SNRS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Joanne Youngblut, Member At-Large

SNRS is looking for:
A “New Member” is someone who has never been a member of SNRS or has not been a member of SNRS in the last 2 years. To have a new member attributed to you, ask the new member to write “Referred by” and your name and institution at the top of the membership form.

Recognition:
Individual recruiting the most new members will receive $50 off the registration fee for the 2005 conference.
Institution with the most new members will receive a free exhibit at the 2005 conference.

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Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research
SOJNR brings you new research discoveries and insights with electronic ease and timeliness. Log on to the SNRS website at http://www.snrs.org, click on the SOJNR access link to view or download articles.
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://www.snrs.org/members/author-information.html
Submit manuscripts or inquiries to:
Barbara J. Holtzclaw, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Editor
Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research
School of Nursing, The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
Phone: 405-321-8543, Fax: 405-573-0980
E-mail: bholtzclaw@earthlink.net

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Jean McSweeney, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN

This is my final letter to the membership. As outgoing President of SNRS, I think it is appropriate to look back over these two years to see what the Board has accomplished.

On a personal note, I have been honored to represent SNRS at national meetings and to serve as your President. It has been a challenging and extremely rewarding experience. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support and especially to thank the Governing Board members who have worked diligently over these two years.

Patty Gray, the Newsletter Editor, has devoted so many hours to updating the look of the newsletter. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of Mary Durrett at SNRS Headquarters and Buddy Herrington who manages our conferences. They are both wonderful people who help to keep our organization running smoothly. So, thanks to all of you for making these last two years so successful. I hope to see you at future conferences. Take care and thank you for this opportunity.

Jean McSweeney
SNRS President

FISCAL MANAGEMENT
First we have attempted to curb expenses. With this in mind, we are phasing out a printed Book of Conference Proceedings and changing to a compact disc with printed conference highlights. We are moving toward some printed and some newsletters via email. The Board continues to seek sponsors for the meals and breaks for the annual conference to help defray costs. Cost containment will be an ongoing process but we instituted some sound policies.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Next the Board has focused on streamlining and updating the annual conference presentations. We have changed the mode of delivery of presentations to only Power Point. This change is not only cost effective since we rent only one type of audiovisual equipment, but it has also improved readability of the material and has decreased downtime for changing equipment between presentations. Additionally, all presentations must now be preloaded prior to each session. These changes have resulted in a smoother running conference and more time to present and discuss research findings. We have also refined the abstract review process that has eliminated many of the behind the scene problems.

MEMBER SERVICES
Member services have remained a top priority during my years as President. Although dues were increased in 2003, SNRS continues to have the lowest dues of any of the regional research societies. We have been able to maintain the student discount rate for membership and conference registration despite growing numbers of student members. This is a tribute to the full paying members of SNRS and their commitment to supporting student members. In 2003, the Board voted to establish a second SNRS American Nurses Foundation Research grant. We doubled the amount of the two small grants SNRS awards each spring from $1000 to $2000.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
SNRS remains a vibrant, growing organization. The ballots in the previous two years reflect the diversity and interest of members in supporting our organization. We have contracts in place for our 2005 conference in Atlanta and the 2006 conference in New Orleans. We selected New Orleans as the site for our grand 20 year anniversary celebration and ideas are circulating for how to make this a very special occasion.

THANKS TO YOU ALL
We have been able to maintain the regional research societies. Although dues were increased in my years as President, SNRS continues to have the lowest dues of any of the regional research societies. We have been able to maintain the student discount rate for membership and conference registration despite growing numbers of student members. This is a tribute to the full paying members of SNRS and their commitment to supporting student members. We have also refined the abstract review process that has eliminated many of the behind the scene problems.

Convention Management
SNRS’s convention management team from the University of Texas Arlington was present to ensure that all aspects of the Convention exceeded our expectations! Mr. Buddy Hearrington, Lupita Martinez, Penny Jenkins, and Marge Oslie were present to assist and resolve any problems.

Host University
The University of Louisville was the host School. Dean Mary Mundt was a welcoming presence at the conference. Dr. Mundt is pictured (right) above, with SNRS President Jean McSweeney.

MEMBER SERVICES
SNRS Program Committee
The Chair of the SNRS Program Committee is the organization’s Vice President, Suzanne Yarbrough. Members included Joe Burrage, Linda Freeman, Martina Gallagher, Buddy Herrington, Margaret Miles, Carolyn Kee, Janice Pearson, Donna Taliaferro, Mona Newsome Wicks, and Carolyn Yucha. Pictured below are Dr. Yarbrough and Mr. Hearrington.

THANKS TO YOU ALL
To All
FEEDBACK ON THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
Sarah Kurowsky, a BSN Student at the University of Louisville, worked as a room monitor for two days. Ms. Kurowsky said she picked her monitoring duties based on which sessions she wanted to attend. “I was very aggressive about picking them,” she said. She wanted to help out the planning committee, but also attend sessions she has an interest in obesity, gerontology, chronic illness, and risk behaviors.

Jennifer Fricke, a BSN student, attended the conference in Orlando. “This year I came to catch up on what was going on in research and to look at graduate schools,” she said. Fricke attended a presentation about nursing burnout, noting, “I wanted to know if there is anything I could do to avoid burnout.” She also looked at the exhibits on different academic programs. “I now know more about what I am going to do after I graduate.”

Julia Senn-Reeves, a nursing student at the University of Louisville, was also a room monitor. “It is interesting because I have had the first-hand experience of seeing research findings applied by nurses at the bedside.” She sees herself as a future conference presenter.

