

Hope Lives!

WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

HEALTH SCIENCES

Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health



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The second annual Evening of Healing Through Song, the signature fundraising event for the Center, was held on November 25, 2005 in Winston-Salem, NC. This year's benefit concert was dedicated to and sponsored the attendance of approximately 35 local hurricane evacuee families, who remain relocated in the NC Triad area.

The benefit supports the Angelou Research Center's endowment initiative, which will provide crucial support for growth and development of Center faculty, research and programs in minority health. It was designed as a local charity performance, to promote philanthropy and healing from a wide segment of the community. The inaugural 2004 event was sponsored by Oprah Winfrey and featured gospel singer Joshua Nelson.

Co-hosts for this year's event were Ms. Wanda Starke, WXII-TV anchor, and Mr. Lorenzo Meachum, local historian. Featured performers included contemporary gospel prodigy CeCe Winans, the incomparable R & B duo Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson and legendary singer and songwriter, Roberta Flack.

Opening remarks were made by Kristy Woods, MD, Center Director, who introduced Maya Angelou to an audience of nearly 1,800. Following Dr. Angelou's moving welcome, the crowd at Reynolds Auditorium enjoyed a memorable and inspired evening of performance.

In addition to overwhelming support from the community and Wake Forest University faculty and staff, the following people were in attendance: Nathan Hatch, president of

Wake Forest University, national advisory board members Robert Brown, Richard Dean, Edward Haponik (Baltimore, MD), Carla Harris (NY, NY) and Levi Watkins (Baltimore, MD) and regional advisory board members Velma Watts and Rev. Serenius Churn.

We appreciate the support and contributions from friends across the country. Special thanks are extended to Cheryl Harry, Elegant Eventz, Lou Davis, WFU Creative Communications, Jim Steele, WFU Public Relations and Marketing, and Bettie Burditte & staff.

A fully endowed Angelou Research Center will provide a unique model of an academic medical center addressing disparities in health and healthcare as a significant and enduring institutional priority.

From the Director's Desk

Greetings. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality recently released the third annual *National Healthcare Disparities Report* (NHDR 2005). This report provides the broadest national examination on differences in the quality of healthcare that Americans receive, based on race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status, ever undertaken in the US. The NHDR also allows us to track changes in healthcare quality and access to care over time in order to determine whether or not progress is being made.

The report found that racial disparities in healthcare quality still exist and are pervasive throughout our healthcare system. They persist for all elements of quality, across

all dimensions of access, for many levels and types of care and across many clinical conditions (including cancer, diabetes, heart disease, mental health and end-stage kidney disease).

While some disparities appear to be diminishing, Blacks and American Indians/Alaskan Natives together received poorer quality of care than Whites on 40% of the core report measures. Hispanics received poorer quality on more than half of the measures. And while disparities in access are improving for most minorities, the gap is increasing among Hispanics and the poor.

Despite these findings, there remains limited recognition of healthcare disparities among the general public. A recent

national poll found that while most Americans are committed to the principles of equality, only 32% think that the problem of obtaining quality healthcare is worse for minorities than it is for whites. While there is greater awareness among minorities, only about half of African Americans and Hispanics believe that the problem exists.

Many opportunities remain for improvement in healthcare quality and for the implementation of innovative and mainstream methods of disseminating the message of health and healthcare disparities. This national mandate continues to inform, guide and direct the work of our Center.

-Hope Lives!



Dr. Kristy F. Woods

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.

Dr. Martin Luther King
1964

Upcoming Events

Angelou Research Center Journal Club
3rd Tues. each month, 6 p.m.
Center Conference Room

WFUSM Internal Medicine Grand Rounds. Neil R. Powe, MD, MPH, MBA Professor of Medicine, Epid. & Health Policy & Management; Johns Hopkins Univ. School of Medicine. Feb. 16th, 2006.

Diversity Weekend 2006, WFU Reynolda Campus
Black Graduate Students Assn. & the Black Business Students Assn.
February 17-18, 2006.

North Carolina Indian Unity Conference. North Carolina Commission on Indian

Affairs, Raleigh NC, March 9-11, 2006.

Closing the Diversity Gap Through Collaborations and Partnerships. *National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc Southern Region Spring Conference*, Augusta, GA, March 23-26, 2006.

