

UTMB School of Nursing—Accolades

Funded Grants

Alice Hill, Ph.D., RN, Professor and Director of the Nursing Ph.D. Program at UTMB, and holder of the John P. McGovern Professorship, recently received a Notice of Award for the second year of her R03 research grant proposal, “Feeding of the ELBW and VLBW Preterm Infants after Hospital Discharge.” This two-year study is funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research.

Elizabeth Reifsnider, Ph.D., WHNP, APRN, BC, Constance Brewer Koomey Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the UTMB School of Nursing, has received a Notice of Award for her R21 research grant, “Reducing Overweight among Galveston WIC Participants.” This two-year study, with an award of \$415,250, is funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research.

R. Jeanne Ruiz, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing and holder of the Will Dean Bevins Singleton Endowed Professorship, received an award of \$2,198,895 for her R01 grant proposal, “Psychoneuroimmunology: Preterm Birth in Hispanics.” The National Institute for Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health funds this four-year study.

New Faculty

Marilyn Haupt, Ph.D., RN, Assistant Professor, Tenure Track, Baccalaureate Program

Honors and Achievements

An article appeared in the April 8, 2008 issue of *The Galveston County Daily News* describing the activities of master’s students enrolled in the public policy and nursing class at the UTMB SON that saw their proposal to create an obesity awareness week become law during the 80th regular session of the Texas Legislature. These students are **Ann Adams, Elizabeth Covarrubias, Donald Harper, Mary Johnson, James Xie, Tim Traugott, and Christi Wargo.**

The three finalists for this year’s Methodist Outstanding Student Scholarship Awards were **Mary A. Barnes, Leslie Barrera, and Chinelo Nwobu** with Ms. Barrera the eventual recipient of the award. Congratulations to each of the students for their outstanding achievements and to Ms. Barrera for her award.

Mary Ann Best, PhD, RN, CPNP, Assistant Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing, has been appointed to serve on the program committee to plan the annual National Assoc of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) conference.

Mary Ann Best, PhD, RN, CPNP, Assistant Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing, has been appointed to the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, and as a manuscript reviewer for the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, *Pediatric Nursing*, and the *Journal of School Nursing*.

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Karen Brykeczynski, D.N.Sc., RN, CS, FNP, Associate Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing, has been elected Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Ernestine “Tina” Cuellar Ph.D., RN, CNS, BC, WHNP, BC., Assistant Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing, was the recipient of the National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award on Saturday, April 26, given by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc., for “meritorious community service, deep concern for and participation in all activities advancing the status of women.” The Houston League of Black Professional Women nominated Dr Cuellar for this prestigious award. Congratulations to Dr. Cuellar!

Ernestine “Tina” Cuellar Ph.D., RN, CNS, BC, WHNP, BC, Assistant Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing, was invited by the U.S. Department of Defense to attend the TriService Nursing Research Program’s grant and publication camps later this year.

Michele Dupuis, M.Ed., Academic Advisor to students in the UTMB SON, was recognized by the Graduating Class of 2008 as an outstanding counselor, mentor, and friend to the class.

Martina Gallagher, Ph.D. RN, Assistant Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing, and Karen Thomas, Ph.D., Professor at the University of Washington, coauthored the winning research poster, “Sleep in Low-income Spanish Speaking Women and Pre-school Children: A Feasibility Study,” for the UTMB National Nurses Week celebration on May 5.

Julie Lindsay, M.S.N., R.N., Instructor in the UTMB School of Nursing, was selected Outstanding BSN Faculty by the Graduating Class of 2008, and received the Excellence in Nursing Award—Education from the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Darlene “Cheyenne” Martin, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing, was chosen by the UTMB SON Alumni Board to receive the Rebecca Sealy Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2008.