The Pleasures (and Perils) of Program Planning by Linda Holbrook Freeman
The Local Planning Committee (LPC) for the 2004 SNRS conference in Louisville began our work a year ago, at the 2003 Annual Conference in Orlando. The main role of local planners is routing abstracts to reviewers and then carefully looking at their feedback to fill the open slots with the best of the papers and posters. The same process is repeated with graduate student abstract submissions later. We also planned receptions and local tours. We were unanimous in thinking that a Derby theme would be fun, and we were excited to be able to offer the museum at Churchill Downs as part of the conference.

We saw most of our perils as minor, at least in retrospect. Last minute changes in room monitors and schedules, transportation challenges, locked stairwells, and getting LPC members to wear their jockey hats were all handled. Clearly, the pleasures of planning outweighed the perils by a wide margin.

DONNA HATHAWAY, Ph.D., R.N.
NURSING SCIENCE STRONG IN THE SOUTH
About the only news you hear today concerning nursing is in regard to the severe workforce shortage, and of course the critical concerns related specifically to faculty shortages. One could infer, given this state of our discipline, that our research and scholarly enterprises would be at risk. This does not seem to be case at all. The 18th annual SNRS conference in Louisville was a huge success with over 500 nurse-scientists in attendance. The science presented by all our southern colleagues was of course impressive as always. Nursing science is definitely strong in the south!

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF NURSING
Perhaps what gives me the most hope for the future of nursing was the strength we saw in our award recipients and the promise present in our students. Our award recipients were an impressive group of colleagues who have made significant contributions to nursing science and scholarship. The awards committee deserves exceptional praise for what was an particularly difficult task when they had to select individual award winners from a field of remarkable nominees. Again, it is clear that nursing science is strong in the south.

QUALITY OF STUDENT WORK
Even more inspiring was the future we saw in our students. Clearly our senior scientists are taking their mentoring responsibilities seriously. The quality of the work displayed, the articulate presentations, and the confidence of our students assures me that our future is secure and that nursing science will remain strong in the south.

LOUISVILLE 2004, A CONFERENCE TO REMEMBER
From the opening “call to the post” to the magnificent reception and entertainment at Churchill Downs, and of course the scientific sessions, the 18th annual SNRS conference was one to remember. The local planning committee did a spectacular job and is to be commended for their efforts. We are already looking forward to the 2005 conference in Atlanta February 3-5, and of course our 20th anniversary conference that will be held 2006 in New Orleans. Both these conferences will be events you won’t want to miss as we continue to recognize and celebrate nursing science in the south.

Thanks
The following report and financial summary were presented by Treasurer Marti Rice at the annual SNRS Business Meeting held during the 2004 Annual Convention:

SNRS is managed by The Continuing Studies Division of The University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. The management firm will be paid $22,345.00 for the next fiscal year.

The University of Texas at Arlington will continue to handle the Annual Conference and the Fall Board Meeting. This year UTA handled the abstracts and review of abstracts for the Annual Conference.

As an ongoing part of the Strategic Plan, the Society awarded two small grants for $2000 each, one ANF grant in the amount of $4000.00 and three awards for the winners of the Student Poster Competition for a total amount of $225. In 2004, SNRS will sponsor two grants through ANF.

During the 2003 Annual Conference, SNRS used LCD projectors for oral presentations which was very successful. Plans are to continue this practice for future meetings.

### 2002 and 2003 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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**ANF paid in January 2004 $5,200.00**

Checking Balance as of 12/31/04 $15,091.41
Savings/MMA $123,969.57

At the Board meeting following the Annual Conference. From top left, Barbara Holzclaw and Craig Stotts reporting on SOJNR; Joanne Youngblut, Judy Martin and Suzanne Yarbrough listen to the conference call with the management firm; and Buddy Hearrington, Jean McSweeney and Donna Hathaway, during the convention report presented Mr. Hearrington.

Enjoying the Churchill Downs reception and entertainment

Dr. Jean McSweeney is honored by doctoral students from UAMS

Networking...
The Student Poster Competition is an annual event recognizing the contributions of an important group of the SNRS membership, our student members. This year, the judging took place prior to the public display of the student posters, and winning posters were available for viewing at the regular poster session the following day.

**FIRST PLACE AWARD**
Dr. Donna Z. Shambley-Ebron (December 2003 Doctoral Graduate)
Medical College of Georgia
“African American Women Caring for Self and Mothering with HIV/AIDS”

**SECOND PLACE AWARD**
Brooke Bentley, MSN
University of Kentucky
“Factors Related to Nonadherence of a Low Sodium Diet in Heart Failure Patients”

**THIRD PLACE**
Sharon Karp, MSN (Doctoral Student)
Vanderbilt University
“Perspectives of Parents with Children with Special Health Care Needs”

**FOURTH PLACE**
Cheryl P. Dumont, MSN (Doctoral Student)
University of Virginia
“Evaluation of an Inpatient Interventional Cardiology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Unit”

**HONORABLE MENTION**
Maria J. DeJong, MSN
University of Kentucky
“Anxiety is Not Manifested by Elevated Heart Rate and Blood Pressure in Acutely Ill Patients”

**2004 Poster Award Recipients**
First place poster winner, Dr. Shambley-Ebron (center) with Awards Chair, Dr. Judy Martin (left) and SNRS President Jean McSweeney (right)

**2004 Poster Award Recipients**

Suzanne Yarbrough, Ph.D., R.N.

We have just completed another successful SNRS Annual Conference. There were 525 registered participants with excellent podium, poster, and symposia presentations all thanks to the efforts of the local planning committee, chaired by Linda Freeman. The abstract review committee, chaired by Rosalie O. Mainous did a bang up job reviewing abstracts and streamlining some of the processes for reviews. Thank you to all of the SNRS members who participated in the process as abstract reviewers, committee members, room monitors and room moderators, and especially to all who submitted abstracts.

