Dean’s Corner

It is another new year—already!! It seems like I just wrote about 2010 getting here and now 2011 has materialized. Despite our best intentions, it seemed like we barely kept up with our operations and did not make much progress on getting ahead. However, some positive things did occur that aren’t reflected in the articles throughout the newsletter so here goes: The fourth floor of CNHP has been remodeled and Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences has relocated to that space. This includes faculty offices, secretarial suite, radiation therapy classroom and lab, MRI classroom and a general classroom. Sonography has a renovated lab space on third floor and the best news is that the digital x-ray lab is finished on the second floor of the bldg. All programs in MIRS have larger and dedicated teaching spaces and state of the art equipment abounds.

The basement of Smith Hall (from whence MIRS came) is in the process of getting offices painted and carpeted. Physical Therapy faculty will occupy those spaces which would bring all of their faculty to the ground floor, albeit in two bldgs. The rest of the space has been designed for a large therapy lab which will be necessary for the third cohort of doctoral students who will enter in the fall. Remember that PT went from a master’s entry level (2+ yr program) to doctoral entry level (3 yr program). Three classes of students at one time (in addition to the PTA students) really burdens the existing lab spaces.

Next will be the dean’s office suite in CNHP which has plaster peeling from the walls and other esthetically displeasing things. We hope to have that “face lift” completed in 2011. If you have not been back to the Donald W. Reynolds Center for Health Sciences, you will now see over $200,000 of permanent art in the main hallways. The Reynolds Foundation provided the gift for the purchase. Townsend Wolfe, Little Rock, acquired the art for us. It is an array of artists, many of whom are regional. In fact, one of our artists, Gail Arnold from Little Rock, actually came to visit the Center and see the art displayed. We will have our “formal opening” in March, 2011. The date has not been confirmed but you can pencil in either March 3 or 31.

As much progress as we have made with Reynolds, Smith and the CNHP bldgs, we still have work to do. The remainder of the floors that primarily house faculty need modernization, particularly the restrooms. The college has a new advancement officer, Derek Bowman. He will be seeking external funding for this project in addition to other items on our capital campaign list. If you have interest in monetarily helping out, please contact him or me at your convenience.

In the next newsletter, I want to have a large update on our Regional Center for Disaster Preparedness Education. Dr. Debbie Persell and her faculty are doing a tremendous job with educating the masses on basic and advanced disaster life support. One quick note is that they are taking their disaster life support education on the road so if you see a disaster assistance trailer moving across the state, think of us. A trailer is all we can afford now but someday we want a van which would be a perfect mobile unit.

I say this every year and I mean it every year—I want to thank each of you for your interest in and continued support of our college. We could not have the success that we do without a whole host of people working together. I am thankful each day for my faculty and staff, quality students who seek our degrees, clinical agencies, the larger community and our advocates, ASU administration and board members, legislators, and the list goes on. What a wonderful group and what great success has resulted from all of those combined efforts. Please have a happy 2011!!

Sincerely,

Susan Hanrahan, Dean
College of Nursing & Health Professions
hanrahan@astate.edu

On-line Continuing Education

By Ray Winters

The College of Nursing & Health Professions will begin a new venture in January of 2011. For those health professionals who require continuing education credits to maintain licensure, it will soon be possible to obtain those credits on-line through the College of Nursing & Health Professions at ASU. The goal of the On-line CE Center is to provide a method of securing quality, affordable and convenient continuing education.

Continuing Education (CE) is required of most of the professions in this college. The cost of obtaining on-line CE through the College is very reasonable - $10 per credit hour. This is competitive and actually more affordable that most CE services. Four courses will go live in January. These courses target audiences of nurses and physical therapists, but could be of interest to other healthcare providers. The courses are:

- The Concepts of Therapeutic Modalities
- Postpartum Depression: Implications for Nursing Practice
- Thermal Agents
- Electrical Stimulation

To access the courses, go to the CNHP home page and click on the On-line CE button. From there you will be guided through the necessary steps to complete the course. A valid credit card is required for payment. After completing the course and taking a 10 question exam over the content, the course participant will be able to print the necessary verification document required by their profession for evidence of CE. Be sure to mark your calendar to check our latest programming at http://www2.astate.edu/a/conhp/. For more info, contact rwinters@astate.edu.
Dr. Susan Hanrahan was elected for a two-year term as treasurer of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) in September. She has been previously involved with ASAHP as a secretary and a member of the Board of Directors for 10 years.

