads



D. Jean Wood Award Winner Lieutenant Colonel Karen Weis, RN, PhD and D. Patricia Gray, RN, PhD, President, SNRS

2007 Winner of the Research in Minority Health Award

Alexandra Garcia, PhD, RN,
Assistant Professor, University of
Texas at Austin



Patricia Crane, PhD, RN, SNRS Director of Awards; Alexandra Garcia, PhD, RN; and D. Patricia Gray, RN, PhD, SNRS President

Meet Your Board Members

Director of Communications Nan Smith-Blair, PhD, RN

Nan Smith-Blair, PhD, RN, an Assistant Professor in the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing at the University of Arkansas has been appointed to complete a 1-year Board of Directors position. Nan has previously served on the SNRS nominations committee and chaired the committee in 2005.



Her research interest is in physiologic nursing with her research focus on emphysema and diaphragm fatigue. She was awarded an NINR-R015 award in 2006 to pursue the effects of dobutamine on diaphragm fatigue in emphysematous hamsters. While serving on the board of directors, she will be responsible for facilitating communications through a variety of media. She hopes to improve communications between the society and its membership and to assist in making the website as user-friendly as possible.

Vice President Cynthia Russell, PhD, RN

Hello! I'm Cynthia Russell, a Professor in the Acute & Chronic Care Department of the College of Nursing at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center. I teach across all the college's degree programs, focusing on healthcare informatics and applying qualitative research methods in nursing and health care.



My current research interests include incorporating information technology for positive patient and/or student outcomes and patient safety/organizational learning from error. My current projects include (1) researching patient safety from an education-systems perspective, (2) the experiences and impact of learning with distance technology among Aboriginal nursing

students in Manitoba, and (3) organizational learning from error.

I'm the new Vice President of SNRS. My current goals for this position include (1) further the innovative use of technology to facilitate program planning, abstract submission, and conference sessions, (2) increase opportunities for networking, mentoring, and student participation, (3) ensure that conference programming meets the needs of novice as well as experienced researchers, and (4) make certain our conferences are nationally recognized as "must not miss" events.

Currently, I am working with the Board and our management company on revising the online abstract submission and review system. Together with the Alabama Local Planning Committee we are making important decisions about our 2008 conference. I'd welcome any input you might have about our conferences and how we can continue to enhance those to serve your needs.

Director of Awards Patricia B. Crane, PhD, RN

Patricia B. Crane, PhD, RN, FAHA is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her primary area of research is with older adults who have experienced a myocardial infarction. She currently has a R15 award to examine correlates to fatigue and physical activity in older adults after myocardial infarction. Dr. Crane was elected to the board as a Member at Large in 2006 and is chair of the Awards Committee. This committee is primarily responsible for evaluating proposals and nominations for SNRS awards. This committee also judges and awards the student posters at the SNRS Annual Conference.



Director of Membership Martha Raile Alligood, RN, PhD

Dr. Alligood is Professor and Director of the PhD Program in the School of Nursing at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.



Her research interests have included theory based studies of adult human development and rational hermeneutic interpretation of nursing science text for knowledge development in the areas of empathy and pattern. Current projects are the introduction of theory-based nursing practice for a large medical center using action research methodology and development of an interdisciplinary model of the interrelationships of medical, nursing, and allied health perspectives of evidence-based practice in the health sciences.

Dr. Alligood has become the Chairperson of the Membership Committee. The members of this committee are the state liaisons for the 14 SNRS states. Her initial goals are to:

1. Activate this committee and clarify their role,
2. Work with our management organization to maintain and track the current membership, and
3. Develop membership drives for member recruitment in clinical agencies and schools in each of the 14 states.

Secretary Darlene Gilcreast, RN, MSN, PhD, CDE

Assistant Professor, Department of Chronic Nursing Care School of Nursing, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Dr. Gilcreast is Secretary of the Southern Nursing Research Society and Treasurer of the Alamo Association of Diabetes Educators. She completed



two years as the RN Approver and is an RN reviewer for the Professional Development Resources and Education Committee of the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

Dr. Gilcreast teaches nursing research to undergraduates at UTHSCSA. She has been a Certified Diabetes Educator for 15 years and has extensive experience in research, diabetes education and treatment. Dr. Gilcreast is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and served in the Persian Gulf War in 1992. Her diabetes research includes:

- "A Pilot Study of the Effect of a Low-Glycemic-Index Diet on Overweight Adults with Type 2 Diabetes"
- "Outcomes of a Nurse-Managed Diabetic Foot Clinic,"
- "Water Fitness to Reduce Weight and Improve Blood Glucose,"
- and her doctoral dissertation, "The Effect of Transcutaneous Electrical Stimulation of Foot Skin Blood Flow in People with, or at Risk for, Diabetic Foot Ulcers."
- Other research involves nurses' abilities to retain CPR and ACLS skills, pressure ulcer prevention, smoking prevention, and pregnant soldiers and exercise.

