



Hope Lives!

WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES

Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health



Voices of African American Health

A Photographic Exhibition
November 5th -
December 22, 2006

Delta Arts Center
Winston-Salem, NC

Fall 2006

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Inside this issue:

Director's Note	2
Upcoming Events	2
Research Update	3
Advisory Board Focus	4
Development Corner	4
Faculty / Staff Update	4
Spotlight	5
SNMA	5

In collaboration with Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts, Inc., the Angelou Research Center undertook a distinctive photojournalism project entitled *Voices of African American Health* in January 2006. The project, funded by The Society for the Arts in Healthcare in conjunction with Johnson & Johnson, empowers participants to tell their unique stories of living with chronic illness. Moreover, the project serves to educate the community at-large about the national tragedy of racial and ethnic health disparities.

Twenty-four African Americans from Forsyth and surrounding counties participated in the study. A range of health conditions were represented, including hypertension, diabetes, cancer, mental illness, and infant mortality. Participants suffered from chronic disease themselves, served as a caretaker for

another person with a chronic illness, or both. To learn basic techniques of photography and journaling, participants met with renowned photographer Michael Cunningham and Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estés, celebrated writer, poet, and psychoanalyst. Participants were then provided with four disposable cameras each and allowed one month to document their experiences with illness and the healthcare system. During that month, they also had the opportunity to attend writers' support groups with Vickie Bovender from Winston-Salem Writers.

After one month, participants met for two discussion groups: one to review journal vignettes and one to review photographs. Several themes emerged, including god/religion, support from family and friends, the process of caregiving, nature, emotion, the healthcare system, and coping mechanisms.

In conjunction with our community partner, study personnel selected photographs and corresponding journal vignettes for inclusion in a permanent art exhibit, which will be displayed in the Delta Arts Center (2611 New Walkertown Road) from November to December 2006. The purpose of the exhibit was to raise community awareness and promote critical dialogue regarding minority health and healthcare disparities.

An opening reception for the exhibit was held on Sunday, November 5th at the Delta Arts Center. Over 130 community members, leaders, and service providers attended the reception. Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines and State Representative Larry Womble were in attendance. The event also received media coverage from the *Winston-Salem Journal* and the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*.

Center Staff:

Richard Dean, MD
Interim Director

Ronny Bell, PhD, MS
Interim Associate Director

Alain Bertoni, MD, MPH
Director, Research & Evaluation

Melicia Whitt-Glover, PhD
Director, Community Outreach

Kathy Townsend, MS
Director of Development

David Mount, PsyD
Faculty

Kristen Hairston, MD
Faculty

Jaimie Hunter, MPH
Research Associate

Sarah Fahey
Associate Project Manager

Ti Klingler
Administrative Assistant

Alicia Grayson
Receptionist

Director's Note

The Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health is continuing its commitment to understanding and addressing the myriad of health disparities that affect racial and ethnic minorities in this country. This edition of *Hope Lives* highlights just some of the work being done in the center that is generating some exciting results.

We were very pleased with the turnout for the opening of the photographic exhibit that featured the work of the *Voices of African American Health* project, held on Sunday, November 5th at the Delta Arts Center in Winston-Salem. We invite you to visit the Delta Arts Center to see some of the moving work that came from the project. The exhibit will be open until

December 22nd, 2006.

You can also read about some changes that have recently occurred as we welcome Drs. Ronny Bell, Melicia Whitt-Glover, and Alain Bertoni, and Ms. Kathy Townsend and Ms. Ti Klingler to the ARC team. These folks bring to the center a tremendous amount of experience and energy. Welcome, Ronny, Melicia, Alain, Kathy and Ti!