The keynote address presented by Debra K. Moser provided a great start to the program. Dr. Moser is an internationally renowned researcher whose work has impacted populations around the world. As always podium, poster and symposia sessions were provided that will support evidence based on clinical research.

Activities to recruit and foster development and training of nurse researchers continued through the doctoral student mentoring marketplace. Thanks to Martina Gallagher, the graduate student member of the program committee, and Carolyn Kee for putting this program together. The program is designed to meet the needs of students planning for doctoral studies all the way to and through life after dissertation. We will attempt to add a session targeting the BS to PhD student next year based on feedback during the program. The panel of research funding, with representatives from varied national funding agencies was continued as was the pre-conference NINR funding workshop attended by 12 mid-career researchers. The focus of this year’s workshop was on what one does now that they have an RO1.

In efforts to facilitate involvement of new and mid career nurse researchers we have continued prior activities such as the funding panels, which Joe Burmage coordinated; the editor’s round table, spearheaded by Donna Taliaferro; and conversations with minority researchers, provided thanks to Marge Miles and Bev Robinson. Dr. E.J. Brown, this years recipient of the Research in Minority Health Award, shared her experiences along the way to becoming a distinguished researcher. The emphasis this year in the ethics panel, led by Mona Wicks, was HIPPA regulations and conflict of interest issues. This year we added a session on how to be a good reviewer, sponsored by the Local Planning/Abstract Review Committee. There was also some good how-to help with regard to developing mentoring relationships between new and mid career or advanced researchers presented during the pre-conference workshops. We hope that each of those special programs or panels provided something of benefit to all participants including opportunities to dialogue about varied aspects of knowledge discovery and dissemination.

Participation in the Research Interest Groups has dwindled over the last few years. Therefore, this year a special session entitled “Reviving the RIGS” was held as a conversation between the SNRS board and the membership. We were able to identify several issues affecting participation. The board will begin planning activities that, hopefully, will help rejuvenate interest and participation in RIGS.

The one goal that was not achieved this year was to add sessions addressing use of new technologies for research. However, we were able to include methods sessions that included cutting edge methodologies.
HARTFORD GERIATRIC INSTITUTE RESEARCH AWARD:
Dr. Susan McMillan (above, right, with nominators)

RESEARCH IN MINORITY HEALTH AWARD:
Dr. Debra Wallace (right)

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER AWARD:
Dr. Emma “E.J.” Brown (above, left)

SNRS AWARDS

At the 2004 Convention, three major research awards were given:

RESEARCH IN MINORITY HEALTH AWARD:
Dr. Emma “E.J.” Brown (above, left)

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER AWARD:
Dr. Susan McMillan (above, right, with nominators)

HARTFORD GERIATRIC INSTITUTE RESEARCH AWARD:
Dr. Debra Wallace (right)

AGRICULTURE IN NURSING

RESULTS OF A SURVEY
Deborah B. Reed, Ph.D., MSPH, RNC
Associate Professor
University of Kentucky College of Nursing

The number of nurses across the United States with expertise in agricultural health nursing is unknown, yet as many as 8,000 are needed (Merchant, Kross, Donham, & Pratt, 1989). This article describes the results of a survey regarding agricultural health content in nursing programs in the southern United States.

BACKGROUND

Agriculture is primarily family based, yet it ranks consistently among the top three most hazardous industries in America (National Safety Council, 2001). The South is second only to the Midwest region in the number of farm-related injuries to both adults and farm youth (Myers, 2001; Myers & Hendricks, 2001). Nursing philosophy supports the principle that individuals should be considered in the context of their environment, as individuals and family members within communities (American Nurses Association, 1999). Nurses must consider the environment of individuals who live or work in agriculture when planning their care.

SURVEY DESIGN AND RESULTS

Nurses in the southern United States serve over 541,000 farm families, over a quarter of the nation's farms. To establish baseline criteria, 185 nursing schools located within 13 southern states received a 15-item mailed survey designed by the investigators. Completed surveys were returned from 113 (61.1%) schools. Information was requested about curricula that addressed agricultural health and safety. Schools with larger proportions of rural students were more likely to include at least some mention of agricultural health, yet scant attention was given to any rural focused content. There was no mention at all of agricultural health issues in 27.4% of the schools and 54% of nursing faculty who completed the survey were not aware of the need for nurses with agricultural health expertise. Additional results suggested that when agricultural health topics were presented in class, student interest in the topic increased. Given the occupational hazards faced in production agriculture and the region’s economic dependence upon agriculture, increased attention should be focused on agricultural health content within nursing programs.

REFERENCES


This project is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cooperative agreement # 1 US DHHS/AT/154. The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not be reflective of the funding agency or the University of Kentucky.
Preparing for the
Comprehensive
Exam Experience

Cheryl Lee, Ph.D., (c), R.N., CWOCN
Doctoral Student
University of Arkansas
for Medical Sciences

The completion of comprehensive exams (fondly known as “comps”) signifies a milestone in doctoral education. During my course work, the mere mention of the word “comps” brought fear. No one talked about it. It was unfamiliar territory I knew I would travel through to complete the doctoral program. I want to share three keys and suggestions from my experience that may help in preparing for comps.

Preparation is the first key
Develop a method to organize and maintain all course syllabi, notes, articles, and books. Highlighting important points in textbooks and articles will help make reviewing easier at a later date. Talk with other students who have moved beyond this point and ask for suggestions on how to prepare. Also remember that faculty members are your allies and have walked the same path. Utilize this valuable resource.

