When I ran for the position of President-Elect, I described my view that we need to examine ourselves (as an organization) and make decisions that will build on our past strengths and guide us into our preferred future. The Board of Directors endorsed the importance of strategic planning to position us for the next 20 years and added a session at the upcoming annual meeting for discussions on various topics related to our future. That session will be held on Friday, Feb. 3 and will follow the 9 am business meeting. There will be six discussion sessions from which you may choose, including member services, financial viability/sustainability, membership profile for the future, leadership development and mentoring, engaging mid-career and senior scientists, Deans/Associate Deans, and members in non-academic settings. As you will note, some sessions are targeted for specific constituent groups and others are focused on aspects of the organization's mission. I hope you will begin to consider questions such as, how can the organization evolve so that it meets the needs of members who range from nurses at the beginning of their research careers to senior scientists, how could or should the organization relate to the work of those in practice settings focused on evidence-based practice, what services could or should the organization provide to best meet members' needs, and how can those services be provided most effectively and efficiently? There are many other questions to consider and I encourage each of you to attend the conference Feb. 2-4, 2006 in Memphis, TN to participate in these and related discussions. It's your organization and our future!

As president-elect, I had the opportunity to participate as the SNRS representative to the Council of Nursing Science’s Steering Committee meeting, held just prior to the recent CANS conference in Washington DC (for more information on CANS, see related article in this issue of Southern Connections). The Steering Committee meetings provide an opportunity for the members of the Committee to report on the current status of their organization, to consider the strategic goals for upcoming years (along with activities to achieve those goals), and to plan for upcoming conferences. The other research regional organizations are healthy and active. Some highlights of the recent meeting included a consensus that CANS will focus on synthesis of research to advance nursing science. This may result in upcoming conferences having more panels providing "state of the science" synthesis-type presentations, with more extensive use of poster sessions to allow members of the nursing research community to share the findings of individual studies. CANS is also committed to bringing increased national visibility to nursing science. Strategies to advance this initiative were discussed, including sponsoring CANS affiliated speakers at non-nursing professional meetings.

I will also represent SNRS at the upcoming National Nursing Research Roundtable, to be held in Washington DC in March, 2006. This NINR sponsored conversation focuses on the national agenda for nursing research and facilitates interaction among a wide range of nursing organizations and entities with an interest in advancing nursing science. I'll keep you updated on the agenda and the outcomes of the discussion.

Thanks again for this opportunity to serve SNRS. I hope each of you will attend the upcoming SNRS conference; I look forward to greeting you in person. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Patty Gray, President Elect
NEWS FLASH...Hurricane Katrina cannot derail SNRS's 20th Anniversary Celebration. After a great deal of last minute work the Program Committee and Local Planning Committee have our conference back on track. We are in deep admiration and appreciation of our LSU colleagues who, while living through this disaster and facing untold personal challenges, remain committed to our organization. Even though the physical location of the meeting will be changed, our LSU colleagues made it clear they wanted to continue to serve as hosts for this special 20th Anniversary Conference--and that they will.

You will find a distinct New Orleans theme at this year's conference which will be just upstream on the Mississippi in Memphis February 2 - 4. As a sister river city with another music heritage Memphis plans to not only celebrate SNRS's 20th year, but also salute our New Orleans friends in the beautiful Peabody Hotel which is easy walking distance from the Beale Street entertainment district. This is one conference you won't want to miss as we celebrate our past, recognize the heroic efforts of our contemporaries, and envision our future.

For more details on this year's conference check out our website at www.SRNS.org which also has information about the candidates for our SNRS board of directors.

Donna Hathaway, President

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From the Editor

This edition of Southern Connections focuses on the upcoming 20th Annual Conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society to be held in Memphis. How we have grown! The messages from our President, President-Elect, and Vice-President provide information and insight about the conference. There are reports and information submitted by other officers, board members, and individuals who devote their precious time supporting SNRS in its mission to support and disseminate research.

The spring 2006 edition of Southern Connections will provide you with outcomes of the officer, board and committee member elections, our annual business meeting, award submissions, and hopefully many, many pictures! We would also like to add a column that will focus on current issues in Nursing Research. An example might be a spirited written debate on the impact of the DNP on the realm of knowledge development. What are your thoughts? Please let me hear from you! I look forward to seeing you in Memphis in February. In the meantime, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Joe Burrage, Editor
Finally! Many thanks to all of you for your patience as we struggled to move to “Plan B” following the Katrina Hurricane. After the Board made a site visit to New Orleans and checked out the hotel, disaster struck—literally. We left town as part of the evacuation. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) from our host school, LSU in New Orleans, was led by Demetrius Porche. The LPC has a big job in the best of years—having the host school, faculty, staff, and conference hotel suffering from Katrina certainly added to their work. When I ran for Vice President, I included a statement about “planning a program you won’t forget.” The planning committee won’t forget it, for sure! We received many offers of help, and we are grateful. The University of Tennessee Memphis was selected to co-host this event, and they have joined the local planning team. Notice that dates are unchanged.