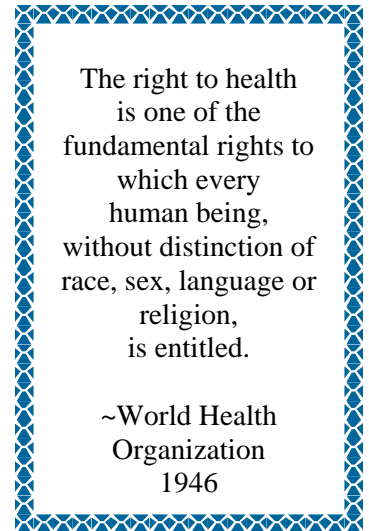
We had a very productive meeting with our National Advisory Board on Saturday, October 21st at the Graylyn International Conference Center in Winston-Salem. We also met with our Regional Board on October 3rd. The Boards provided very helpful comments and suggestions and renewed their commit-

ment to the mission of the ARC. We are fortunate to have such a talented group of people from whom we can draw the insight and wisdom needed to make the center as successful as possible.

We are also preparing for our 3rd National Conference, which will be held in 2008. More details regarding the conference are forthcoming. We look forward to new projects and partnerships in the coming year, both within WFU Baptist Medical Center and with the NC community at large.

Thank you for your support of the ARC and for joining us in the effort to reduce minority health disparities.

**-Richard Dean, MD,
Interim Director**



Upcoming Events

Voices of African American Health: A Photographic Exhibit. On display at the Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem, NC, November 5–December 22, 2006.

4th Annual State Promotora and Community Health Worker Conference: Toward a Healthy and Dignified Life. December 1-2, 2006. Los Angeles, CA. Sponsor: Vision y Compromiso: Promotoras/Community Health Workers Network.

4th U.S. DHHS Region II Healthy People 2010 Summit: Experiences, Accomplishments, and Understanding The Role of Culture in Eliminating

Health Disparities. December 5-6, 2006. Newark, NJ. Sponsor: DHHS Region II, OMH.

Health Action 2007 Conference. *This conference will feature activities at the national, state, and local level to address racial and ethnic health disparities.* January 25-27, 2007. Washington, DC. Sponsor: Families USA.

28th Annual Minority Health Conference: AIDS at 25: It's Time to Deliver. February 23, 2007. Chapel Hill, NC. Sponsor: UNC-CH School of Public Health.

Indian Unity Conference. March 15-17, 2007. Raleigh, NC. Sponsor: United Tribes.

Society for the Arts in Healthcare's Annual Conference: A Composition in Creativity and Caring. April 11-14, 2007. Nashville TN. Sponsor: TheSAH, Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Bridging the Health Care Divide: Research and Programs to Eliminate Cancer Disparities. April 18-20, 2007. New Orleans, LA. Sponsor: American Cancer Society.

3rd Puerto Rican Conference on Public Health: Public Health, Social Justice and Human Rights: The Challenges of a Diverse Society. May 8-10, 2007. San Juan, PR. Sponsor: Society for Public Health Education.

2007 NRHA Annual Conference and Minority and Multicultural Conference. May 14-17, Anchorage, AK. Sponsor: National Rural Health Association.

2007 National Health Education Conference. June 6-9, 2007. Seattle, WA. Sponsor: Society for Public Health Education.

22nd Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on Hypertension and Related Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Ethnic Populations. June 25-27, 2007. Orlando, FL. Sponsor: ISHIB and American Society on Hypertension (ASH).

Research Update

The People's Clinic: A North Carolina Health Education Collaborative

is a three-pronged program designed to address minority health and healthcare disparities across the state of NC. Funded by the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation, the project is a targeted health education initiative in the African American, American Indian, and Latino communities.

Through the Angelou Research Center's (ARC) partnership with the Winston-Salem *Chronicle*, more than 75 weeks of programming have been completed to date. This weekly column addresses major health disparities within the African American community. The project has since been expanded to six

other major African American newspapers in NC: the *Charlotte Post*, the *Carolina Peacemaker*, the *Carolina Times*, the *Carolinian*, *Greater Diversity News*, and the *Wilmington Journal*; plus the *New Journal and Guide* in Norfolk, VA.