Study is the second key
Develop a study plan at least two months in advance. If a study guide is available, use it to develop a detailed plan focusing on content and time. Make your study time a sacred part of your routine. Study alone and with peers. Group study keeps you accountable to yourself and others. You will be amazed how you can forget something that a peer will remember. Perspectives from someone else can clarify difficult concepts. If your exam is written, timed, and on a computer, practice at home with a well-balanced breakfast the morning of the exam and arrive at least 30 minutes early to de-stress. Take time to read questions carefully, outline your main points, and plan time accordingly. Insure you understand what is being asked. Have a plan devised in case you experience a high state of anxiety that paralyzes your thought processes. Deep breathing, taking a break, talking to a faculty person, or saying a prayer might help in moments of panic. Don’t forget a plan for celebration upon the completion of exams. Treat yourself to a massage, dinner or a movie. The time period from exams to results is stressful and many thoughts enter your mind. You remember everything you should have included but didn’t, you fret over what to do if you don’t pass and how to tell others. Push those thoughts away! This only increases stress and anxiety during the waiting period.

Show what you can do!
The comprehensive exam is both a stressful and a challenging experience. It is also a time to shine and show your progression!

From Column Editor, Becky Bonugli
I wish to thank Cheryl Lee Ph.D., (c), R.N., CWOCN, and doctoral student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, for sharing her thoughts and recommendations for preparing for the comprehensive examination. Members are invited to submit articles for the column. Limit 500 words, double space. Submit your ideas and other suggestions to Becky Bonugli at (bonugilr@utscu.edu) for other submission details, feedback about ideas and other suggestions.

Dr. Moser noted that through international efforts, nursing research can address major world-wide problems leading to disability: ischemic heart disease, unipolar major depression, road traffic accidents, cerebrovascular disease and COPD. Her own extensive involvement in projects involving over 3000 subjects from countries including Australia, Korea, Japan, Thailand, the UK, and Germany, among others, provided richly detailed examples. Her enthusiasm for her work was also reflected in her travel photographs which illuminated her talk.

In addition to highlighting the findings of selected studies, Dr. Moser provided some examples of problems and pitfalls that she has experienced during her involvement with researchers from countries other than the United States. For example, language differences have provided many challenges, particularly with respect to the use of standardized instruments. Dr. Moser recommended minimizing such problems by conducting a process of translation and back translation twice, using a total of four different translators. She advocated frequent use of email and telephone communication, and extensive pilot testing for instruments and procedures to maintain rigor and address unanticipated cultural or language problems.

Dr. Moser suggested actions researchers can take to prepare themselves to participate effectively in international research, including seeking a mentor, training oneself by reading journals from other countries, and developing cultural respect, appreciation and skill.
The 2004 SNRS Research in Minority Health Award recipient was Emma J. (E.J.) Brown, Ph.D., RN. Dr. Brown is an Associate Professor and Chair of the University of Central Florida, School of Nursing. She has established herself as a prominent behavioral researcher since graduating with her doctorate in nursing from the University of Florida in 1993. Her research endeavors have consisted of quantitative and qualitative HIV/AIDS and substance abuse/dependence research. Her work includes the implementation of HIV prevention programs within both rural and urban minority populations over a ten-year period. Dr. Brown’s HIV-related research began in 1991 with her master’s thesis while her substance abuse prevention work began in 1999 with funding from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). The specific target populations of these studies included ethnically diverse rural adolescents aged 13-19, ethnically diverse rural college students aged 18-21, ethnically diverse urban female injectors aged 18-45, urban African-American women who used drugs, rural African Americans (men and women), and rural African-American women.

POST DOCTORAL STUDIES
Dr. Brown engaged in postdoctoral studies as a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow and Aaron Diamond postdoctoral fellow for three years between 1993 and 1996. Using those fellowships to hone her research skills in HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. In 1997, after a year of teaching, she wrote a Research Supplement for Minority Investigators grant with Dr. Loretta Jemmott at the University of Pennsylvania, in order to advance her research goals. The target population for this intervention study was grandparents who were raising adolescent grandsons.

FUTURE PLANS
In the future, Brown plans to conduct an intervention study aimed at decreasing the rates of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, among rural minority women. She also plans an exploratory study of new approaches to primary and secondary drug prevention among rural mixed gender populations.

NIDA FUNDED STUDY
Since returning to Florida in the fall of 1999 and joining the faculty at the University of Central Florida School of Nursing, Dr. Brown has been actively involved as the PI of a three-year study funded by the NIDA. This ethnographic study, ‘An Ethnography: Drug Use Among African-American Women in Rural North Florida,’ which consists of ethnographic mapping, participant observation, and in-depth interviewing, is expanding our understanding of the culture of southern, rural African-American women who use crack cocaine.

Dr. E. J. Brown

Mark your calendars: Nominations for the SNRS 2005 Research in Minority Health Award are due October 15, 2004.

The recipient of the 2004 SNRS Distinguished Researcher Award is Susan McMillan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN. She is the Lyall and Beatrice Thompson Professor of Oncology Quality of Life Nursing and Chair of the Oncology Nursing Concentration in the master’s program at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

FOCUS OF RESEARCH CAREER
Dr. McMillan’s research over the past decade has focused on symptom assessment and management in persons with cancer and quality of life of hospice patients with cancer and their caregivers. A series of studies conducted in the Tampa Bay area demonstrated that pain management is not ideal across a variety of settings where cancer patients receive care, and that nurses chart very little pertinent assessment information about pain and its side effects. Further, these studies found that constipation, a common side effect of opioid analgesics, is seldom addressed by nurses caring for these patients. Studies of nurses’ knowledge and attitudes found that nurses lack essential knowledge about the physiology and pharmacology of pain and harbor negative attitudes that are likely to interfere with appropriate responses to patient reports of pain.