Dean Hanrahan was also elected chair of the Tobacco Settlement Commission, Little Rock.

Dr. Rebecca Matthews (Nursing) and Dr. Shawn Drake (PT) presented “Healthy Ager: An inter-professional, service-learning experience” in October in Baltimore, MD at the Villanova Nursing Conference.—Innovation and Creativity in Nursing Education.

College Advocacy Board:
Welcome to our new board members
Gloria Nixon
Mary Vollman
Bobby Puryear
Jim Vaughn
Dr. Bill Shanlever

CNHP to Sponsor Second Trip to China
By Ray Winters

In May 2011, students and faculty from the College of Nursing and Health professions will take a ten-day trip to China. This trip will expose current and future health care providers to Chinese methods of delivering healthcare while allowing them to learn and appreciate Chinese culture.

Lead by Ray Winters, Chair of the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences, the group will leave May 8 and return May 18. Students may obtain up to 3 hours college credit for the experience. Guiding the group will be John Pate, who works for ASU in China. Pate is a native Arkansan who has lived in China for 6 years.

The 10-day trip will begin in Shanghai. Shanghai is truly a cosmopolitan city and is the jewel of Chinese cities. There they will tour the Yueyang Hospital, center of traditional Chinese medicine. Other plans for Shanghai include touring a Chinese nursing home and the national museum of Chinese culture. The group will then fly to Xi’an (pronounced “she awn”). There they will tour the ancient capital of three dynasties, including its historic, intact, city wall and bell tower, attend a traditional Chinese dinner show and see the Terra Cotta Warriors. After 2 days in X’ian, they will board an overnight sleeper train to Beijing. While in Beijing, they will tour Beijing University Medical School, attend a presentation at the Chinese World Health Organization, shop at the famous “Silk Alley” market, tour the Great Wall, Forbidden City, and more. Woven through the itinerary are experiences at Chinese hotels and Chinese cuisine.

The cost is very reasonable and would be hard to beat for the value of this trip. Current students are eligible to apply for travel assistance monies through the Office of International Programs. Alumni of any CHNP programs are welcome to go, as well as their spouses, friends and family. There are 40 slots available and reservations should be made soon. If you think you might want to go, need more information or be placed on a waiting list, contact Ray Winters at 870-972-3329 or at rwinters@astate.edu. There are still slots open for 2011.

We believe this opportunity provides a unique experience for our students that they wouldn’t get at other universities. It will also provide an opportunity for alumni to learn the differences and similarities in health care delivery in one of the world’s fastest growing economies.

ASU CARE

The Arkansas State University Department of Social Work has opened ASU CARE (Community Action Reinforcing Empowerment) at 600-A Marshall Street in North Jonesboro. Dr. Barbara Turnage, Chair of the Department of Social Work and Dr. George Jacinto, Director of ASU CARE created a program to assist residents living in North Jonesboro. ASU CARE will work to focus on issues such as substance abuse, crime, employment-seeking activities, health disparities, education, social capital, family services and youth development. The program will be staffed by social work student interns with oversight by program faculty. Turnage stated, “The student-resident combination in North Jonesboro will be a reciprocal relationship where the residents can benefit by working with students, and students can develop skills in linking residents to needed services in the community. The services provided will include assessment of individual and family needs, linking individuals and families to agencies that can help provide food, clothing, medical and mental health services, training and employment services, and other services as needed” she said.

Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin and some of his staff have worked with the College of Nursing and Health Professions in the development of this program. Mayor Perrin stated “there are overlapping services being offered in Jonesboro and it would be beneficial to have an agency that could provide linkages to the many local services for citizens who need social and economic assistance.”

Ms. Carol Crawford of the Jonesboro Housing Authority has worked with the college to provide office space at 600-A Marshall Street to house the program. Ms. Crawford said that, “…this will be a good location to offer services in North Jonesboro. Residents from many of the neighborhoods will be able to walk to the ASU CARE office for assistance.”