The articles rotate covering cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, infant mortality, mental health and asthma. The project team will shortly begin project evaluation for the purpose of determining readership characteristics and changes in behavior as a result of reading the articles.

The American Indian branch of the project is endorsed by the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. The ARC has forged

partnerships across the state with six NC tribes. Focus group research revealed that the best means of disseminating health information to these diverse communities include placing fliers in church bulletins, attending community events, creating public service announcements, placing articles in tribal newsletters, and working with schools and local providers. Action steps are currently being developed to meet the needs of these communities.

The Latino branch of the People's Clinic is entitled *La Clínica del Pueblo*. It is a partnership between the ARC and Que Pasa Media, Inc., and was funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust.

Faculty Research

Eliminating the healthcare gap in our community is a major goal of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. This disparity is quite evident in breast cancer patients. North Carolina Baptist Hospital has received a \$125,000 grant from the Avon Foundation to create a program called the *Survivors in Service (SIS) Navigation Network*, which will target women from the underserved and undertreated African American and Latino communities who are suffering from breast cancer. **Dr. John Stewart, IV** will serve as the medical director for the SIS program. The funds will be used to hire 2 patient navigators, a registered nurse and a social worker, to guide minority breast cancer patients through the healthcare system. **Dr. Scott Rhodes** is serving as Principal Investigator for two projects. *HIV among Rural Latino Gay Men and MSM in the Southeast* (began August 2006): the goal of this NICHD-funded study is to explore the social and sexual networking patterns and behavioral, psychological, and socio-cultural correlates of HIV risk among predominantly Spanish-speaking rural Latino gay and bisexual men and Latino men who have sex with men (MSM); and *Brief Assessments of the Diabetes Synergy Initiative and Active for Life* (began Aug. 2006): the goals of this Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)-funded study are to identify promising opportunities for evaluation and to provide useful mid-stream recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of efforts to reduce obesity among low-income communities.

Hispanic Health Media Project: *La Clínica del Pueblo*

La Clínica del Pueblo (The People's Clinic) is a statewide health education collaboration between the Angelou Research Center and community partner Que Pasa Media, Inc. It was funded in June 2004 by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable trust.

The program includes a weekly one-hour radio program and corresponding newspaper column that addresses four thematic areas: Childhood Health, Adult Health, Safety, and Healthcare Utilization. Program format includes a didactic presentation followed by a call-in question and answer period. Program topics have included diabetes, obesity, CVD, HIV/AIDS, cancer, folic acid, listeria, mental health, domestic violence, carbon

monoxide intoxication, how to find a PCP, how to use Pharmacies, school/gang violence, and driving Safety.

As of November 2006, over 110 consecutive weeks of programming have been completed, and over 700 radio call-ins have been logged. 64% of callers are female, and the callers' average age is 31.4 years.

A Latino healthcare resource guide and a *La Clínica del Pueblo* hotline have been established in the ARC to provide further information to the community. The community resource guide is a compilation of local providers, clinics, and hospitals, providing free or low-cost, culturally competent health care to the NC Latino community. Substance abuse and domestic violence resources and government resources such as Social Services and

Medicare/Medicaid have also been compiled as a part of this community resource guide. The guide was designed not only to be a resource to the listening community of Que Pasa Media, but also to be useful to health care providers seeking referrals for medical care in other parts of NC. Que Pasa Media also retains a copy of the guide.

A survey instrument was also developed to assess program reach and changes in: 1) health literacy, 2) resource utilization, and 3) knowledge regarding available resources. A trained Latino interviewer administered the survey in four targeted areas: Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Raleigh, and Durham. Survey intervals were done at nine (n=148) and 18 (n=150) months. A third survey is planned at 33 months (n = 120). Preliminary data analyses are in progress.

Advisory Board Focus

National Advisory Board Meeting, October 21, 2006

The purpose of this advisory board meeting was to inform members of Center progress during fiscal year 2006 and familiarize them with the breadth and depth of disparities research currently being conducted at the medical school.