International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health, CDC and Assn. of State & Territorial Chronic Disease Program, Athens, GA, April 17-20, 2006.

Angelou Research Center Spring Lecture Series
Speaker - to be determined
April 28th, 2006

WFUSM Annual SNMA Banquet
The Sawtooth Center
April 29th, 2006

10th Biennial Symposium on Minorities, the Medically Underserved and Cancer. *Intercultural Cancer Council & Baylor College of Medicine*, Washington, DC, April 19-23, 2006.

Activism to Promote the Health of Patients and the Public. *SGIM 29th Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, CA, April 26-29, 2006.

Embracing Our Traditions, Values & Teaching: Native American People of North America HIV/AIDS Conference, NIH/Office of AIDS Re-

search, DHHS, Anchorage, AK, May 2-6, 2006.

5th Annual Health Literacy Conference. *Beyond the Written Word: Alternative Solutions to Low Health Literacy*, Institute of Healthcare Advancement, Irvine, CA, May 4 - 5, 2006.

The Evolving Metabolic Syndrome: Cardiovascular Risk Burdens in Ethnic Populations. *ISHIB 2006 Conference*, Atlanta, GA, June 23-26, 2006.

2006 CDC National Conference on Latinos and AIDS, Minority Healthcare Communications Inc, Miami, FL, July 24-25, 2006.

Adjunct Faculty

Shari Barkin, MD, MSHS
Associate Professor, Pediatrics

Ronny Bell, PhD, MS
Associate Professor PHS, Epidemiology

Alain Bertoni, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, PHS Epidemiology & Internal Medicine, GIM

William Blackstock, Jr. MD
Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology

Jorge Calles, MD
Associate Professor, Endocrinology

Sonia Crandall, PhD, MS
Professor, Family & Community Medicine

Jamehl Demons, MD
Assistant Professor, Geriatrics

Capri G. Foy, PhD
Research Instructor, PHS, Social Science & Health Policy

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Asst. Professor, Center for Human Genomics

John H. Stewart, IV, MD
Asst. Professor, Surgery, Surgical Oncology

Ramon Velez, MD
Primary Care & Preventive Medicine
Coordinator, VISN 6, VA Medical Center
Professor, Internal Medicine, GIM

Gretchen Wells, MD, PhD
Asst. Prof., Internal Medicine, Cardiology

Center Affiliates

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Post-Doctoral Fellow, PHS, Social Science & Health Policy

Eva Gómez, RN, MSN
Hispanic Patient Educator
Brenner Children's Hospital

Granada Neil, MD
Community Physician

Research Update

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

The Center received funding from the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation to support a new project, *The People's Clinic: A NC Minority Health Education Collaborative*. The grant provides \$450,000 over a two-year period (January 2006 – December 2007).

The People's Clinic promotes health literacy & dissemination of targeted health information to the three largest minority communities in the state: African Americans, American Indians and Hispanics. Center faculty involvement includes K Woods (PI), co-investigators Ronny Bell

Jorge Calles, Eva Gomez, , and numerous faculty contributors of health education materials.

Outreach efforts in African American communities will build on the established partnership with the Winston-Salem Chronicle, a local African American newspaper. For the past six months, the Center has published a weekly column, *The People's Clinic*, addressing major health disparity areas, research & ethics, and quality of care.

In February, concurrent columns will begin in major African American newspapers statewide, including the *Carolina Peacemaker* in Greensboro, the *Wilmington Journal* and *Greater Diversity News* in Wil-

lington, the *Carolinian* in Raleigh, and the *Carolina Times* in Durham.

The research team is establishing working relationships with representatives from the eight American Indian tribes in NC: Eastern Band of Cherokee, Lumbee, Waccamaw-Siouan, Haliwa-Saponi, Saponi, Occaneechi and Cohari. The project has the endorsement of the NC Commission on Indian Affairs.

This grant will augment the Hispanic health education initiative (funded by K. B. Reynolds Charitable Trust) which began in September 2004. Spanish-language programming reaches 50/100 counties in NC.

Voices of African American Health

In January 2006, the Angelou Research Center in collaboration with Delta Fine Arts, Inc (a local cultural and educational corporation) was awarded a research grant from The Society for the Arts in Healthcare(TheSAH)/Johnson and Johnson.

