

Southern Connections



2003 SNRS Award Highlights

The formal recognition of the research accomplishments and achievements of the members of the Southern Nursing Research Society is one of the highlights of the annual conference. This year, the Board of SNRS was delighted to make several awards. First, Dr. Diane Holditch-Davis, Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received the Distinguished Researcher Award for outstanding contributions to our understanding of preterm infants and to the scientific basis for good nursing care of our smallest citizens. The contributions of Dr. Ann Horgas, Professor at the University of Florida, to the field of gerontological nursing were recognized as she was awarded the Hartford Institute's Geriatric Nursing Award. Dr. Kathleen Sawin, Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond received the Leadership in Research Award. The work of each of these individuals leading to these awards is described in this issue of *Southern Connections*. The D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award was given to Dr. Charlotte Ward-Larson, Associate Professor at Union University in Tennessee, for her conference paper, "The efficacy of facilitated sucking for relieving procedural pain of endotracheal suctioning in very low birth weight infants." Congratulations to each of these researchers for their notable achievements and contributions!

The graduate poster session provides another opportunity to recognize the efforts of the Society's newest members—

our novice researchers. This year, the competition was intense and resulted in five awards. Two honorable mention awards were given: one to Vicki Bingham from the University of Alabama at Birmingham for her poster, "Spirituality: a part of family management styles for Parkinson patients and their families," and one to Susan Rasmussen from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for her poster, "Adherence to protocol: Delivering the right dose." The third place poster award (and a prize of \$50) was given to a second-time poster winner, Stewart Bond from UNC Chapel Hill, for his poster, "A comparison of delirium in hospitalized older cancer and non-cancer patients." The \$75 second prize was given to Cathy Dunn, Belmont University School of Nursing, for her poster entitled "Initial perceptions of quality of life in assisted living." The first place poster award and a \$100 prize were won by Leah Bailiff, University of Louisville, for her poster, "Cerebral blood flow and pain in two pre-term infants." Congratulations to these graduate students as they demonstrate excellence early in their research careers!

Awards for graduate posters would not be possible without the efforts of reviewers. This year's reviewers, led by Dr. Debra Wallace, included: Dr. Inez Tuck, Dr. Muriel Rice, Dr. Pamela Ark, Dr. Martha Tingen, Dr. Martha Alligood, Dr. Lou Gramling, Dr. Lazelle Benefield, Dr. Lynne Hall and Dr. Kathy Kolar. Tellers were Ms. Patricia Crane and Dr. Susan Letvak. Thanks to each of these individuals for their time and effort.

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Southern Connections

FROM THE EDITOR

We hope you will enjoy this issue of Southern Connections. We are beginning an effort to update Southern Connection's "look" through a variety of design features. This post-conference issue focuses on award winners and reports from our annual meeting in Orlando. We also are excited to welcome the first installment of The Doctoral Student Corner. The newsletter will be posted on the SNRS web site as well as delivered in hard copy to members. We are interested in your feedback about this dual distribution plan. Please send comments, suggestions and feedback on this issue of Southern Connections to Patty Gray, Editor (ptgray@sc.vcu.edu).



MESSAGE FROM THE SNRS PRESIDENT

The 17th annual SNRS Conference in Orlando was a huge success with our largest attendance ever for an annual conference. We had approximately 573 registrants. Dr. Marge Miles and the local planning committee, chaired by Dr. Jan Peterson, are to be congratulated for the exceptional conference. I also wish to recognize the contributions of our management team, Dr. Buddy Herrington and his staff, from University of Texas at Arlington. They did an exceptional job of organizing the conference. The pilot testing of Power Point for podium presentations was a success and will be continued at future conferences. I invite you to make plans to attend and submit abstracts for the next conference to be held in Louisville, Kentucky February 19-21, 2004. The call for abstracts has already been mailed and the abstracts are due May 15, 2003. If you did not receive the abstract forms, please check our web site (www.snrs.org) or contact the University of Texas at Arlington, (817) 272-2778, to request the information.