NIH FUNDED STUDY
Currently, Dr. McMillan is the Principle Investigator on a five-year NIH-funded study of the impact of a psychoeducational intervention on quality of life of hospice patients and their caregivers. Data analysis is underway, but preliminary analysis indicates that the intervention was effective in decreasing caregiver distress related to patient symptoms. In addition to this work, Dr. McMillan has developed several clinically useful measures that have been translated into other languages for use internationally. For example, the Hospice Quality of Life Index has been used as an outcome measure in a variety of palliative care settings and has been translated into Japanese. Other tools include the Constipation Assessment Scale (Japanese and Italian) and the Caregiver Quality of Life Index (Chinese).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA CENTER
In 1990, Dr. McMillan founded an interdisciplinary research center that became the Center for Hospice, Palliative Care and Life Studies at the University of South Florida. In its present form, the Center is a coalition between University and hospices in the nearby community and has an academic director and a community director. Dr. McMillan serves on the Executive Committee for the Center. The Center provides pilot funds for end of life research and support for doctoral students, offers a University Certificate in Hospice Palliative Care and End of Life Studies, and plans and implements a national end of life conference every other year.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION
Dr. McMillan’s contributions have been acknowledged in a variety of ways, in addition to her award as SNRS’s 2004 Distinguished Researcher. From 1990 through 2000, Dr. McMillan was the American Cancer Society Professor of Oncology Nursing at USF. She was the recipient of the Nursing Research Award from the Florida Nurses Association (2000), the Distinguished Scholar Award from the University of South Florida (2001), the Nursing Research Award for 2000 given by Cancer Nursing Journal in 2001, and the Partner in Research Award from the Center for Hospice, Palliative Care and End of Life Studies (2002).

Dr. Susan McMillan
The 2004 SNRS Research in Minority Health Award recipient was Emma J. (E.J.) Brown, Ph.D., RN. Dr. Brown is an Associate Professor and Chatlos Endowed Chair at the University of Central Florida, School of Nursing. She has established herself as a prominent behavioral researcher since graduating with her doctorate in nursing from the University of Florida in 1993. Her research endeavors have consisted of quantitative and qualitative HIV/AIDS and substance abuse/ use research studies, and the implementation of HIV prevention programs within both rural and urban minority populations over a ten year period. Dr. Brown’s HIV-related research began in 1991 with her master’s thesis while her substance abuse prevention work began in 1999 with funding from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). The specific target populations of these studies included ethnically diverse rural adolescents aged 13-19, ethnically diverse rural college students aged 18-21, ethnically diverse urban female injectors aged 16-49, urban African-American women who used drugs, rural African Americans (men and women), and rural African-American women.

**FUTURE PLANS**

In the future, Brown plans to conduct an intervention study aimed at decreasing the rates of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, among rural minority women. She also plans an exploratory study of new approaches to primary and secondary drug prevention among rural mixed gender populations.

**NIH FUNDED STUDY**

Since returning to Florida in the fall of 1999 and joining the faculty at the University of Central Florida School of Nursing, Dr. Brown has been actively involved as the PI of a three-year study funded by the NIDA. This ethnographic study, “An Ethnography: Drug Use Among African-American Women in Rural North Florida,” which consists of ethnographic mapping, participant observation, and in-depth interviewing, is expanding our understanding of the culture of southern, rural African-American women who use crack cocaine.

**POST DOCTORAL STUDIES**

Dr. Brown engaged in postdoctoral studies as a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow and Aaron Diamond postdoctoral fellow for three years between 1993 and 1996, using those fellowships to hone her research skills in HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. In 1997, after a year of teaching, she wrote a Research Supplement for Minority Investigators grant with Dr. Loretta Sweet Jemmott at the University of Pennsylvania, in order to advance her research goals. The target population for this intervention study was grandmothers who were raising adolescent grandsons.

Mark your calendars: Nominations for the SNRS 2005 Research in Minority Health Award are due October 15, 2004.
Preparing for the Comprehensive Exam Experience

Cheryl Lee, Ph.D., (c), R.N., CWOCN
Doctoral Student
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The completion of comprehensive exams (fondly known as “comps”) signifies a milestone in doctoral education. During my course work, the mere mention of the word “comps” brought fear. No one talked about it. It was unfamiliar territory I knew I would travel through to complete the doctoral program. I want to share three keys and suggestions from my experience that may help in preparing for comps.

Preparation is the first key
Develop a method to organize and maintain all course syllabi, notes, articles and books. Highlighting important points in textbooks and articles will help make reviewing easier at a later date. Talk with other students who have moved beyond this point and ask for suggestions on how to prepare. Also remember that faculty should have included but didn’t, you fret over what to do if you don’t pass and how to tell others. Push those thoughts away! This only increases stress and anxiety over what to do if you don’t pass and how to tell others. Push those thoughts away! This only increases stress and anxiety.

Study is the second key
Develop a study plan at least two months in advance. If a study guide is available, use it. If a study guide is not available, make one. Once you have a study guide, follow it carefully, outline your main points, and plan time accordingly. Insure you understand what is being asked. Have a plan devised in case you experience a high state of anxiety that paralyzes your thought processes. Deep breathing, taking a break, talking to a faculty person, or saying a prayer might help in moments of panic. Don’t forget a plan for celebration upon the completion of exams. Treat yourself to a massage, dinner or a movie. The time period from exams to results is stressful and many thoughts enter your mind. You remember everything you should have included but didn’t, you fret over what to do if you don’t pass and how to tell others. Push those thoughts away! This only increases stress and anxiety during the waiting period.

Show what you can do!
The comprehensive exam is both a stressful and a challenging experience. It is also a time to shine and show your progression!