Jacinto shared that “ASU CARE wants to partner with all of the helping agencies in Jonesboro, and to act as a referral source to appropriate service providers for residents to meet their needs.” According to Dr. Susan Hanrahan, dean of the college, “the long term goal for ASU CARE is to more comprehensively identify resident needs and issues in North Jonesboro, assist individuals in prioritizing their needs and working with the clients to make the connections necessary for positive outcomes. In addition, students can advise the college about programming that should be developed to support the residents and advise the city of issues that need additional attention. Good case management is an art and a science, there are needs in this community and we feel very fortunate to have partners that support our work in this prime location.”

George A. Jacinto, PhD, LCSW, CPC
Department of Social Work
Arkansas State University
Jonesboro, Arkansas
Email: giacinto@astate.edu

Radiologic Technologists Must Re-test Every Ten Years
by Ray Winters

Beginning January of 2011 all Radiologic Technologists who take any of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT) registry exams will be required to “re-test” every ten years. This applies to radiographers, radiation therapists, MRI technologists and anyone registered by the ARRT.

This new requirement has come about due to a new policy published by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. It is particularly important to all ARRT registrants in Arkansas since the Arkansas Department of Health uses the ARRT exam as its licensure exam. The rationale behind this new policy comes from the notion that “once certified, forever qualified” has lost credence with the public and the regulatory bodies that exist on their behalf. Increased consumerism in healthcare and its translation into...
expectations by legislatures, third-party payers, and patients has led certification organizations to implement mechanisms to assure ongoing competency. The reality is that the rate of technological change is swift and ongoing. The ARRT has stated that they want consumers to know that ARRT certification means that technologists with their credentials “have relevant current knowledge that enhances their ability to provide high-quality patient care.” (ARRT Annual Report to Registered Technologists, May 2010.)

The ARRT is using the acronym “CQ/2011” to refer to this new policy in all its publications. Shorthand for “Continuing Quality beginning in 2011”, the upcoming ARRT requirement for R.T.s to demonstrate continued qualifications is the program that will introduce a 10-year time limitation on ARRT certificates issued after December 31, 2010. Certificates earned before 2011 and maintained as currently registered will not be subject to the requirements. CQ/2011 requirements for every 10 year examination will be in addition to the ongoing every-other-year Continuing Education requirements in effect since 1995 and applying to all R.T.s.

Some of the most frequently asked questions to the ARRT (as listed on their web page) are:

Q: Why is ARRT going to issue time-limited certificates beginning in 2011?  
A: It’s the right thing to do: consistent with our mission of promoting high standards of patient care. ARRT’s requirements for initial certification are closely linked to what it means to be qualified at entry level. ARRT has been considering for several years what it means to be qualified at points beyond entry into the profession. Although at one time the shelf life of knowledge was sufficiently long that the “once certified, forever qualified” approach was reasonable, this proposition can no longer be defended. The reality is that the rate of technological change is so rapid that knowledge has a limited shelf life, and we want consumers to know that ARRT certification means that the individual has relevant current knowledge that enhances his or her ability to provide high-quality patient care.

Q: To whom will the Continued Qualifications requirements apply?  
A: Not so much to whom, but to what — any new certifications awarded in 2011 or thereafter will fall under the CQ requirements.

Q: I’m already an R.T.(R). Will the requirements apply to me?  
A: All certifications awarded prior to 2011 and maintained as currently registered are exempt from the CQ/2011 requirements. If you earn new certifications after that point, you will be issued a time-limited certificate for that category, even though the certifications earned earlier do not fall under the requirements.

Q: How does CQ/2011 affect my current certifications?  
A: It doesn’t. And it won’t, unless you fail to maintain your registration of the certifications. Any certificate that is earned before January 1, 2011, is exempt from the CQ/2011 requirements — provided that registration is maintained.