Dr. Gilcreast was Chief, Nursing Research at Brooke Army Medical Center from July, 1999 to September, 2001. She was an investigator for 10 TriService Nursing Research Grants averaging around \$350,000 ea. Dr. Gilcreast was Military Editor of Critical Care Nurse from 1999-2001. Selected publications include: "Chapter 11: Research," in *Diabetes mellitus: A guide to patient care* (2007); "Outcomes of a Heel-Pressure-Ulcer Prevention Program," *Journal of Wound, Continence, and Ostomy Nurses* (2005); "Type 2 Diabetes, Health Disparities, and Exercise: A Review of the Literature," in the *Journal of Multicultural Nursing and Health* (2004), and "Treating Severe Anemia in a Trauma Patient Who Is a Jehovah's Witness," *Critical Care Nurse* (2000).

Meet Your Board Members (continued)

Treasurer

Carolyn C. Lewis, PhD, RN, CNE

I am the new SNRS treasurer serving for the 2007-2009 term. My goals for this position are to increase annual income to support of board activities including research grants, and to facilitate investing current available monies for an increase in return.

I am currently an education specialist at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital (SLEH), Houston Texas. I am collaborating with colleagues from the Department of Nursing and Patient Education on two research projects: "Effectiveness of an Age and Cultural Awareness Interactive Group Activity in the Promotion of Cultural Competence Among Health Care Workers" and "Aiming 'At-Risk' High School Seniors From Disadvantaged Communities Toward a Career in Nursing". In addition, I am collaborating with educators from Provo College in Provo, Utah and from Health Education Systems Incorporated on a third research project: "Comparison of Two Predictors of NCLEX success: ATI and HESI Exit Exam".

I have recently accepted a position as Nursing Program Director of Provo College's Associate Degree Nursing Program. Despite my relocation to Utah and move out of the SNRS's geographical boundaries, I look forward to maintaining active research ties with SLEH, and effectively serving SNRS members as treasurer during my term.



News from the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS)

March 2007

From the Letter from the President

As President of SNRS, I represent SNRS on the Steering Committee of the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, an open membership arm of the American Academy of Nursing. SNRS members are eligible to join the Council at a reduced fee. More information about the Council and its activities is found later in the newsletter. I also represented SNRS at the recent National Nursing Research Roundtable. The 2007 meeting was co-sponsored by NINR and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and was attended by representatives of all regional research societies and nursing specialty organizations with an interest in or focus on nursing research. The topic of the meeting was on research teams of the future, with examples provided from Columbia University (by Dr. Elaine Larson) and the University of Washington (by Dr. Pamela Mitchell). Their presentations illustrated the possibilities for leadership roles of nurse researchers in interdisciplinary research teams. The presentation was linked to NIH's Roadmap (for more on the NIH roadmap, see <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/>).

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ward to hearing more from her as the Nominations Committee begins to develop the next slate of officers.

At this meeting, the Governing Board also made decisions regarding the future form of the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research (SOJNR). The SOJNR Editor, Dr. Barbara Holtzclaw, and the Managing Editor, Dr. Craig Stotts, along with member of the Editorial Board and the reviewers, have done an outstanding job since the inception of the journal and the Governing Board is grateful for their contributions to SNRS. In order to increase readership and the impact of the journal, the Board voted to evaluate the effect of shifting the journal to a topic-focused format. Each of the Research Interest Groups will have an opportunity to provide a guest editor and generate manuscripts for up to 3 topical issues per year, beginning in 2008. For the coming year, there will be 3 issues: one issue devoted to the abstracts presented at the 2007 conference, one issue containing articles currently in review for SOJNR, and one special topic issue on Nursing Education, edited by Dr. Carol Boswell. Articles will be peer reviewed and the journal will continue to be an open-access journal indexed by CINAHL. A list of upcoming topics will be posted on the SNRS web site and the ordering of topics will be coordinated by the Research Interest Groups.

As President of SNRS, I represent SNRS on the Steering Committee of the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, an open membership arm of the American Academy of Nursing. SNRS members are eligible to join the Council at a reduced fee. More information about the Council and its activities is found later in the newsletter. I also represented SNRS at the recent National Nursing Research Roundtable.

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In closing, I would like to extend a tremendous "Thank You" to the outgoing officers of SNRS: Dr. Linda Freeman (Vice President), Dr. Marti Rice (Treasurer for two terms), Dr. Kathy Jo Ellison (Director of Membership) and Dr. Cara Krulewitch (Director of Communications). These officers did a wonderful job in providing leadership to our organization. I hope during 2007, each of you will give serious consideration to becoming involved in SNRS. May the spring be a beautiful one for you, and may you consider and act on the many possibilities for making SNRS the best it can be!



D. Patricia Gray, RN, PhD
President