The good news is, we do have an exciting program to offer. In addition to the Scientific Sessions—paper presentations and symposia—there will be a large room for poster sessions, and the posters will remain up for a longer period for viewing. Barbara Holtzclaw will lead a pre-conference session on “Writing for Publication.” There will also be an opportunity for the chairs and co-chairs of RIGs to meet to continue their planning. A panel presentation, “promoting Effective Research Mentoring Relationships,” is being sponsored by The National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health in celebration of 20 years at NIH. A new general session, “Creating SNRS Future Together—The Next 20 Years” will allow for open dialog as we work together to set our future course.

This conference will mark the 20th Anniversary of SNRS, and a celebration is in order. Join us at the conference and at the reception for some Mardi gras style partying and recognition of those who have led the way for the society. See you in Memphis.

Linda Freeman, Vice President.
From the “Big Easy Land of Jazz and Mardi Gras” to “Elvis Land”

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Nursing is pleased to serve as the Southern Nursing Society’s Conference Local Planning Committee for the 20th Anniversary Conference and Celebration. Due to the recent disaster of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we are pleased to partner with our co-host, the University of Tennessee in Memphis. The Local Planning Committee planned to provide you with a cultural experience of the “Big Easy” in a relaxed atmosphere surrounded by lively Jazz Musicians while you enjoyed our culinary delights of gumbo, jambalaya, our bayou treasures of crabs, shrimp, and fish, only to be topped off with a second line and those wonderful Mardi Gras beads that everyone treasures. Well, life has changed! Instead, we are heading to “Elvis Land.” The Local Planning Committees from LSUHSC and UT-Memphis will attempt to combine these cultural experiences and provide you with a flavor of New Orleans pre-Katrina in Elvis Land. Please join us in Memphis. The LSUHSC Local Planning Committee has endured through much adversity to ensure our conference program is excellent and remained intact. See you in Memphis.

Demetrius Porche, DNS, RN
Yvonne Sterling, DNSc, RN

Conference Accommodations

Guest rooms can now be booked for our 2006 Conference. We have a block of rooms at two hotels, The Peabody which is the conference hotel and one of the grand old southern hotels, but a bit more on the pricey side. It is the conference hotel. The Holiday Inn Select is directly across the street and more moderately priced. Rooms are blocked at either hotel for February 1-4, 2006. Here is the information for both hotels:

**Peabody Memphis**
1-800-PEABODY (press 2)
Identify Group Name (Southern Nursing Research Society) to ensure conference rate
- Single   $185
- Double  $195
- Triple    $205
- Quad    $215
**Block cut off date 1/6/06 at 5pm**

**Holiday Inn Select**
(888) 300-5491
Identify Group Name (Southern Nursing Research Society) to ensure conference rate
- Single   $139
- Exec     $169
**Block cut off date 1/2/2006 at 5pm**
2006 Conference

Members;
A tentative schedule for the February 1-4 SNRS Conference along with some hotel information is now posted on the SNRS web site. This information is on the front page under "Announcements".

In addition, you can find candidate statements from individuals who are on the 2006 ballot and a link if you have questions about the ballot. The electronic ballot has gone out, if you have not received it please contact the SNRS office at the link above or Amanda at aalbetar@ccs.us.edu.

Donna Hathaway, President

"Perish-Proof Publication for Researchers:" Back by Popular Demand

The 2006 SNRS Research Conference will again include a Pre-conference on writing research reports for publication, presented by the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research (SOJNR) Editorial Board, many of whom are Editors and Editorial Board members of other journals as well. Attendees at last February's writing Pre-conference titled "Perish-proof Publication for Researchers" got take-home advice on making manuscripts more publishable. Presenters; Dr. Marion Broome, Dr. Robin Froman, Dr. Maureen Groer, Dr. Janet Meininger, and Dr. Barbara Holtzclaw, offered pointers on mapping out a research publication, the essential elements of a report on instrument development, describing the "black box" of an intervention study, and how to write statistical and bio-behavioral results in nursing research journals.

The 2006 pre-conference will vary and include new content so repeat attendees are welcome! The SOJNR Editorial Board includes; Cornelia Beck, PhD, RN, FAAN; Marion Broome, PhD, RN, FAAN; Robin Froman, PhD, RN, FAAN; Maureen Groer, PhD, RN, FAAN; Martha Hill, PhD, RN, FAAN; Carol Hogue, PhD, RN, FAAN; Janet Meininger, PhD, RN, FAAN; and Barbara Medoff-Cooper, PhD, RN, FAAN. Editorial Staff include; Barbara J. Holtzclaw, PhD, RN, FAAN, Editor and Craig Stotts, Managing Editor.
The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) was established in 2000 as an open membership arm of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). This action was taken following the restructuring of the American Nurses Association's (ANA) in the late 1990s, which led to the disbanding of the ANA Council of Nursing Research.