Q: Will CQ/2011 apply to post-primary as well as to primary categories of certification?  
A: Yes. The requirements will apply to every ARRT certification earned January 1, 2011, and thereafter. The most common question that ARRT has been hearing about CQ/2011 is, “Will I have to retake the entry level exam?” The answer is a definitive “No.” Retaking the entry-level exam will not be required to meet CQ/2011 requirements.

Various other tools — such as self-assessments and inventories of knowledge — will be available to determine areas of individual need, according to ARRT Executive Director Jerry B. Reid, Ph.D., and prescribed educational activities will permit candidates to meet the requirements. Details on the options for mechanisms to achieve the goal will be announced as they are determined. Once these are finalized in the coming years, they will be published by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists in the Annual Report to Registered Technologists. The Department of Medical Imaging & Radiation Sciences at ASU is happy to serve as a resource on these requirements.

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Avon, LA on March 15th. 

Dr. Susie Siffford received a $2,830 award from the American Nurses Foundation for her study: ‘Victims’ Perceptions of Triggers of Resident-to-Resident Violence in Nursing Homes.” The award includes the distinction of Siffford being named the 2010 Hildegard E. Peplau, EdD, RN, FAAN/ANF Scholar.

Dr. Angie Schmidt has been selected to participate in the ASAHP leadership development program that begins in New Orleans, LA on March 15th.

Congratulations to Linda Crumpton on being selected as a Jonas Hartford scholar.

Dr. Susan (Siffford) Snellgrove will present, Resident-to-Resident Violence: An Explanatory Model, at the Southern Nursing Research Society meeting in February in Orlando.

RadioLogic Sciences

Cheryl DuBose was awarded the 2010 Elsevier Faculty Development Scholarship. Congrats, Cheryl! 
The following have been accepted for presentation at the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology conference in Las Vegas in February 2011:

Tracy White – Arsenic, Mustard Gas and Tanning Beds; What Do These Have in Common?

Jeannean Rollins – Motivating and Mentoring Technologists Into Educator Roles.

Donna Caldwell – Anatomy of the Portal System (lecture presentation)

Cheryl DuBose – Multiple Learning Styles and E-Learning: What Are My Options?

Communication Disorders

Mindy Krebs, 2009 alumnus of the Communication Disorders graduate program, Dr. Mike McDaniel and Dr. Rick Neeley were notified that their article, “The Effects of Peer Training on the Social Interactions of Children with Autism,” had been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal, Education.

Merrill Catt, Dr. Rick Neeley and Mrs. Shelby Lovins, graduate assistant in Communication Disorders, manuscript entitled “The REAL Project: Thematic Language Intervention” was accepted for peer-reviewed publication in Education.

Social Work

In December, Social Work sponsored its third World AIDS Day event, under the leadership of Dr. Patricia G Walls, Associate Professor in the Department.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Carl Abraham, who practices infectious disease medicine and internal medicine in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Mr. Jim Reynolds, Director of Craighead County Health Department was on a panel of discussants, along with Ms. Debbie Biazio, Director of the Northeast Arkansas Regional AIDS Network (NARAN). Free HIV testing was held. A balloon release which took place in the Student Union Courtyard on the ASU Jonesboro campus, occurred simultaneously with balloon releases on the Blytheville High School, Osceola High School, Marked Tree High School and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff campuses. The last event was a candlelight vigil in the Student Union courtyard.

Dr. Turnage and Dr. Jacinto presented papers, “Social Work Ethics” and “Online Task Groups: Implications for Rural-based Social Work Education and Practice,” respectively at the 35th Annual National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas, Presque Isle, Maine.

Dr. Gauri Bhattacharya attended the US Department of Health and Human Services review meeting on Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) regarding products organized by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and US Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS). In addition:

- Gauri was honored and recognized as a Social Work Leader by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) at their 50th anniversary celebration of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW). She was profiled in an ACSW 50th Anniversary ad for their Oct. 2010 issue.

- She also took part in the National Institutes of Health – Health Disparities Research meeting which focused on groundbreaking research concerning the social determinants of health and the integration of science, practice, and policy.

- Dr. Bhattacharya’s proposal, Reinforcing Mutuality: Aging, Health, and Social Development was accepted for presentation for the 17th ICSD International Symposium to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh January 3 – 7, 2011.