Being ready is the third key
If you are taking a written exam with other students, a set of earplugs is helpful to drown out distracting noises. Visit the room where you will take the exam, sit down at the desk and get a feel for the environment. Allow time for a good nights rest the night before the exam. Eat a well-balanced breakfast the morning of the exam and arrive at least 30 minutes early to de-stress. Take time to read questions carefully, outline your main points, and plan time accordingly. Insure you understand what is being asked. Have a plan devised in case you experience a high state of anxiety that paralyzes your thought processes. Deep breathing, taking a break, talking to a faculty person, or saying a prayer might help in moments of panic. Don’t forget a plan for celebration upon the completion of exams. Treat yourself to a massage, dinner or a movie. The time period from exams to results is stressful and many thoughts enter your mind. You remember everything you should have included but didn’t, you fret over what to do if you don’t pass and how to tell others. Push those thoughts away! This only increases stress and anxiety during the waiting period. If you are taking a written exam with other students, a set of earplugs is helpful to drown out distracting noises. Visit the room where you will take the exam, sit down at the desk and get a feel for the environment. Allow time for a good nights rest the night before the exam. Eat a well-balanced breakfast the morning of the exam and arrive at least 30 minutes early to de-stress. Take time to read questions carefully, outline your main points, and plan time accordingly. Insure you understand what is being asked. Have a plan devised in case you experience a high state of anxiety that paralyzes your thought processes. Deep breathing, taking a break, talking to a faculty person, or saying a prayer might help in moments of panic. Don’t forget a plan for celebration upon the completion of exams. Treat yourself to a massage, dinner or a movie. The time period from exams to results is stressful and many thoughts enter your mind. You remember everything you should have included but didn’t, you fret over what to do if you don’t pass and how to tell others. Push those thoughts away! This only increases stress and anxiety during the waiting period.

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Show what you can do!
The comprehensive exam is both a stressful and a challenging experience. It is also a time to shine and show your progression!

From Column Editor, Becky Bonugi
I wish to thank Cheryl Lee Ph.D., (c), R.N., CWOCN, and doctoral student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, for sharing her thoughts and recommendations for preparing for the comprehensive examination. Members are invited to submit articles for the column. Limit 500 words. Please contact Becky Bonugi at (bonugilr@utscsa.edu) for other submission details, feedback about ideas and other suggestions.

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Debra Moser
The reality of the global community in which we live, the opportunity to address world-wide health problems, along with a wealth of potential research collaborators, were reasons that Dr. Debra Moser advocated involvement in international research during her keynote address at the 2004 Annual Conference. Dr. Moser (pictured at left) is a Professor and the Linda C. Gill Chair in Cardiovascular Nursing at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Moser noted that through international efforts, nursing research can address major world-wide problems leading to disability: ischemic heart disease, unipolar major depression, road traffic accidents, cerebrovascular disease and COPD. Her own extensive involvement in projects involving over 3000 subjects from countries including Australia, Korea, Japan, Thailand, the UK, and Germany, among others, provided richly detailed examples. Her enthusiasm for her work was also reflected in her travel photographs which illuminated her talk.

In addition to highlighting the findings of selected studies, Dr. Moser provided some examples of problems and pitfalls that she has experienced during her involvement with researchers from countries other than the United States. For example, language differences have provided many challenges, particularly with respect to the use of standardized instruments. Dr. Moser recommended minimizing such problems by conducting a process of translation and back translation twice, using a total of four different translators. She advocated frequent use of email and telephone communication, and extensive pilot testing for instruments and procedures to maintain rigor and address unanticipated cultural or language problems.

Dr. Moser suggested actions researchers can take to prepare themselves to participate effectively in international research, including seeking a mentor, training oneself by reading journals from other countries, and developing cultural respect, appreciation and skill.

NEW OFFICERS
The officers for the 2004-2006 term of office were introduced, including (from left) Elaine Amelia, Nominations Committee; Darlene Clarico, TPC; and Barbara Haberman, At large board member. Not pictured is Nan Smith-Blair, Nominations Committee.
AGRICULTURE IN NURSING
CLASSROOMS:
RESULTS OF A SURVEY
Deborah B. Reed, Ph.D., MSPH, RNC
Associate Professor
University of Kentucky College of Nursing

The number of nurses across the United States with expertise in agricultural health nursing is unknown, yet as many as 8,000 are needed (Merchant, Kross, Donham, & Pratt, 1989). This article describes the results of a survey regarding agricultural health content in nursing programs in the southern United States.

BACKGROUND
Agriculture is primarily family based, yet it ranks consistently among the top three most hazardous industries in America (National Safety Council, 2001). The South is second only to the Midwest region in the number of farm-related injuries to both adults and farm youth (Myers, 2001; Myers & Hendricks, 2001). Nursing philosophy supports the principle that individuals should be considered in the context of their environment, as individuals and family members within communities (American Nurses Association, 1999). Nurses must consider the environment of individuals who live or work in agriculture when planning their care.

SURVEY DESIGN AND RESULTS
Nurses in the southern United States serve over 541,000 farm families, over a quarter of the nations farms. To establish baseline criteria, 185 nursing schools located within 13 southern states received a 15-item mailed survey designed by the investigators. Completed surveys were returned from 113 (61.1%) schools. Information was requested about curricula that addressed agricultural health and safety. Schools with larger proportions of rural students were more likely to include at least some mention of agricultural health, yet scant attention was given to any rural focused content. There was no mention at all of agricultural health issues in 27.4% of the schools and 54% of nursing faculty who completed the survey were not aware of the need for nurses with agricultural health expertise. Additional results suggested that when agricultural health topics were presented in class, student interest in the topic increased. Given the occupational hazards faced in production agriculture and the region’s economic dependence upon agriculture, increased attention should be focused on agricultural health content within nursing programs.

