

## UMO – UWC Linkage Program Trip Report

*Project Goals:* Explore the potential for collaborative service and research projects with Ms. Julie and other UWC community representatives and to appraise the most effective methods for supporting the significant changes occurring in nursing education at UWC.

*Names:* Dr. Roberta Lee and Dr. Donna Taliaferro

*Project Dates:* May 9-May 29, 2005

*Project Objectives:* The objectives for this exchange visit included the following:

- To improve the research output of the department by working with staff on publications,
- To mentor members engaged in doctoral studies by presenting seminars and assisting in proposal development,
- To explore the possibilities of collaborative research project with the Saartjie Baartman Center for Women
- To present lectures on USA Health System for B. Cur IV students, and,
- To present lectures on Epidemiology and Demography for B III Students.

This exchange visit began with a meeting that included Prof Khanyile, Head of the Nursing Department, Mrs. Hester Julie, Dr. Nomafrench Mbombo, Dr. Lee and Dr. Taliaferro. We reviewed the objectives for this exchange and additionally discussed the following:

1. Faculty: Of the twenty full time faculty, four have completed doctoral programs. Professor Khanyile heads the nursing program, Dr. Nicodem is the head of post graduate programs and director of research, Dr. Kortenbout is currently on leave and Dr. Mbombo is Dr. Khanyile's assistant and heads the Women's Health curriculum component. The following four UWC nursing faculty are currently engaged in doctoral study for the PhD at UWC Department of Community Health Studies. Hester Julie, Felicity Daniels, June Jeggels (currently in hospital recovering from an MVA), and Mr S (Luke) Arunachallam who is currently on leave to work intensively on his PhD. Others who are considering doctoral preparation include Audrey Splinter (geriatrics) and Kearns who is interested in ethics research.
2. H. Julie's dissertation topic has been altered to reflect a current issue on the UWC campus as well as in the nursing program which is an

increasing emphasis on service learning. The thinking is that she could collect data from the Saartjie Baartman Center to illustrate a model of 'service learning.' Professor Khanyile (HOD) is her dissertation supervisor.

3. The planned schedule was reviewed and alterations made due to the illness of Dean Mpofo, Dean of Faculty in Community Health Science.
4. A possible research collaboration was presented by Dr. Taliaferro regarding photovoice methodology. We discussed using this as a mechanism for establishing collaborative research, potentially addressing issues of 'service learning.'
5. We also addressed an additional objective for the exchange of bringing an enabling environment for research in the nursing department.

Following this, Drs. Lee and Taliaferro met with Dr. Jan Persons, Director of the International Office to review the plans for the visit and potential future potential funding. Several potential funding mechanisms were identified, including potential foundation support.

On Wednesday afternoon we attended a presentation by the Dr. Khanyile on the new curriculum to a group of international students from the United States. That evening the induction ceremony for Sigma Theta Tau was completed with four UWC nursing faculty inducted into the Nu Chi chapter. Inductees included Felicity Daniels, Hester Julie, Nomafrench Mbombo and Cheryle Nicodem. Visitors included the Provincial Health Department, faculty from UCT, Dean Mpofo (UWC) and Jan Persens, International Office. Following the induction, an African cuisine catered dinner was served.

Dr. Lee and Taliaferro presented lectures on epidemiology and the US Health Care System to students on topics requested by UWC.

On Saturday of the first week we conducted a seminar on writing for publication, including research publications. Three students presented their research. These three students are focused on a single, large topic and each has a defined project within the topic of HIV/AIDS services. One is pursuing a 'thesis only' master's degree and the others are anticipating dissertation level research. Following this, Hester Julie presented a concept paper about her proposed dissertation work that is currently focused on 'service learning' with nursing projects as case studies. She is considering whether nursing service learning projects should also be compared with service learning projects in other departments or schools at UWC and whether her dissertation might be viewed as a model for UWC with service learning as a 'best practice' alternative pedagogy. This proposal will fit with the proposed research collaborative proposal presented by Dr. Taliaferro.

The following week was spent visiting several hospitals and clinical facilities, specifically the Saartjie Baartman Center for Women and Children. During the visit to Saartjie Baartman Center, several strategies were discussed for funding opportunities. Dr. Taliaferro suggested writing to the Oprah Foundation. Dr. Lee drafted a letter and sent to the Saartjie Baartman Center and

Jan Persons for review and suggestions. Upon return to the US, Dr. Lee and Taliaferro sent a request to the Oprah Foundation.

We met several times with the Professor Khanyile to discuss the way forward report and student/faculty research. We discussed constraints on the program imposed by the SA Nursing Council.

During the last week we presented the way forward report at the departmental meeting. Jan Persons attended as well as administrators and faculty of the nursing program. Dr. Persons also suggested making a five year plan for nursing collaboration between UWC and UMO. We attended another presentation to visiting US Nursing students by Dr. Mbombo. The rest of the week included meetings with various faculty on research proposals and ideas as well as publications in progress or ideas for publication.

With regard to future research collaboration, we identified several promising areas for collaboration. One is the continuation of the use of photovoice methods that was initiated by Dr. Taliaferro to explore service learning at UWC and in comparison with the UMSL. A second project is the evaluation of the women's shelter at Saartjie Baartman Center. Mrs. Julie has obtained data regarding three years of operation and Dr. Lee assisted with formatting the data in preparation for analysis with SPSS. Further, Dr. Lee explored a potential collaboration with the UWC Statistics Department regarding collecting HIV data in several emergency departments in the Western Cape. These data could be useful for also exploring surveillance for injuries, especially traumatic injuries.

On Friday of the last week, we had a farewell luncheon to say goodbye to a faculty who is leaving for Canada for 2 years to study and to say goodbye to us.

There are many areas that this collaborative relationship can continue on both sides.

Objectives for future collaboration were discussed and include the following:

#### Future Directions and Goals

- Develop a independent Sigma Theta Tau Chapter in the Cape Town region, probably in collaboration with UCT and Stellenbosch,
- Improve educational levels of faculty to support continual development of the UWC Nursing Program – such as an explicit faculty development plan,
- Explore development of polycom technology for continued program development,
- Increase the number of publications by faculty,

- Increase the proportion of objective versus subjective evaluations of student learning versus subjective (including essay) exams,
- Modify PhD program to include some structured learning,
- Complete the photovoice project
- Identify funding sources to:
  - Improve the instructional potential of the learning skills lab
  - Ongoing funds to develop the nurse practitioner graduate program
- Evaluate the post graduate psychiatric nursing program
- Educate the South African Nursing Council about current 'best practices' in learning, e.g., clinical experiences in crèches or senior centers for specific learning objectives
- Encourage development of a strategic plan with a five year planning horizon for the school,
- Develop a five-year plan with the faculty and administration for a continual relationship with UMO and UWC in nursing

Thank you for this opportunity.