An outstanding annual conference...remarkable and committed service by outgoing Board members...opportunities for funding...approval of Bylaws changes...dues increase...opportunities to honor and recognize our members.

New officers and board members were inducted at the annual conference. Please find the contact information for the entire Board elsewhere in the Newsletter. Outgoing officers and board members were also recognized. On behalf of the SNRS membership, I want to extend our thanks to Drs. Marge Miles, Michele Salisbury, and Jeri Duncan for all of their contributions on the board for the previous two years.

The membership approved by-laws changes and dues increase at the annual conference. The dues increase will become effective on July 1, 2003. The dues will increase to \$75 for regular members and to \$50 for student members. All of the Board members' annual reports will be posted on our website.

I hope that many will take advantage of our small grants program; applications are due April 1 of each year. We award two \$2000 grants. Information related to the grant applications may be found on our web site. SNRS also funds an American Nurses Foundation (ANF) grant. Information for this funding opportunity is found on our web site. The due date for the ANF application is May 1, 2003. We are the only regional research society to fund a grant for our members through ANF.

Please consider nominating a fellow SNRS member for one of our numerous awards. It is a goal of SNRS to honor and recognize our members. It is very sad that we did not have nominations for all of our awards again this year. I encourage you to submit nominations. Additional information about awards is posted on our website and a summary of available awards is found in this issue of Southern Connections.

I look forward to continue serving as your President next year and to working with the new Governing Board. The Governing Board members are a highly committed group and together we hope to continue to foster the growth in SNRS while preserving our strong mentoring and scholarly research core. Have an enjoyable spring and send in those abstracts and award nominations!

2003 CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS



The 2003 annual SNRS conference was another record-breaking meeting with 573 registrants—the largest number yet to register for this annual event. The meeting was held at the spacious Rosen Centre in sunny and warm Orlando, Florida. We were welcomed to Orlando by Dr. Mary Lou Sole, Interim Director at the host school, University of Central Florida. The theme of the conference was **Research Mentoring**. Dr. Cornelia Beck, University of Arkansas, gave the keynote address, entitled “Mixed Metaphors for Mentoring.” Dr. Beck helped us imagine having already achieved substantial outcomes as a result of effective mentoring programs and challenged us to create and enact such programs. She also reminded everyone that mentoring and being mentored are lifelong opportunities. Dr. Beverly Robinson, University of Texas-San Antonio and Dr. Donna Hathaway, University of Tennessee, Memphis then responded to the keynote address. Questions from the enthusiastic audience were addressed.

Eleven symposia, 96 papers, and over 125 posters plus 130 graduate posters were presented by members of SNRS. Topics crossed the life span from preterm infants to the elderly and included aspects of health promotion, chronic and acute illness management and care of the dying. There also were many methodological symposia and papers. For the first time this year, we had two regular poster sessions to allow us to accept more posters and to allow participants more time to review them. The posters were also clustered thematically. The second research ethics presentation was on Emerging Issues in Data Integrity, Management, Safety and Monitoring by Dr. Karen Hassey Dow, University of Central Florida, and Patrick McNees, Global Health Security Network, Inc.

Once again the program included a funding panel, a roundtable opportunity to meet the editors, research interest group roundtables, and an NINR roundtable. A preconference workshop focused on

The conference registration was a record-breaking 573. Eleven symposia, 96 papers, and over 125 posters plus 130 graduate posters were presented by members of SNRS.

“Cultivating Scholarship after the PhD.” SNRS was excited to serve as the host for the first National Institute of Nursing Research workshop on “Advancing your R01 into a Program of Research.” The Doctoral Student Mentoring Marketplace was very exciting with four workshops plus a special “Writing a Successful NRSA” workshop that was developed by student members.

A NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT: Putting this program together is an awesome and complex process. I wish to thank the local program committee, particularly, Janice Peterson, chair, and Karen Dow, co-chair and abstract review chair. Maureen Covelli was responsible for the student posters and

Glenn Hagerstrom coordinated the hospitality efforts. I also wish to thank all of the abstract reviewers who worked with them. Finally, I thank the program committee which included: Janice Peterson, University of South Florida, Local Planning Chair (LPC); Elizabeth Reifsnider, University of Texas-San Antonio (past LPC); Linda H. Freeman, University of Louisville (2004 LPC); Carolyn Yucha, University of Florida; Joe Burrage, University of Alabama Birmingham; and Mona Newsome Wicks, University of Tennessee Memphis, members at large, and Martina Gallagher, University of Texas-San Antonio, doctoral student member. What an awesome group!

Margaret S. Miles, UNC Chapel Hill, VP, and Chair, Program Committee

Next year’s program will be hosted by the University of Louisville, in Louisville, Kentucky. We are very excited by the hotel arrangements and are already working with the local planning committee to make the 2004 meeting even better (if that is possible). Thanks again to members of the 2003 Conference Local Planning Committee: Janice Peterson, Chair, Karen Dow, Maureen Covelli, Glenn Hagerstrom, Emma Brown, Jacqueline Byers, Angela Bushy, Patricia Connell, Karen Dennis, Linda Hennig, Lygie Holcomb, Jean Kiject, Barbara Lang, Elizabeth Rash, Judith Ruland, Frances Smith, Mary Lou Sole, Linda Speranza and Diane Wink.





DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER AWARD

DIANE HOLDITCH-DAVIS, Ph.D., FAAN

IDENTIFICATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL RISK IN INFANTS WITH MEDICAL PROBLEMS: A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH

I am pleased to receive the SNRS Distinguished Researcher Award at a conference whose theme is mentoring. Mentoring was essential to my development. Joellen Hawkins and Carol Daisy, during my masters program encouraged me to get a doctorate. Consequently, while still in my masters program, I enrolled in a PhD program in developmental psychobiology. In my dissertation, using data from Evelyn Thoman's Connecticut Longitudinal Project, I first became interested in how the interactions of premature infants with their mothers might affect their development. Evelyn also gave me the mother-infant systems conceptual framework that I use to guide my studies to this day.

Since joining the faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill, my career has benefited from other mentors and colleagues. All my studies have had their origins in discussions with Sandy Funk. Margarete Sandelowski, my first collaborator, provided me with the opportunity to perfect my skills in observing mother-infant interactions. Most of all, I want to acknowledge Margaret Miles. Marge has been the best type of a mentor, one who allowed her role to evolve to that of an equal partner.

With the help of these individuals and others, my program of research has followed four threads: identifying parental psychological distress, developing measures of biological risk, predicting developmental outcomes, and improving developmental outcomes. I have explored these threads in different populations of high-risk infants and

particularly in premature infants. These threads are important because about 50% of high-risk preterm infants show developmental problems by school age. However, prediction of outcome for individuals is currently impossible because child development is due to both the child's neurological competencies and the ongoing interaction of the child with the social environment. Medically at-risk infants may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of an unsupportive environment. For example, we found that cognitive development in infants of HIV-positive mothers was in the normal range in the first year of life but decreased in the second year probably due to poverty.

With the help of Marge Miles, Sandy Funk, Margarete Sandelowski, Evelyn Thoman and many others, my program of research has followed four threads: identifying parental psychological distress, developing measures of biological risk, predicting developmental outcomes, and improving developmental outcomes.

The major focus of my research is on developing measures of biological risk in premature infants. I have chosen to examine the development of sleeping and waking. Sleep and waking require integration of neuronal populations from the brain stem to the cerebral cortex. I have conducted two longitudinal studies to explore the possibility that the sleep-wake development may be a marker of brain functioning. In both studies, we used the general linear mixed model to calculate developmental patterns for each

behavior. The mixed model estimates the group developmental patterns plus each individual's deviations in slopes and intercepts from the group pattern in a single statistic. The predicted developmental patterns were quite similar in the two studies.