- Bhattacharya recently presented a research paper she co-authored with Dr. George Jacinto, “Achieving Racial/Ethnic Health Care Equality: A Public Policy Dialogue” at the Sixth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

- Gauri travelled to Israel to conduct the research project, “Israeli-Arab Relations: How Globalization Influences Individual Perceptions of Conflict.” Funded by ASU’s Middle East Studies Program, this research examined the relationships and conflicts embedded in the historical, socio-cultural, political and environmental contexts of both Israeli Jews and Arab Muslims residing in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Dr. Guitele Rahill was invited by the Reference Editorial Office of the Encyclopedia of Immigrant Health to publish an article on Haiti.

Dr. Patricia Walls’ manuscript submission, “Socio-cultural Challenges in Conducting Ethnographic Research among Ethiopian Street Youth” was accepted by the Qualitative Report, Volume 16, Number 3. The paper will be viewable online May 2011.

Dr. George Jacinto co-authored a chapter with Dr. Sophia Dziegielewski of the University of Cincinnati. Their chapter, “Medications with Children and Older Adults: Specific Concerns,” appears in the second edition of, “Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology: A Person-in-Environment Approach.”

Dr. George Jacinto will present “Reality Therapy and the Labyrinth: A Strategy for Practice” at the International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society in Chicago in February 2011.

GRANTS/CONTRACTS:

Dr. Guitele Rahill (SW) awarded $25,191 by NSF for, “Re-Housing Urban Haiti After the Earthquake: The Role of Social Capital.”

Dr. Dick Freer (SW) awarded Title IV-E Public Child Welfare, $459,920

Dr. Susan Hanrahan, Arkansas Geriatric Education Center, $50,000

Dr. Debbie Persell (NRS) awarded by AR Department of Health, “Disaster Life Support course Training for Arkansas Medical Reserve Corps,” $20,000

Dr. Debbie Persell (NRS) Arkansas Biosciences Institute, $5,000; School of Nursing, ASU, $2,500; Regional Center for Disaster Preparedness Education $1000 and Office of the Dean, College of Nursing and Health Professions $3000 for a total of $12,000 for Phase 1 (pilot project) of The Allostatic Impact of Socioeconomic Status (SES) and Environmental Disasters on the Well
Being of Children in the Mississippi Delta Region of Arkansas.

Ray Winters (MIRS) awarded $12,000 (partial award) by Kays Foundation for Educational Enhancement.

Good bye to:  
Shirley Brock, Physical Therapy, who transferred to ASU, Paragould.
Julie Thomas, Speech and Hearing.

Welcome to:  
Deanna Harris, Coordinator of the AV Labs. Deanna has returned to the college where she previously worked as a secretary in Radiologic and Clinical Lab Sciences.

Maggie Horwatt, Administrative Specialist in the Speech & Hearing Clinic and Beck PRIDE Center.

Stacy Walz, Department Chair, Clinical Lab Sciences. Ms. Walz obtained her masters of science in population health sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is finishing her PhD in population health sciences.

Sharon Wilson, Administrative Specialist in the Dean’s Office.
Dr. Susan Motts, Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy. Dr. Motts obtained her PhD from Kent State University.

Special congratulations to Dr. Susie Sifford, Nursing, on her marriage to Scott Snellgrove.

In Sympathy

Lori Clay, Nursing, on the loss of her grandmother.

Barbara Wike, Nursing, on the loss of her husband.

Paige Wimberly, Nursing, on the loss of her mother.

Annual Social Work Conference

The Department of Social Work will celebrate their Annual Social Work Conference 2011 on Friday, March 4, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Centennial Hall, Student Union. The topic of this year’s conference is “Spiritual Diversity in Social Work Practice.”

Keynote speaker, Dr. Edward Canda, is a professor and director of the Office for Research on Spiritual Diversity in Social Work at the University of Kansas. Dr. Canda is the original founder of “Society of Spirituality and Social Work,” which initiated the first discussion of spirituality in social work practice. He is internationally recognized for his many publications and training programs around the world. He is the author of “Spiritual Diversity in Social Work Practice,” which has been a widely used text in social work education over 20 years.