CANS promotes "better health through nursing science" and acts as a national networking and advocacy entity for nursing science as well as the research policy and facilitation arm of the AAN. The work of the organization is guided by a consortium-like steering committee. The composition of the Steering Committee has evolved in the short history of the organization, such that currently it consists of representatives from the National Institute of Nursing Research, Sigma Theta Tau, International, the American Nurses Foundation, and each of the four regional research organizations (Eastern Nursing Research Society, Western Institute of Nursing, Midwest Nursing Research Society and SNRS). The Steering Committee has been chaired by Dr. Bill Holzemer (2000-2002), Dr. Lauren Aaronson (2002-2004) and Dr. Marilyn Sommers (2004-2006). Chairs of the Council Steering Committee are appointed by the AAN Board.

Since 2004, CANS is responsible for sustaining the national State of the Science Nursing Research Congresses held in even years. These conferences build upon the early work done by the Founding Partners, those many organizations who helped initiate and sustain the State of the Science Conferences.

The topic for the 2006 State of the Science meeting is "Improving Life: Development and Dissemination of Nursing Innovation." The Call for Abstracts for the 2006 meeting is available on the organization’s web site, www.nursingscience.org. The conference will be held Oct. 11-13, 2006 at the Washington DC Shoreham Hotel and Conference Center. Conferences in the odd years are special topics conferences which focus on invited presentations by an invited group of national or international experts.

In addition to sponsoring and organizing these meetings, the organization sponsors research small grants through ANF. Descriptions of available grants may be found at www.nursingworld.org/anf/.

As members of SNRS, we qualify for a 50% discount membership (total discounted price is $50 annually), as well as discounted conference registration fees. An online membership application process is available on the CANS web site. If you would like more information, there will be a CANS display at the upcoming SNRS conference.

Patty Gray, President Elect
Report on Research Interest Groups

After surveying the membership regarding their interest level in the Research Interest Groups (RIGs), the number of RIGs has been reduced. In order to be maintained as a RIG at least 10 members had to declare an interest. The following is a list of the current 14 RIGs:

- Academic Nurse Managed Centers
- Administration
- Aging/Gerontology
- Biobehavioral
- Community Health/Public Health
- Education
- Ethics
- Health Promotion/Self-Care
- Minority Health Research
- Parent-Child
- Psych/Mental Health
- Psychometrics
- Qualitative
- Researchers in Clinical Settings

As part of the survey, members were asked if they would be willing to serve as a Chair or Co-Chair of a RIG. At this point, I am contacting these volunteers to appoint them to these roles. If you did not respond in the survey but are willing to serve in a leadership role for one of the RIGs, please email me at habermab@uab.edu with your interest. We will have a meeting of all the Chairs & Co-Chairs in Memphis to get the RIGs up & running. One of the major responsibilities the RIGs will have is planning for a guaranteed symposium on a rotating basis at the Annual Meeting. Please contact me if you would like more information or have questions.

Barbara Habermann, PhD, RN

Treasurer's comments

While I will be giving a full Treasurer's report at the Annual Meeting, I would like to give you some information about how our organization operates financially and my responsibilities as Treasurer. At the present time, there are three entities which deal with the financial concerns of our organization. First is the University of Alabama which handles day-to-day financial matters. Among other activities, they are the group that sends membership renewal notices and collects membership dues. They compile and send the ballots after the Nominations committee draws up the slate. They help the membership committee and state liaisons keep up with members and they work with the officers, RIGs, and other committees. They provide spreadsheets of income and expenditures to the Treasurer.

A second entity which deals with financial matters for SNRS is the University of Texas at Arlington Continuing Education Unit which arranges and manages the annual meeting. Second to the membership dues, the annual conference is a major source of income for the organization. In arranging the annual meetings, the staff at UTA does site visits, interfaces with the conference sites, sends out the conference brochures, collects conference registrations, solicits exhibitors for the conference, receives the abstracts, prepares the CD-ROMs of the proceedings and arranges for the Board Meetings. During the annual conference, the UTA staffs the registration booth, interfaces with audiovisual providers, and interfaces with the hotels which provide food, beverages, space, etc.

A final entity that is concerned with the financial aspects of the organization is the Treasurer. In this capacity, I make sure that the tax information is provided to the accountants, reconcile the checkbook and write checks for grants, awards and Board member, newsletter, and Journal Editor expenses. In addition, I maintain the checking and savings accounts and provide information to the membership and the Board about financial concerns of the organization.