REFERENCES

This project is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cooperative agreement # 1 US 05 CH 00174-7. The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not be reflective of the funding agency or the University of Kentucky.
The Student Poster Competition is an annual event recognizing the contributions of an important group of the SNRS membership, our student members. This year, the judging took place prior to the public display of the student posters, and winning posters were available for viewing at the regular poster session the following day.

**FIRST PLACE AWARD**
Dr. Donna Z. Shambley-Ebron (December 2003 Doctoral Graduate)
Medical College of Georgia
“African American Women Caring for Self and Mothering with HIV/AIDS”

**SECOND PLACE AWARD**
Brooke Bentley, MSN
University of Kentucky
“Factors Related to Nonadherence of a Low Sodium Diet in Heart Failure Patients”

**THIRD PLACE**
Sharon Karp, MSN (Doctoral Student)
Vanderbilt University
“Perspectives of Parents with Children with Special Health Care Needs”

**FOURTH PLACE**
Cheryl P. Dumont, MSN (Doctoral Student)
University of Virginia
“Evaluation of an Inpatient Interventional Cardiology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Unit”

**HONORABLE MENTION**
Marta J. DeJong, MSN
University of Kentucky
“Anxiety is Not Manifested by Elevated Heart Rate and Blood Pressure in Acutely Ill Patients”

**2004 Poster Award Recipients**
First place poster winner, Dr. Shambley-Ebron (center) with Awards Chair, Dr. Judy Martin (left) and SNRS President Jean McSweeney (right)

Suzanne Yarbrough, Ph.D., R.N.

We have just completed another successful SNRS Annual Conference. There were 525 registered participants with excellent podium, poster, and symposia presentations all thanks to the efforts of the local planning committee chaired by Linda Freeman. The abstract review committee, chaired by Rosalie O. Mainous did a bang up job reviewing abstracts and streamlining some of the processes for reviews. Thank you to all of the SNRS members who participated in the process as abstract reviewers, committee members, room monitors and room moderators, and especially to all who submitted abstracts.

The keynote address presented by Debra K. Moser provided a great start to the program. Dr. Moser is an internationally renowned researcher whose work has impacted populations around the world. As always podium, poster and symposia sessions were provided that will support evidence based on clinical research. Activities to recruit and foster development and training of nurse researchers continued through the doctoral student mentoring marketplace. Thanks to Martina Gallagher, the graduate student member of the program committee, and Carolyn Kee for putting this program together. The program is designed to meet the needs of students planning for doctoral studies all the way to and through life after dissertation. We will attempt to add a session targeting the BS to PhD student next year based on feedback during the program. The panel of research funding, with representatives from varied national funding agencies was continued as was the pre-conference NINR funding workshop attended by 12 mid-career researchers. The program of knowledge discovery and dissemination.

Participation in the Research Interest Groups has dwindled over the last few years. Therefore, this year a special session entitled “Reviving the RIGS” was held as a conversation between the SNRS board and the membership. We were able to identify several issues affecting participation. The board will begin planning activities that, hopefully, will help rejuvenate interest and participation in RIGS.

The one goal that was not achieved this year was to add sessions addressing use of new technologies for research. However, we were able to include methods sessions that included cutting edge methodologies.
The following report and financial summary were presented by Treasurer Marti Rice at the annual SNRS Business Meeting held during the 2004 Annual Convention:

SNRS is managed by The Continuing Studies Division of The University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. The management firm will be paid $22,345.00 for the next fiscal year.

The University of Texas at Arlington will continue to handle the Annual Conference and the Fall Board Meeting. This year UTA handled the abstracts and review of abstracts for the Annual Conference.

As an ongoing part of the Strategic Plan, the Society awarded two small grants for $2000 each, one ANF grant in the amount of $4000.00 and three awards for the winners of the Student Poster Competition for a total amount of $225. In 2004, SNRS will sponsor two grants through ANF.

During the 2003 Annual Conference, SNRS used LCD projectors for oral presentations which was very successful. Plans are to continue this practice for future meetings.

2002 and 2003 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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**ANF paid in January 2004 $5,200.00**

Checking Balance as of 12/31/04 $15,091.41
Savings/MMA $123,969.57
The Local Planning Committee (LPC) was chaired by Dr. Linda Freeman. Members of the Planning Committee included (front row, from left) Deborah Armstrong, Robert Toep; Barbara Speck; (back row, from left) Cheryl Zambroski, Rosalie Mainous, Linda Freeman, and Dana Norton. Not pictured is student representative, Lisa Williams.

The Pleasures (and Perils) of Program Planning by Linda Holbrook Freeman

The Local Planning Committee (LPC) for the 2004 SNRS conference in Louisville began our work a year ago, at the 2003 Annual Conference in Orlando. The main role of local planners is routing abstracts to reviewers and then carefully looking at their feedback to fill the open slots with the best of the papers and posters. The same process is repeated with graduate student abstract submissions later. We also planned receptions and local tours. We were unanimous in thinking that a Derby theme would be fun, and we were excited to be able to offer the museum at Churchill Downs as part of the conference.

We saw most of our perils as minor, at least in retrospect. Last minute changes in room monitors and schedules, transportation challenges, locked stairwells, and getting LPC members to wear their jockey hats were all handled. Clearly, the pleasures of planning outweighed the perils by a wide margin.

DONNA HATHAWAY, Ph.D., R.N.

NURSING SCIENCE STRONG IN THE SOUTH
About the only news you hear today concerning nursing is in regard to the severe workforce shortage, and of course the critical concerns related specifically to faculty shortages. One could infer, given this state of our discipline, that our research and scholarly enterprises would be at risk. This does not seem to be case at all. The 18th annual SNRS conference in Louisville was a huge success with over 500 nurse-scientists in attendance. The science presented by all our southern colleagues was of course impressive as always. Nursing science is definitely strong in the south!