Participants will receive Certificates of Attendance for two contact hours. Registration is free, but participants are asked to sign up before the conference. Print a registration form at http://asunews.astate.edu/SocWorkConfRegistationForm10.htm, and fax (870-972-3987) or mail it to: Attn: Ms. Jennifer Short, Spring 2010 Social Work Conference, P.O. Box 2460, State University, Arkansas 72467. For more information, contact Dr. Young Joon Hong (yhong@astate.edu), conference chair, assistant professor at (870) 680-4356.

Alumni News

Distinguished Alumni

The College of Nursing and Health Professions honored Stacey Sloas (Physical Therapy), Katrina Groves (Communication Disorders), Kandi Tarpley (Social Work), and Rose O’Neal (Nursing) with 2010 Outstanding Alumni awards during a distinguished alumni ceremony held at the Donald W. Reynolds Center on October 2, 2010. Stacey Sloas graduated from the first PT class at ASU in 1998 and was recognized as a Program Scholar. She went on to supervise the Day Program at HealthSouth (Jonesboro) and became a clinical instructor for PT and PTA students at ASU. She joined ASU full-time while continuing to work clinically at HealthSouth on a part-time or as-needed basis. She obtained her master’s degree in Educational Leadership in 2008 and began working with the Specialty Pediatric and Autism Resource Center of Arkansas in 2010. Katrina Groves was admitted to the CD graduate program in 2000; graduating in 2001. She is currently the Rehab Director and Speech-Language Pathologist at Monette Manor, a skilled nursing facility. Groves is licensed to practice speech-language pathology in Arkansas by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is also a certified provider of Vital-Stim and FEES procedures. Kandi Tarpley graduated from ASU in 2005 with a degree in Social Work. She was a Title IV-E stipend student in her senior year and completed two internships at the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in Craighead County. Tarpley currently works at DCFS in Greene County investigating child abuse cases. She has been instrumental in mentoring new workers and students in quality investigation and positive family relations involved in casework. She spoke at ASU last year for field seminar classes on her experiences both as a student and a caseworker. She is very passionate about assisting and protection of families in a caring and ethical manner. Rose O’Neal graduated with the first class of nursing students at ASU and worked as a registered nurse for 30 years, retiring from full-time employment 10 years ago. O’Neal has worked for St. Bernards Regional Medical Center the majority of her career and has made many volunteer contributions to the community including the Jonesboro Church Health Clinic Board and Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House fundraisers. Although retired, O’Neal maintains her license and continues to be active in education activities, volunteering for community health screenings, health fairs, and flu shots.

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The following endowments and scholarships are currently located in the college as permanent endowments, endowments in progress, or annual awards. Funds are housed in these two locations:

Arkansas State University Foundation (ASUF)
Craighead County Community Foundation (CCCF)

ESTABLISHED ENDOWMENTS

Bartels Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship (CCCF— RN to BSN students)
Emerson Family Endowment (CCCF—for grief seminar)
Helen and Bill Roehrig Memorial Endowment (ASUF for PT award)
Jane H. LeBlanc Graduate Clinical Scholarship (CCCF for CD)
George Herndon Graduate Scholarship in CD (ASUF)
Assisi Foundation (ASUF—AASN West Memphis program support)
Vollman Family Faculty Enhancement Fund (CCCF)
Dr. Joe T & Gail Wilson Endowment (CCCF—for CLS operations)
NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital Scholarship Endowment (ASUF)
Carla Brooks Spears Memorial Scholarship in Nursing (ASUF)
Susan Tolliver Memorial Scholarship in Nursing (ASUF)
Ray H. Hall and Kathleen Scott Hall Nursing Scholarship (ASUF)
Sister Patricia Lee Findley Memorial Scholarship (ASUF)
Linnie Wisdom-Maude Wilson Honors Scholarship (ASUF)
William and Harriett Mildred Smith Memorial Scholarship in Nursing
The service trip was followed by a research trip to Haiti in which I experienced an earthquake aftershock and by a personal aftershock upon return to the United States. As I prepare to return for Phase II of my research project, I feel it was important to reflect on the events of the past nine months. While this is not a scientific piece, it speaks of my heart and passion for social work, as social workers are not exempt from personal traumas as they endeavor to demonstrate their care and to fight for social justice.