Marti Rice, PhD, RN
Recognizing SOJNR Peer Review Panel’s Contributions

We recognize and thank the following members of the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research Peer Review Panel for their contribution of time, energy, and expertise to the review of submitted manuscripts for the past six years. Their expertise in content and methodology provide excellent reviews that help maintain our rigorous publication standards while providing constructive, helpful guidance to authors. We are indebted to their professional commitment.

Acton, Gayle
Agazio, Janice
All, Anita
Azzarello, Jo
Barba, Beth E.
Benefiel, Lazelle
Bernier, Mary Jane
Boland, Clara
Broome, Marion
Brown, Sandra
Bunting, Sheila
Carey, Ann
Cash, Jane
Comley, Anita
Corley, Mary
Courts, Nancy Fleming
Cuaderes, Elena
Curry, Linda
Dimmitt-Champion, Jane
Dowell, Marsha
Dwyer, Kathy
Elberson, Karen
Elder, Jennifer H.
Engbrethson, Joan C.
Edgren, Suzan K.
Engle, Veronica
Evans, Mary E.
Fick, Donna Marie
Froman, Robin
Gill, Sara L.
Gilmer, Mary Jo
Gresham, Deborah
Goba-Rivera, Migdalia
Hill, Alice
Hines-Martin, Vicki
Hindtch-Davis, Diane
Hunter, Anita
Ivey, Jean
James, Nadine
Jenkins, Louise
Jones, Rebecca
Keller, Colleen
Kvale, Janice K.
Lane, Patricia L.
Lewis, Judith
Lobert, Sharon
Long, JoAnn
Mainous, Rosalie
Martin, Judy
Martof, Mary Taylor
McAuliffe, Maura
Meininguer, Janet
Newcomb, Patty
Siantz, Mary de Leon
Meeks-Sjostrom, Diana
Montgomery, Kristen
Neelon, Virginia
O’Rourke, Maureen
Owens, Steve
Parker, Barbara
Peterson, Janice Z.
Peirce, Anne
Raudonis, Barbara
Reifsnider, Elizabeth
Robinson, Beverly
Rogers, Barbara
Rowsey, Pamela
Rozell, Billie
Russell, Cynthia
Sapnas, Kathryn G.
Sawin, Kathleen
Schoenofer, Savina
Shultz, Cathleen
Silva, Mary
Smith, Barbara
Stotts, R. Craig
Tiller, Cecilia
Tingen, Martha
Topp, Robert V.
Travis, Shirley
Wicks, Mona
Williams, Gail
Wilson, Janet S.
Wright, Lore
Xu, Yu
Yarbrough, Suzanne
Yucha, Carolyn B.
Don’t miss out on the 2006 SNRS Conference to be held February 1-4, 2006 at the Peabody in Memphis, Tennessee. For the 2006 SNRS Conference, a total of four Student Marketplace Pre-conference sessions have been planned. These special workshops are designed for students in varying levels of progression from those considering doctoral studies to those who are finishing up and needing to think about career mentoring. These workshops are free for students due to SNRS' commitment to the development of students as researchers. SNRS faculty/researchers and doctoral students who are the facilitators for these workshops are contributing to this mission as volunteers.

Topics for this year’s 2006 SNRS Doctoral Student Marketplace Pre-conference sessions are: Contemplating Doctoral Education: Where do I go from here; Strategies for Success for Doctoral Students: How to make the most out of the early years of doctoral study; Dissertation: Opportunities, Challenges, and Outcomes; Life after the Doctorate: Mentoring and Career Development for Post doctoral Roles.

In addition, we are seeking student volunteers to assist with the sessions. We need two doctoral students for each session to help with facilitation and room monitoring. We would greatly appreciate if you would share this information with doctoral students at your respective schools. Please feel free to email any questions and forward any names of those who are interested in volunteering with their email address and school information to mfayla@lsuhsc.edu. We hope to see you there!

Martha Fayland-Moore
SOJNR brings you new research discoveries and insights with electronic ease and timeliness. Log on to the SNRS website at \texttt{http://snrs.org}, click on the SOJNR access link to view or download articles. Interact with authors and SOJNR Editor by Internet. Recent titles include:

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EJ Brown, A Gubrium, G Ogbonna-Hicks

Issue 4, Vol. 5, 2004
\textit{Mi familia viene primero} (My family comes first): Physical Activity Issues in Older Mexican American Women.
A Gonzales, C Keller

Issue 1, Vol. 6, 2005
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\textit{JO Andrews, G Felton, ME Wewers, J Waller, P Humbles}

Issue 2, Vol. 6, 2005
Rural Older Appalachian Women’s Formal Patterns of Care
\textit{JW Brown, BA May}

Issue 3, Vol. 6, 2005
Predicting Choice of Health Services for Publicly Insured Children with Non-urgent Illnesses
\textit{P Newcomb}
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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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