Another focus of my research program is on identifying parental psychological distress. For example, we found that mothers of preterm infants have elevated depressive symptoms and that the level of depressive symptoms was more closely related to maternal characteristics than to infant illness severity. Mothers of premature infants may also develop post-traumatic stress disorder. When the infant was 6 months corrected age, most mothers reported intrusive thoughts, avoiding reminders of the NICU, and heightened arousal, indicated by overprotection of the infant or generalized anxiety.

Finally, I am interested in predicting developmental outcomes. For example, we found that although parenting is unrelated to development in the first year in healthy infants, parenting is correlated with Bayley Mental Development Inventory in medically fragile infants and this relationship is stronger for infants with neurological problems.

Increasingly, my current and future research is focusing on improving the developmental outcomes of high-risk children. In two new studies, I am involved in testing interventions to improve parenting and thus the developmental outcomes of infants. In addition, I am now on the other side of mentoring relationships, and my mentees will continue to be involved in the future of nursing science.

LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH AWARD

KATHLEEN SAWIN, DNS, RN, CS, FAAN



Kathleen Sawin, DNS, RN, FAAN, Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, was awarded the 2003 SNRS Leadership in Research Award. During her career, she has provided leadership to the research efforts of several nursing organizations, most notably SNRS and the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses. Additionally, she has provided leadership through her own program of research and through the application of research by facilitating the development of

national standards of nursing practice. Dr. Sawin has served in numerous capacities within SNRS. Perhaps her most lasting

impact was as the Vice President for two terms (1993-1997). With Dr. Sawin's leadership as Program Committee Chair, the organization moved from an institution based local planning committee structure to an organization-wide program planning committee. Dr. Sawin served with Dr. Beth



Dr. McSweeney and Dr. Sawin

Collins (SNRS), Drs. Patricia Grady and Lynn Amende (NINR) as the members of the planning committee for the National Nursing Research Roundtable in 1997. The NINR State of the Science conferences grew out of the National Nursing Research Roundtable activities.

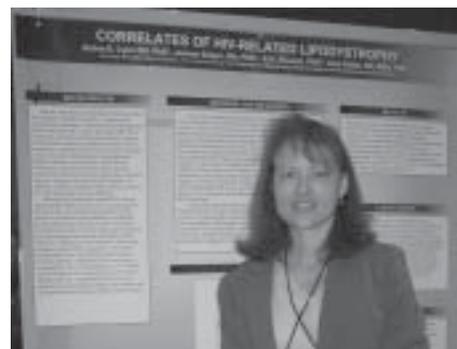
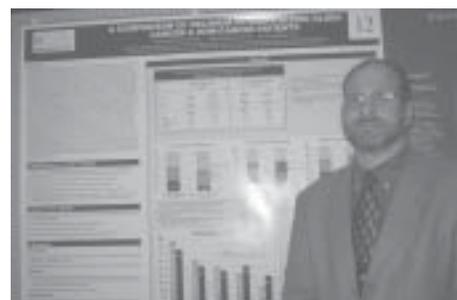
In addition to her activities facilitating research in SNRS, Dr. Sawin has been actively involved in promoting research in her specialty organization, the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN). Dr. Sawin has

been the Vice-Chair and Chair of the Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation (RNF), the research arm of ARN. In this capacity, she provided leadership to three research symposia sponsored

by RNF. She was a member of a task force which identified research priorities for rehabilitation nursing. Under her guidance, RNF also designed a database for research synthesis and undertook the development of its first evidence-based guideline which subsequently was published.

Dr. Sawin has been a leader in the development of national standards of practice through both ARN and the American Nurses Association. Her contributions have been recognized both by the National Academies of Practice and the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Sawin's program of research has addressed adaptation outcomes in individuals with disabilities or chronic conditions as well as outcomes of their families. She has a special interest in exploring resilience and protective processes in children, adolescents and women.