The **UTMB SON Alumni Association Awards** were presented during Homecoming on Friday, March 28, 2008. The UTMB SON Hall of Fame designees include **Ms. Pat Morgan, Dr. Ellen Fineout Overholt, Ms. Tangula Taylor, and Dr. Patricia Gray Turpin**. The Betty Lee Evans Nursing Excellence Award went to **Ms. Kathy Lawrence**. In addition, **Anna Pearl Rains, RN, M.S.N.**, Class of ’58, was recognized for over 45 years of service with UTMB and celebrating her 50th anniversary. And **Wilina I. Gatson, RN, B.S.N.**, Class of ’60, was recognized for her years of service to the association and her many appointments as a board member/representative.

Elnora “Nonie” Mendias, Ph.D., RN, FNP, BC, Jesse and Alicia Dunn Professor of Nursing, was selected Outstanding RN-BSN Faculty by the Graduating Class of 2008, and received the Excellence in Nursing Award—Mentoring from the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

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Kathleen Nash, Ph.D., RNC, FNP, associate professor in the UTMB School of Nursing, was selected Outstanding Master's Faculty by the Graduating Class of 2008.

Elizabeth Reifsnider, Ph.D., WHNP, APRN, BC, Constance Brewer Koomey Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the UTMB School of Nursing, served on two NIH Center for Scientific review study sections in February 2008. She was an Ad Hoc member for the Nursing Sciences Children and Family section, and is a regular member of the Health and Behavior Context section.

Linda Rounds, Ph.D. RN, holder of the Betty Lee Evans Nursing Distinguished Professorship in the UTMB School of Nursing, has been selected by the UTMB Academy of Master Teachers as a recipient of a 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award for her long-standing and significant contributions to the educational missions of the school. In addition, the Academy will create a named Scholar in her honor.

Linda Rounds, Ph.D. RN, Professor and holder of the Betty Lee Evans Nursing Distinguished Professorship, and **Jane Leonard, M.S.N., RNC, FNP**, Assistant Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing coauthored the winning education poster, "Legos®: Hands on Learning for Teaching Decision-Making Strategies," for the UTMB National Nurses Week celebration on May 5.

R. Jeanne Ruiz, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor in the UTMB School of Nursing and holder of the Will Dean Bevins Singleton Endowed Professorship, had her abstract, "The Effect of Acculturation on Immune and Endocrine Parameters to Predict Preterm Birth in Hispanic Women," accepted for a podium presentation at the 2008 National State of the Science Congress in Nursing Research. Additionally, the Congress will indicate that her abstract received the highest possible rating by reviewers and was designated "abstract of distinction" for the conference.

Pamela G. Watson, Sc.D., RN, Dean and Professor, Rebecca Sealy Distinguished Centennial Chair, received enthusiastic reviews for her leadership during the recent SACS Re-affirmation process.

Publications: *Bold names are UTMB SON Faculty*

Lindsay, J. E. (2008). Unexpected pediatric death: A classroom experience. *Nurse Educator*, 33(2), 61-62.

Nash, K. (2008). Interprofessional, cross-cultural immersion in Nicaragua. *Reflections on Nursing Leadership*. 34(1). [Online]. Retrieved March 31, 2008, from <http://www2.nursingsociety.org/RNL/Current/features/feature6.html>

Rounds, L. R., & Rappaport, B. A. (2008). The successful use of problem-based learning in an online nurse practitioner course. *Nursing Education Perspective*, 29(1), 12-16.

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Ruiz, R. J., Saade, G. R., Brown, C. E., Nelson-Becker, C., Tan, A., **Bishop, S.**, & Bukowski, R. (2008). The effect of acculturation on progesterone/estriol ratios and preterm birth in Hispanics. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, *111*(2 Pt. 1), 309-316.

Tipton, P., PhD; Pulliam, M., **Beckworth, C.**, Illich, P.; Griffin, R., & Tibbitt, A. (2008). Predictors of Associate Degree Nursing Students' Success Students. *Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research*, *8*(1), [online].