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF NURSING
Perhaps what gives me the most hope for the future of nursing was the strength we saw in our award recipients and the promise present in our students. Our award recipients were an impressive group of colleagues who have made significant contributions to nursing science and scholarship. The awards committee deserves exceptional praise for what was an particularly difficult task when they had to select individual awardees from a field of remarkable nominees. Again, it is clear that nursing science is strong in the south.

QUALITY OF STUDENT WORK
Even more inspiring was the future we saw in our students. Clearly our senior scientists are taking their mentoring responsibilities seriously. The quality of the work displayed, the articulate presentations, and the confidence of our students assures me that our future is secure and that nursing science will remain strong in the south.

Louisville 2004, A CONFERENCE TO REMEMBER
From the opening “call to the post” to the magnificent reception and entertainment at Churchill Downs, and of course the scientific sessions, the 18th annual SNRS conference was one to remember. The local planning committee did a spectacular job and is to be commended for their efforts. We are already looking forward to the 2005 conference in Atlanta February 3-5, and of course our 20th anniversary conference that will be held 2006 in New Orleans. Both these conferences will be events you won’t want to miss as we continue to recognize and celebrate nursing science in the south.

Dr. Donna Hathaway (right) was installed as the 9th President of SNRS at the 18th Annual SNRS Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. She will be building on a tradition of leadership in research established by the distinguished scholars who have served as SNRS President in the past: Dr. Jean Wood, Marjorie White, Janet Allen, Mary Walker, Beth Collins, Craig Stotts, Debra Wallace and Jean McSweeney.
Jean McSweeney, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN
This is my final letter to the membership. As outgoing President of SNRS, I think it is appropriate to look back over these two years to see what the Board has accomplished.

On a personal note, I have been honored to represent SNRS at national meetings and to serve as your President. It has been a challenging and extremely rewarding experience. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support and especially to thank the Governing Board members who have worked diligently over these two years. Patty Gray, the Newsletter Editor, has devoted so many hours to updating the look of the newsletter. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of Mary Durrett at SNRS Headquarters and Buddy Herrington who manages our conferences. They are both wonderful people who help to keep our organization running smoothly. So, thanks to all of you for making these last two years so successful. I hope to see you at future conferences. Take care and thank you for this opportunity.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT
First we have attempted to curb expenses. With this in mind, we are phasing out a printed Book of Conference Proceedings and changing to a compact disc with printed conference highlights. We are moving toward some printed and some newsletters via email. The Board continues to seek sponsors for the meals and breaks for the annual conference to help defray costs. Cost containment will be an ongoing process but we instituted some sound policies.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Next the Board has focused on streamlining and updating the annual conference presentations. We have changed the mode of delivery of presentations to only Power Point. This change is not only cost effective since we rent only one type of audiovisual equipment, but it has also improved readability of the material and has decreased downtime for changing equipment between presentations. Additionally, all presentations must now be preloaded prior to each session. These changes have resulted in a smoother running conference and more time to present and discuss research findings. We have also refined the abstract review process that has eliminated many of the behind the scene problems.

MEMBER SERVICES
Member services have remained a top priority during my years as President. Although dues were increased in 2003, SNRS continues to have the lowest dues of any of the regional research societies. We have been able to maintain the student discount rate for membership and conference registration despite growing numbers of student members. This is a tribute to the full paying members of SNRS and their commitment to supporting student members. In 2003, the Board voted to establish a second SNRS American Nurses Foundation Research grant. We doubled the amount of the two small grants SNRS awards each spring from $1000 to $2000.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
SNRS remains a vibrant, growing organization. The ballots in the previous two years reflect the diversity and interest of members in supporting our organization. We have contracts in place for our 2005 conference in Atlanta and the 2006 conference in New Orleans. We selected New Orleans as the site for our grand 20 year anniversary celebration and ideas are circulating for how to make this a very special occasion.

THANKS TO YOU ALL
We have been able to maintain the regional research societies. We have been honored to represent SNRS at national meetings and to serve as your President.

to All

Host University
The University of Louisville was the host School. Dean Mary Mundt was a welcoming presence at the conference. Dr. Mundt is pictured (right) above, with SNRS President Jean McSweeney.

SNRS Program Committee
The Chair of the SNRS Program Committee is the organization’s Vice President, Suzanne Yarbrough. Members included Joe Burrage, Linda Freeman, Martina Gallagher, Buddy Herrington, Margaret Miles, Carolyn Kee, Janice Pearson, Donna Tallyfero, Mona Newsome Wicks, and Carolyn Yucha. Pictured below are Dr. Yarbrough and Mr. Herrington.
SNRS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Joanne Youngblut, Member At-Large

SNRS is looking for new members. A "New Member" is someone who has never been a member of SNRS or has not been a member of SNRS in the last 2 years. To have a new member attributed to you, ask the new member to write "Referred by" and your name and institution at the top of the membership form.

Recognition:
- Individual recruiting the most new members will receive $50 off the registration fee for the 2005 conference.
- Institution with the most new members will receive a free exhibit at the 2005 conference.

Discovery...Interaction...Online!

Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research

SOJNR brings you new research discoveries and insights with electronic ease and timeliness. Log on to the SNRS website at http://www.snrs.org, click on the SOJNR access link to view or download articles.

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://www.snrs.org/members/author-information.html
Submit manuscripts or inquiries to:
Barbara J. Holtzclaw, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Editor
Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research
School of Nursing, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Phone: 405-321-8543, Fax: 405-573-0980
E-mail: bholtzclaw@earthlink.net

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