POSTER SESSION SCENES





HARTFORD INSTITUTE GERIATRIC NURSING AWARD

ANN L. HORGAS, RN, PH.D

Dr. Ann Horgas has developed a program of research that she describes as community based and focusing on pain in late life and its relationship to cognitive functioning, physical functioning, and mental health. Her work, largely with elders residing in long-term care settings, is heavily influenced by her training in adult development and aging and lifespan developmental psychology. She goes on to state: "My research is at the interface of the clinical sciences and the social and behavioral sciences."

All of Dr. Horgas' research work has direct implications for the care of elderly adults, particularly concerning issues of pain and pain management. This is a problem that affects approximately 75% of the community-dwelling elderly population and has direct implications for quality of life and functioning. Additionally, care providers, especially those in nursing homes, often lack the

largely due to memory losses associated with dementia. To date, there is no scientific evidence to indicate that elders with dementia feel less pain. She emphasizes: "We need better tools to assess pain, including the observation of objective, pain behaviors. This work has implications for pain management in other populations of elders who are less able to verbally report the presence of pain, such as those with aphasia or other disorders."

Moreover, Dr. Horgas has been active in translating her research into educational experiences for all levels of health care providers. She has been directly involved in developing training programs to help nursing assistants provide better care to nursing home residents. She has also engaged students across educational levels and disciplines and helped them to apply skills and information towards improving care for elderly adults.

In summary, Dr. Horgas is committed to



Dr. McSweeney, Dr. Horgas and Dr. Martin

Pain affects approximately 75% of community dwelling elders and reduces quality of life and functioning. Pain management knowledge and skills of care providers of the elderly are often inadequate.

knowledge and skill to effectively manage pain in this vulnerable population. Thus, her recent work has focused on developing strategies for assessing pain among elders with cognitive impairment.

Although cognitively-impaired elders verbally report less pain, this may be

improving the lives of elderly adults—vulnerable and often overlooked members of our society—by more effectively managing their pain, by improving their memory or functioning, and by educating their care providers and the next generation of researchers.

Interested in reading more?

Selected references from the work of Dr. Ann Horgas:

- Horgas AL. Dunn K. Pain in nursing home residents: comparison of residents' self report and nursing assistants' perceptions. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* 27(3):44-53, 2001.
- Horgas AL. Margrett JA. Measuring behavioral and mood disruptions in nursing home residents using the Minimum Data Set. *Outcomes Management for Nursing Practice*. 5(1):28-35, 2001.
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- Horgas AL. Wilms H. Baltis MM. Daily life in very old age: everyday activities as expression of successful living. *Gerontologist*. 38(5):556-68, 1998.
- Horgas AL. Tsai P. Analgesic drug prescription and use in cognitively impaired nursing home residents. *Nursing Research*. 47(4):235-42, 1998.
- Horgas AL. Prescription drug use and drug-drug interactions in nursing homes: prevalence, predictors and health outcomes. Doctoral dissertation: The Pennsylvania State University. 1992.
- Cohn MD. Horgas AL. Marsiske M. Behavioral management training for nurse aides: is it effective? *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. 16(11):21-5, 1990 Nov.

BYLAWS CHANGES APPROVED

BY JENNEL CHARLES, AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER,
BYLAWS AND POLICY AND PROCEDURES CHAIR



The following bylaws changes were approved at the annual SNRS Business Meeting held on Friday, Feb. 14, 2003 in Orlando, Florida. The changes included adding an expanded scope for the bylaws committee (policy and procedures) and adding a Communications Committee and Newsletter Subcommittee, including specification of their responsibilities. See www.snrs.org for the complete revised bylaws.