On January 12th Haiti was rocked by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake. The capital city, Port-au-Prince, where I was born, was at the epicenter of the earthquake. Port-au-Prince and the surrounding regions were devastated. I will not dwell on the devastation and the personal costs to the residents of Haiti and to Haitians in the Diaspora because those have been covered over and over in national and international media.

The weeks following the earthquake were personally difficult for several reasons: It seemed as if everyone was asking whether or not I had lost a relative in the earthquake. I longed to tell them that even if I had not lost a blood relative, I still felt the pain abs feelings of derealization that Haitians in Haiti and in the Diaspora experienced. As it turned out, I had lost a nephew and my aunt had lost a mother-in-law. Several relatives remain unaccounted for nine months after the earthquake.

In the weeks after the earthquake, I struggled emotionally and spiritually. Emotionally, I sought to protect and console some of those who cautiously approached me with words of concern and comfort. Others who caught me when I hurt the most heard the real story of my grief and unexplainable resentment. Essentially, I felt and conveyed that this earthquake was adding insult to centuries of trauma in Haiti that began with the slaughter of millions of natives, continued with the horror and atrocity that is slavery, and culminated in centuries of poor despotic leadership. Spiritually, I struggled to understand God’s personalized love for me, because I viewed myself as only one insignificant dot among those whom He had so harshly struck through the earthquake.

I rejected opportunities to “give a voice to the Haitian survivors” by speaking to various representatives of the press. I felt it was not my place to represent millions of deceased and hurting people when I was ostensibly safe and comfortable in my house on Academic Circle. So, I accepted a challenge that my daughter had offered two consecutive years before the earthquake: I took a service trip to Mission Discovery to help orphans impacted by the earthquake. It was a week-long trip that lasted from April 12-17, 2010.

Mission Discovery is a Christian organization whose mission is, “To serve Jesus Christ by mobilizing the church to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the world’s poor.” Regardless of one’s opinion of this mission statement, my perception is that the organization has made a positive impact in the lives of a score of orphans in Haiti. For instance, Mission Discovery’s HOLD the children (Htc) program, based in La Vaud, Port de Paix, Haiti, involves both an education-based child sponsorship program and a 62-bed orphanage designed to provide a safe-haven for Haiti’s orphans and restaveks (child slaves). As such, it has the potential to empower and enable the school and the residents of the orphanage to better serve the needs of the surrounding community.

I saw a lot of pain during the service trip at the orphanage. At least three children whose parents had died in the earthquake were brought on a day that I served at the orphanage, including Sendi (pictured below) whose mother died in the earthquake and whose injured father could no longer care for him. Sendi was initially quiet and would speak to no one, but he cautiously approached me and touched my knee. I had to ask him to repeat several times what he was trying to tell me because although he seemed to breathe heavily and to push his speech with all his might, I could not hear his words. Finally, I heard, “I was in Port au Prince when the thing happened. My mother is dead, and my father sent me up here with this man so I can go to school, He is injured and can’t take care of me.” They had traveled a day’s journey to get to the orphanage.

Perhaps most devastating was the sight of children who gathered around the hotel walls as we headed to and from
were yellow with disease, and their lips blanched from thirst and hunger. They patted their stomachs and called out, “Mami, Mami, hungry, hungry.” These children had already lived the trauma of extreme poverty before the earthquake, and there is no sustainable relief in sight. Their stark nakedness and hopelessness contrasted sharply with the luxuriant beauty of the overfished ocean which smashed against the rocks below the hotel.

Once we had given all the money and pre-packaged food we had and they kept coming and bringing new kids, who moaned dejectedly, “Mwen pa jwenn,” “I didn’t get any,” I felt completely helpless and hopeless. I realized that we were barely making a dent. I resolved to return to ASU and help raise funds to bring more supplies and donations next year.

The orphanage itself was surrounded by a large and tall gate, and an armed guard is perpetually posted there to keep out children who desire to take part in the games within the gate and to share the corn meal and beans that the residents of the orphanage have access to on a regular basis.