Dr. Maya Angelou opened the meeting with an eloquent statement of welcome, sending regards for a member who could not attend and thanking all those in attendance for their continued commitment. Dr. Richard Dean, President and CEO of Wake Forest University Health Sciences and Interim Director of the Angelou

Research Center (ARC), reported on the fundraising results for the Center's two recent events: "An Evening of Healing through Song" (Winston-Salem, NC) and "An Evening with Maya Angelou" (Dallas, TX). He then presented a three-year business plan to the group and discussed the Center's current research studies and community activities. The group engaged in conversation about minority student and faculty recruitment and identified steps that were necessary to move qualified minority faculty into more prominent positions within the institution.

Dr. Ronny Bell, Associate Professor in the Division of Public Health Sciences and

Interim Associate Director of the ARC, presented information about the minority health initiatives currently underway at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, including his own work. Center research and administrative staff were available to provide detailed information about the projects, as appropriate, and to answer questions as needed. Dr. Angelou applauded the ARC team for their "passion" and "commitment."

Following the general session, an executive session was held for board members only. The topics of discussion for this session included a report on appointments and search for a new director and an agenda for fiscal year 2007.

National Advisory Board:

Maya Angelou
Robert J. Brown
Crandall C. Bowles
Richard H. Dean, MD
Clarissa Pinkola Estés, PhD
Eldridge C. Hanes
Edward Haponik, MD
Carla Harris, MBA
Molly Ivins
Richard Janeway, MD
Peter Jannetta, MD
Charles A. Sanders, MD
Levi Watkins, Jr., MD
Honorable Andrew Young

Ex-Officio Member:

William Applegate, MD, MPH

Development Corner

Kathy Townsend, MS, will be joining the ARC in December 2006, as Director of Development. Kathy comes to WFU Baptist Medical Center from Hartford, Connecticut, where she was the Vice President of Community Relations for the YMCA of Greater Metropolitan Hartford. Prior to being VP of Community Relations, she served as the Director of Urban Initiatives/Minority Achievers, also at the GMH YMCA. Kathy earned her Master of Science in Urban Studies from the University of Southern Connecticut in New Haven, CT. She will be working in tandem with the ARC and the WFU Health Sciences Office of Development to increase our endowment fund and to work on other Development initiatives.

Faculty/Staff Update

Welcome Ronny Bell, PhD, MS, Associate Professor, Div. Public Health Sciences, Dept. of Epidemiology,



and ARC adjunct faculty, has accepted the additional role of Interim Associate Director of the Center. Dr. Bell is an active member of the Lumbee Indian tribe of NC, and has spent his much of his academic career in minority health research.

Alain Bertoni, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, PHS Epidemiology and General Internal Medicine, also ARC adjunct faculty, has accepted the additional role of Director of Research and Evaluation.

Melicia Whitt-Glover, PhD, Assistant Professor, PHS Epidemiology and ARC

adjunct faculty, has accepted the additional role of Director of Community Outreach.

Kristen Hairston, MD, MPH joined the ARC in July 2006 from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where she completed a fellowship in Endocrinology. She will be sharing her time between research with the Center and clinical duties.

Ti Klingler joined the ARC team as Administrative Assistant in May 2006. Ti came to WFU in 2004 from Children's Hospital Boston as a consultant to the Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

New Adjunct Faculty

The ARC would like to welcome two new adjunct faculty, **Thomas Arcury, PhD**, Director of Research, Family and Community Medicine, and **Sara A. Quandt, PhD**, Professor,

PHS Epidemiology. Drs. Arcury and Quandt joined the Center in October 2006, and we are looking forward to many collaborations with them.

Congratulations

Dr. Michele Sale has been promoted to Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, Section on Endocrinology and Metabolism, Center for Human Genomics. Dr. Sale is also an adjunct faculty with the Center.