Change #1: (name change of Bylaws Committee and addition of new Communications Committee)

- A. Bylaws and Policy/Procedures Committee
- B. Finance Committee
- C. Nominating Committee
- D. Program Committee, and
- E. Communication Committee

Change #2: (editorial and expansion of duties)

Article XI: Standing Committees,
Section 3. Bylaws and Policy/Procedure Committee

A. The Bylaws and Policy/Procedure Committee shall be composed of a Chair, who is a member-at-large of the governing board, and two members appointed by the Governing Board. (includes change in title & rewording of description)

B. The duties of the Bylaws and Policy/Procedure Committee shall be to review the Bylaws, policies and procedures of the Society, prepare requisite amendment, and present them to the members for action. (includes change in title and expansion of duties regarding policies and procedures)

Change #3: (description of duties for new committee and subcommittee).

Article XI: Standing Committees,
Section 7. Communications Committee

A. The SNRS Communications Committee shall be composed of the Chairperson, who is a member of the Governing Board, four members from general membership appointed by the Governing Board, one student member appointed by the Governing Board, the outgoing chairperson of the Communications Committee, and three ex-officio members (the editor of SOJNR, the

managing editor of SOJNR, and the Southern Connections Newsletter editor).

B. A subcommittee shall be the Newsletter Subcommittee and shall be chaired by the Newsletter Editor. The Governing Board shall appoint the Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter Editor may appoint 2 members to this subcommittee.

C. The Communications Committee's responsibilities shall be to:

1. Initiate, develop, evaluate, and revise policies and procedures for the SNRS Communications Committee.
2. Recommend and initiate annual changes to the website on an "as need" basis to the Governing Board.
3. Review and recommend issues related to website information and/or web site design and submit these recommendations to the President and Governing Board.
4. Evaluate and propose changes necessary to maintain an efficient and effective web site.
5. Review and recommend any changes in the quantity and content covered in the Southern Connections newsletter.
6. Recommend procedures regarding cost and use of advertisement in SOJNR, the Southern Connections newsletter, and SNRS website.

D. The Newsletter Subcommittee's responsibilities shall be to:

1. Compile and format information for the Southern Connections newsletter.
2. Submit information to printer.
3. Critique and evaluate Southern Connections newsletter prior to final printing.





THE DOCTORAL STUDENT CORNER

BY BECKY BONUGLI

Please welcome to the pages of Southern Connections a new feature, the Doctoral Student Corner, and its editor, Becky Bonugli. Ms. Bonugli, a doctoral student at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio says: *"This column was conceived by the Ad Hoc Communication Committee with the intent of increasing dialogue among doctoral students in SNRS. With this is mind, it is our hope you participate with us in the evolution of this column. Many thanks to Patty Gray for her support, guidance and patience as this project unfolded."*

Perhaps the best way to begin this column is to ask a question to stimulate thought and dialogue. So here it is: "Just what happens to a doctoral student from the first day of contemplating taking on this educational endeavor to the day we all await, the successful defense of our dissertations?"

Yes, this is a loaded question but one I think is important to consider for several reasons. First, as a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, I believe insight and self-awareness are essential for personal growth. Secondly, I am acutely aware of changes in the way I perceive and respond to professional and personal life experiences directly attributable to the doctoral education experience. Consequently this led me to explore the literature related to this topic. What I found confirmed what I felt and experienced but had not articulated and is outlined below.

How is the experience of doctoral education described? Early studies, done primarily with women, reveal the experience as having negative impacts

on the lives of the participants. van Dongen's (1988) qualitative study identified themes of change, loss, stress, vulnerability and uncertainty experienced by women during doctoral education. A later study focused on stress management strategies for doctoral students (Kenty, 2000). A qualitative study by Gray, Grams, Kosowski, Dorman, Pless, Davis & Sims (1997) explored women's experiences of being doctoral students. The authors capture the essence of the experience of being a doctoral student and metaphorically describe it as the "spiral processes of becoming." The authors identify three components of the processes: confidence, support and self-discovery. This description captures the fluidity of a process characterized by numerous paradoxes resulting in growth and expansion of our awareness affecting all aspects of our lives.