One day on the way back from the orphanage, I witnessed two young boys of about 7 years of age fighting and hitting each other viciously. The cause of their fight was a white plastic spoon that they had noticed in the mud at about the same time. When the spoon was removed from both of them, they fought ever more viciously, each blaming each other for the loss that they suffered. I realized that neither child had a spoon of his own at home, and remembered that my own childhood had been the same. I wondered how I had managed to escape the fate of the orphans and of the children who “lived” near the hotel. I remembered that my mother’s friend had helped her to reach the United States and opportunity. Subsequently, she had helped her siblings obtain visas and passports so that they too could travel to the land of opportunity.

### Bunny Jackson Ringer

Bunny (Jackson) Ringer, 71, formerly of Stuttgart, died October 28, 2010. She worked in the healthcare profession in the cities of Stuttgart, Searcy, and Conway and had a deep admiration of those in the nursing profession which resulted in the encouragement of both of her daughters becoming nurses. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorials be made to Arkansas State University College of Nursing and Health Professions, PO Box 910, State University, AR 72467 where a memorial scholarship for excellence in nursing is intended. If you have interest in making a contribution, please send to the address noted above.

### CNHP Capital Campaign

2008-2010 Fundraising Period

$10 M Goal

### Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health: Interdisciplinary Approaches

Arkansas State University Title IV-E Academic Partnership for Public Child Welfare will present infant & Early Childhood Mental Health: Interdisciplinary Approaches on February 10, 2011, 12:30-4:45 at the ASU Student Union Auditorium. Please call 870-972-3055 to register. For more information contact Karen Fullen at kfullen@astate.edu.

### CD Students defend theses

In November of 2010, the following graduate students in Communication Disorders successfully defended their theses:

- Amy McKinney, “The Efficacy of a Supplementary Literacy Program for Kindergarten.” (Committee- Dr. Rick Neeley, Dr. Mike McDaniel, Dr. Jane Marie Dewailly, and Dr. Sherri Lovelace, chair.)
- Crystal McDaniel, “Speech Pathologists’ Application of Learning Styles During Clinical Intervention.” (Committee-

Dr. Sherri Lovelace chair, Dr. David Cox, Dr. Mike McDaniel, and Dr. Rick Neeley.)

- Mary Hannah Pulliam, “The Impact of an AAC Device, Using the LAMP Approach, on an Individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder.” (Committee- Dr. Mike McDaniel, chair, Dr. Bill Hinkle, Ms. Tisha Pierce, Dr. Rick Neeley.)
- Brandi Messer Worthington, “The Impact of Multiple Viewings of Educational Television Programming on Young Children’s Acquisition of Basic Concepts And Social Interaction Skills.” (Committee- Dr. Mike McDaniel, chair, Dean Susan Hanrahan, Dr. Julie Lamb-Milligan, Dr. Sherri Lovelace, and Dr. Rick Neeley.)

Ms. Emily Terry, graduate student in Communication Disorders, is the 2011 recipient of the George Herndon Graduate Scholarship in Communication Disorders. Miss Keshia Berrong was selected by the Communication Disorders faculty to receive the Jane H. LeBlanc Graduate Clinical Scholarship in Communication Disorders.

### PT Faculty & Students Active in Local Community

by Dr Patricia King

PT Department Faculty & Students continue to be actively involved in the local community. Becky Keith, Stacey Sloas, and Shannon Tripod led physical therapist assistant students in participating in the United Way Day of Caring this fall. This is the seventh year for the PTA Program to participate in the Day of Caring event. Physical therapist and physical therapist assistant students participated in Kickball for Special Needs Children sponsored by Sensational Kids in Jonesboro. This is the fourth year for students to volunteer for kickball. Todd Whitehead is coordinating DPT student volunteers at NEA’s Center for Healthy Children and Roy Aldridge continues to coordinate student volunteers who provide services at the ASU Hippotherapy center. The PT Student Association, led by President Helen Grimes SPT and Secretary Heather Colvin, SPT and Faculty Advisor Roy Aldridge carried out another successful 5K Run this fall with a record breaking number of runners and walkers participating.