Sarah Fahey, who has been with the ARC since September 2004, has been promoted to Associate Project Manager. Sarah also started August 2006 in the MPH program at UNCG.

We also would like to extend congratulations to **Naila Frye**, a PREP student who was working with us on the Commonwealth Fund project, on her acceptance at Meharry School of Medicine (Nashville, TN) Class of 2010.



Spotlight on...

Jaimie C. Hunter, MPH



Jaimie Hunter joined the Angelou Research Center as a Research Associate (RA) in February 2005. She earned her undergraduate degree in psychology and chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999, and is a 2004 graduate

of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health. Her Master's degree is in Public Health, Health Education, with minor degrees in biostatistics and epidemiology. As an undergraduate, Ms. Hunter's research focused around developmental psychobiology, especially the development of the hypo-thalamic-pituitary-adrenal(HPA) axis and the dopaminergic nervous system. As a graduate student her research interests included genetic exceptionalism (the idea that genetic information is conceptualized and treated differently than other health information), HIV/AIDS, and

mental illness, specifically bipolar disorder. She served as a Research Assistant on the Participating and Communicating Together (PACT) study, in which she counseled patients regarding how to take their HAART medication properly. Ms. Hunter served as a Co-Principal Investigator on a community diagnosis for the town of Efland, NC. She also served as a PI for a project on genetic exceptionalism in which study personnel explored ways in which patients perceived genetic information and behavioral changes they made (or did not make) as a

result of these perceptions. Prior to receiving her MPH, Ms. Hunter taught high school biology, anatomy, and chemistry in the Guilford County Public School system. As a RA at the ARC, Ms. Hunter's focus is as biostatistician, programmer, and was the analyst for the Commonwealth Fund chartbook on minority health. She also coordinates all of the People's Clinic projects as well as Voices of African American Health. Ms. Hunter lives in Winston-Salem, NC with her golden retriever, Duchess. Her hobbies include graphic design, photography, and writing.

From the Student National Medical Association



The 2005-06 academic year was an exciting time for the WFUSM chapter of the Student National Medical Association. The year was ushered in with a diverse 1st-year and post-baccalaureate class and many dedicated returning members. Now in its 2nd year, the SNMA's Student Sight Savers Program has trained over 100 WFUSM students to perform

glaucoma screenings in the community. This year's screenings were held at Hanes Mall, Marketplace Mall, the YMCA, and the Fiesta celebration in downtown Winston-Salem. SNMA also co-hosted their annual Sickle Cell Christmas for over 70 children with the Sickle Cell Disease Association of the Piedmont. Members celebrated Black History Month and Diversity Weekend in conjunction with the business, law, and graduate schools and hosted minority interviewees in their homes. With the help of the ARC, Alumni Affairs, Student Services, and Northwest AHEC,

the SNMA completed the school year in April with its Annual Medical Excellence Banquet. Nineteen graduating minority students were honored as well WFUSM's first minority graduate, Dr. James G. Jones, the first African American (AA) graduate, Dr. William T. Grimes, and the first AA woman graduate, Dr. Yvonne J. Weaver. Members also volunteered during summer 2006 with the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program's Sickle Cell Adolescent Camp. The SNMA is thankful for all of the support it has received and is looking forward to another great year.

2006-07 WFUSM Officers

- Co-Presidents:** Shatima Seward, Jasmine Smith
- Vice President:** Bryant Webb
- Secretary:** Ogonna Iwuora
- Treasurer:** Vivian Chidi
- Committee Chairpersons:**
- MAPS/Post Baccalaureate:* Jewell Carr
- Community Service:* Lalita Holt
- Fundraising:* Curtiss Moore
- Banquet:* Diandra Ayala, Jewell Carr
- Social:* Edi Ntuen

For more information, please visit www.wfusm-snma.org

Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health

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Please send any comments, suggestions or mailing address changes

<http://www1.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth/>

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