TheSAH funding will support a one-year project, *Voices of African American Health*. The goal of the project is to create a patient-focused, self-sustaining model of patient empowerment using art to achieve healing, affirmation, and validation of individual experiences with illness and

the health care system. Using the medium of photojournalism will enable participants to tell their stories and confront their medical conditions and experiences in a creative manner. This project will also increase public awareness regarding the personal toll of racial and ethnic health disparities.

Participants with chronic disparity conditions (such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and mental illness, etc) or caring for individuals with these chronic illnesses will be recruited in Forsyth County, NC. All participants will attend two professional training sessions in photography and photojournalism at the

Delta Arts Center. They will then receive a hard-bound journal, a digital camera, and instructions to chronicle their experiences over the next month. Specifically, they will be asked to use creative photography and journaling to express their unique experiences.

Selected photographs and corresponding vignettes will be used to develop a professional gallery exhibit, *Voices of African American Health*. The permanent exhibit will be housed at the Delta Arts Center (Dianne Caesar, Executive Director) and will open to the public in November - December 2006.

Tipping the Energy Balance/En sus marcas: Dr. Shari Barkin's R21 study was funded by NICHD for 2 years (Sept. 2005- Aug. 2007). This trial will examine how physical activity can be promoted within Latino families to stem the tide of Latino youth obesity. To date, 90 Latino families with overweight children ages 8-11 have been recruited & randomized into this clinical trial.

Advancing Cultural Competency Education and Training: Dr. Sonia Crandall received funding from NIH/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (07/05 - 06/10) to study development and implementation of new curriculums to teach cultural competency to medical students and health-care providers.

Advisory Board Focus

The Gordon-Watts Scholarship was initiated last fall through the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. It was created in the memory of the late Dr. Joseph Gordon, who was the first director of minority affairs and Dr. Velma Watts, regional advisory board member.



From 1982 – 2000, Dr. Watts served as assistant dean of student affairs and director of the office of mi-

nority affairs. In these roles she was instrumental in developing programs, encouraging diversity and supporting minority students at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Dr. Brenda Latham-Sadler led the core scholarship fundraising team of alumni. She notes that Dr Watts served as a ‘resource, mentor, support and . . . lifeline’ for minority medical students.

In response to the hurricane-related devastation in the gulf coast region last fall, the Angelou Research Center and the national American Red Cross (Washington, DC) developed a series of public service announcements (PSAs) specifically targeting minority communities. The PSAs highlight the vital need for community

volunteerism, blood donation and disaster preparedness and they are narrated by Dr. Maya Angelou, Executive Director of the national advisory board. The message has been distributed to over 600 radio stations nationwide.



We join the world in mourning the loss of our national advisory board member, Coretta Scott King. Her legacy of determined activism and her enduring dignity will be missed by all.

National Advisory Board:

Maya Angelou
 Robert J. Brown
 Crandall C. Bowles
 Julius Chambers, JD
 Henry Cisneros
 Richard H. Dean, MD
 Anna Epps, PhD
 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 Members:

William Applegate, MD, MPH
 Kristy F. Woods, MD, MPH

Development Corner

WFU Health Sciences is pleased to announce the appointment of Norm D. Potter Jr., who will be serving as the new Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs. Mr. Potter and his office will work closely with the Center as we pursue our endowment goals, and we look forward to fostering a successful partnership.

Before joining the medical center, Mr. Potter was employed by BB&T corporation, where he served as Senior Vice President and Group Director for the Wealth Management division. WFU Health Sciences President Dr. Richard Dean, noted, “Norm’s credentials and experience dovetail into our needs. His strong interpersonal skills and his understanding of the issues of private wealth man-

agement are very complementary to his new role with us. He also brings a passion for our health care mission, encompassing patient care, research, and education that is admirable.”

As a student at Penn State, Mr. Potter became involved with the Shreyer Honors College, the objective of which is to “educate men and women who will make important differences in the world, affecting academic, professional, civic, social, and business outcomes.” His experience with Shreyer, which included volunteering as a development consultant & serving as a mentor to the college’s students, cultivated an interest in higher education fundraising.