Conceptualizing the doctoral experience as a process is significant as the term implies movement and change. This movement is

*And how meaningful is
a word of praise coming
from a valued mentor!*

both forward and backward. We have all experienced success and failure, stress and euphoria, self-doubt and overwhelming self-confidence during this educational experience. How many times you have asked yourself "Why am I doing this?" only to realize how much you would miss the enthusiasm and rush you experience as research findings unfold and insights are gained! Are we gluttons for punishment or as Heinrich, Coffin-Romig, Bennett (1998) identified as "passionate scholars"?

As we elect to pursue this path, maybe we must be both gluttons for punishment and passionate scholars. I qualify the former

when I experience an inordinate amount of stress and run for the chocolate as I attempt to balance multiple roles and responsibilities while digesting copious amounts of thought provoking information! However most of us persevere (with or without the support of family, significant others, friends, peers and faculty) as we progress through our programs in the process of becoming passionate scholars. Self-confidence may wax and wane in response to internal and external factors. Who can forget the anticipation and doubt as we went through our interviews and awaited notification of admission?

Self-discovery involves growth and thoughtful reflection leading to new interpretations and meanings in both our professional and personal lives (Gray et al., 1997). How vividly I recall the dialogue with my peers regarding feminism or grappling with questions such as "Is there only one truth?" This type of interchange is challenging and stimulating leading to increased awareness and growth.

Resonating throughout this process is connectedness. In my cohort, consisting of a culturally diverse group of women, of varied ages, and geographically separated from the southernmost tip of Texas to the northern plains of the panhandle, there is a very strong feeling of connectedness. I clearly remember the first day we met at orientation, all strangers, and feeling very overwhelmed by what now had become a reality. We questioned ourselves as to the wisdom of selecting this path. We were frightened and at the same time excited. It was on this day that we made an agreement we would support one another and finish the program. We continue to work towards that goal today. Through many ups and downs, both personal and professional, we remain bonded.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

UPDATES ON MEMBERSHIP AND RESEARCH INTEREST GROUPS



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE by JERI DUNKIN, Ph.D., RN, Outgoing At-Large Board Member

SNRS currently has 1195 members. The total membership number is down slightly from last year; however, membership of students has increased over the past 12 months, from 28% to 33% of the total membership.

A survey related to membership benefits was included in the Fall 2002 newsletter. Those members who returned the survey indicated that the most important benefits were the network of research colleagues, followed by the annual conference, and the web page. The least important benefits were discussion groups, the membership brochure, and the reduced subscription rate to RINAH.

RESEARCH INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE by JENNEL CHARLES, Ph.D., RN, At-Large Board Member, RIGS Coordinator

The Research Interest Groups (RIGs) met twice during the 2003 Annual Conference. Based on attendance at the RIG meetings, interest lay largely in the substantive areas of: Aging/Gerontology, Perinatal/Neonatal, Family and Parent/Child/Adolescent Health. Methodological areas of greatest interest were those of Qualitative, Biobehavioral, and Research in Clinical Settings.

Suggestions were made to combine Family with Parent/Child/Adolescent Health; and Stress and Coping with Social Support. Other suggestions included: (a) identify a group facilitator for each RIG, (b) choose a focus for discussion for each RIG throughout the year, (c) develop a list serve of the RIG members to facilitate ongoing networking and dialogue among RIG participants, and (d) invite an expert/nurse leader within each of the RIG areas to discuss research and

funding opportunities during the RIG sessions.

There is much concern among the membership about the Research Interest Groups, with interest in reevaluating the goals, structure, and process of the RIGs. I invite you to email me your suggestions, ideas and concerns at mntreat@aol.com. I look forward to sharing your feedback with the members of the SNRS Governing Board.



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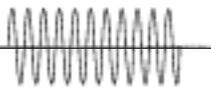
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• **Issue 1, Vol. 3, 2002**

Women's Experiences During the First Year Following Diagnosis of Breast Cancer.