Wisnewski, C. A. (2008) Care Plans: Subdural Hematomas (chapter 44), Hypovolemia (chapter 10), Inhalation Injuries (chapter 17), and Lymphedema (chapter 35). In P. Lemone and K. Burke (Eds). *Medical Surgical Nursing: Critical Thinking in Client Care*, (4th ed). Prentice Hall Health.

Wisnewski, C. A. (2008). Nursing care of clients with endocrinology disorders.(chapter 19). [15 NCLEX style test questions] [IRCD]. In P. Lemone & K. Burke (Eds.), *Medical Surgical Nursing: Critical Thinking in Client Care*, (4th ed.). Prentice Hall Health.

Presentations

An, K. (2008, February). *Effects of biofeedback relaxation training on hemodynamic control and psychological symptoms among patients with coronary heart disease*. A podium presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 512.

Best, M. A. (2008, April). *Help! I feel like i am sinking fast: Role stress and other selected factors related to PNP role enactment*. A podium presentation at the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners annual conference in Nashville TN.

Brandburg, G. (as TWU student). (2008, February). *Making a life in the nursing home*. A student poster presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 656.

Brykczynski, K. A. (2007). *Using action research to revise a family and health promotion course*. Poster presentation to the NONPF 34th Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY.

Crane, P. A. (2008, February). *Predictors of injury associated with rape of adult females*. A podium presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 348.

Edwards, C., & Lucke, K. T. (2008, February). *Telehealth following rehabilitation in South Texas*. A student poster presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 563.

Gallagher, M., & Thomas, K. (2008, February). *Sleep assessment in Latino mothers and preschool children—A feasibility study*. A poster presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 684.

Kapustin, J., Logsdon, C., Blair, K., Distler, J. **Mendias, N.**, & White, P. (April, 2008). *Working smarter, not harder: Innovations for achieving success in academe, workshop*, NONPF 34th

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Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY. Dr. Mendias's portion of the workshop was entitled, "The Scholarship of Teaching and the Teaching Portfolio."

- Kelly, J.** (2008, February). *Comparison of perceived stress, allostatic load, and racial discrimination in different cultural groups of pregnant Black women*. A student poster presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 280.
- Lindsay, J. E.** (2008, February). *Simulation and pediatric end of life*. A podium presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL.
- Nash, K. L. & Smith, J. K.** (April, 2008). *Working together in the same sandbox: Results from an evaluation of an interprofessional elective course*. Paper presentation, NONPF 34th Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY.
- Reifsnider, E., Davila, Y., & Pecina, I.** (2008, February). *Stopping the spread of Hepatitis C among Hispanics*. A podium presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 319.
- Ruiz, R. J.** (2008, February). *Acculturation, emotional distress, neuroendocrine and immunologic changes related to preterm birth in African American and Hispanic Women*. A symposium presented at the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 739.
- Ruiz, R. J.** (2008, February). *The physiological effect of acculturation in Hispanic pregnant women on pro-inflammatory cytokines*. A podium presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 740.
- Tovar (Gressle), E. (Best Student Poster, a UTMB Graduate!).** (2008, February). *Development of the Health Beliefs Related to Cardiovascular Disease (HBCVD) Scale*. A student poster presentation to the 22nd Annual SNRS Research Conference, Birmingham, AL, 656-657.
- Wisnewski, C. A.** (2008, March). *A theory based diabetes exercise education intervention*. Poster: presentation to Alpha Delta Sigma Theta Tau Int. Showcasing Nursing Research. Galveston, TX.
- Wisnewski, C. A.** (2008, January). *Diabetes Review and Update 2008*. Academic Success Workshop Series, Sponsored by the Texas Gulf Coast Center for Excellence in Nursing Education. In conjunction with the Regional Innovations in Nursing Education: Texas. Higher Education Coordinating Board and the John S. Dunn Foundation. (Broadcast to other colleges.), Galveston, TX.