Faculty/Staff Update

Welcome

Dr. William Ntim, assistant professor of medicine, section of cardiology, is a graduate of University of Ghana Medical School. He was a resident at Brookdale Hospital and Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, and completed a fellowship in cardiology at the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Medicine at Downstate, NY.

Dr. Ntim’s research interest is in non-invasive cardiac imaging, and he received additional training in nuclear cardiology at the St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital, NY. With his wife Sally and three children, he relocated to North Carolina and joined our faculty in October 2005.

Aisha Bobcombe, Assistant Project Manager, joined the Angelou Research Center team in November 2005. Aisha will

be working on *The People’s Clinic: A North Carolina Minority Health Education Collaborative*, funded by the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation. Aisha will be coordinating the outreach in the African American & American Indian communities. She graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. degree in Psychology. Originally from New York City, she relocated to Winston-Salem last summer with her husband.

Congratulations

Sonia J. Crandall, PhD, MS, for promotion to Professor, Family and Community Medicine
John H. Stewart, IV, MD, for promotion to Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Section of Surgical Oncology
Ramon Velez, MD, for new position as Primary Care and Preventive Medicine Coordinator, VISN 6, VA Medical Center.



Spotlight on...

Dr. David L. Mount



David Mount, PsyD, MA, joined the Center and WFU faculty as instructor, department of internal medicine in October 2005. He comes to WFUSM from University of Missouri-Columbia (MU), School of Health Professions, Department of Health Psychology, where he completed

four years of postdoctoral clinical research training. His clinical specialty areas include: medical neuropsychology, behavioral medicine, and medical rehabilitation psychology in patients with chronic illness. It was during these years and through providing clinical service that he developed his focused research interest in elder health, rural health, racial/ethnic minority health, and other underserved populations.

Dr. Mount has benefited from postdoctoral fellowship grant support from the Epilepsy Foundation of America, and he was awarded a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship

through the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH. During his NIH postdoctoral fellowship, Dr. Mount increased his technical skills and proficiency in psychometric theory (e.g., item response theory), applications, and instrument development to complement his research geared toward the elimination and/or reduction in health disparities. Additionally, his research and clinical activities were supported through state partnerships, cross-discipline and cross-institutional collaborations. To date, his research in

diabetes is bridged from his partnerships with leading diabetes researchers at the University of Missouri, the Missouri State Department of Health and Human Services, Harry S. Truman VA, as well as the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Mount has received additional training at University of Pittsburgh, The Pittsburgh Mind-Body Center Summer Institute and the Center for Minority Health and at University of Texas, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. He was designated a health disparities scholar by the National Institutes of Health, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

From the Student National Medical Association



Greetings from SNMA! 2005 was a very successful school year for our organization. We began the year with a luncheon to welcome the first year medical students. In concurrence with our Glaucoma Grant, we held a train-

ing session and glaucoma screenings at Best Health in Hanes Mall and participated in the Fiesta Festival earlier this year. Throughout the school year we have also sponsored two successful fundraisers- a bake sale and sweatshirt sale, which is ongoing. During the holidays, we held a potluck for medical students and ended the year with our annual Christmas Party for children with sickle cell disease.

For the new year, we are looking forward to several events including another Glaucoma training session and several community health

screenings. April will be a very busy month for our organization,.

The SNMA National Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA on April 19th and our chapter's annual Medical Excellence Banquet will take place on April 29, 2006 at the Sawtooth Center. We currently have a membership of 49 students as well as active MAPS (Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students) chapter at Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State. Elections of officers will be held in February for the next school year.

2005-06 WFUSM Officers

- Co-Presidents:** Natasha Fontaine, Jennifer Stanislaus
- Vice President:** Danielle Chukwumah
- Secretary:** Holly Tyler
- Treasurer:** Bronwyn Young
- Committee Chairpersons**
- MAPS/Post Baccalaurate:*
- Jerona A. Thomas
- Fundraising:* Jaleema Nanton
- Banquet:* Kimberly Holmes
- Social:* Candace Wilson

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

Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health

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Thank you to all those who have helped with this newsletter, via contributions or technical assistance:

- Aisha Bobcombe
- Jaimie Hunter, MPH
- David Mount, PsyD
- Kristy Woods, MD, MPH
- Natasha Fontaine
- Diane Joyner
- Jennifer Stanislaus

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Please contact me with any comments or suggestions you have.

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