MA Lyons, SS Jacobson, B Prescott, D Oswalt

• **Issue 2, Vol. 3, 2002**

Leadership Frames of Nursing Chairpersons and the Organizational Climate in Baccalaureate Nursing Programs. NR Mosser, RT Walls

• **Issue 3, Vol. 3, 2002**

An Exploratory Study of Supportive Communication During Shift Report. MM Hays

• **Issue 4, Vol. 3, 2002**

Smoking Patterns Among Rural Elderly. RC Stotts, CK Smith

• **Issue 5, Vol. 3, 2002**

Food Choice in the Rural Dwelling Older Adult. S Souter, CS Keller

• **Issue 1, Vol. 4, 2003**

Gender Differences in Goal Setting for HIV Prevention among College Students. JE Soet, C Dilorio, W Dudley, TM Woodring

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

RECOGNIZE YOUR COLLEAGUES!

The following is a listing of awards given by SNRS, along with a brief description of the award and due dates for the nomination packet. Complete directions for preparing and submitting nomination packets can be found at www.snrs.org

Members are encouraged to participate in the awards process by submitting nominations of those who are eligible for the various awards. Members may nominate themselves or others. Though we have many outstanding and accomplished members, each year some awards are not given due to lack of nominations. Please help us bring visibility and recognition to the achievements of our members!

Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of an individual whose established program of research has enhanced the science and practice of geriatric nursing in the Southern region. The completed nomination packet must be received by October 15, 2003.

Award for Research in Minority Health

The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of an individual or group conducting and/or promoting research that has significance for improving the health care of minorities and other under-represented groups in the Southern region. The completed nomination packet must be received by September 15, 2003.

Leadership in Research Award

This award is to recognize outstanding leadership, contribution, or promotion of nursing and health care research. This award is bestowed on an intermittent basis at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Nominations may be made at any time.

Distinguished Researcher Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of an individual whose established program of research has enhanced the science and practice of nursing in the Southern region. The completed nomination packet must be received by September 15, 2003.

D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of a researcher who has enhanced the science and practice of nursing in the Southern region. Candidates for this award are those who have had their paper or poster abstracts accepted for presentation at the SNRS annual conference. Completed submissions must be received by November 1, 2003.

THE DOCTORAL STUDENT CORNER

BY BECKY BONUGLI (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)



One might assume because we are using distance learning via live telecast we would not have the closeness afforded in a traditional classroom setting. The geographical distance diminishes because of our connectedness and the camaraderie we share. This connectedness provides a foundation for mutual respect and trust.

Doctoral education is a unique experience filled with challenges that are frustrating, invigorating, and ultimately growth enhancing. And this is what this column is all about. It is intended to be our space to share and connect with one another as we engage in the spiral processes of becoming passionate scholars!

Please contact Becky Bonugli at bonugli@uthscsa.edu

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STATE LIAISONS

There are 14 states in the Society region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. In 1991 the boundaries were expanded to include the Caribbean, Latin America and the Bahamas. Additionally, members who move out of the region sometimes elect to remain a member of SNRS. Thus, you will see a State Liaison from Oklahoma. State Liaisons are the first contact for members with suggestions, questions, or concerns. They assist with member recruitment and follow-up of non-renewing members.

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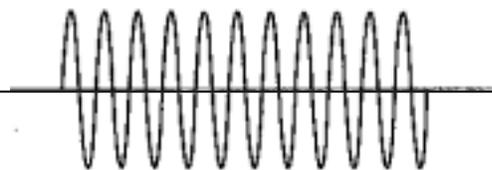
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Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research

Call for Manuscripts

Research reports related to the knowledge base and practice of nursing are invited. Articles dealing with instrumentation and methodology are also sought. Listed in CINAHL, accessible to all at SNRS website. Author guidelines and examples of format are found at <http://snrs.org/members/author-information.html>

Submit manuscripts or inquiries to:



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