

## Southern Professor Travels to Turkey for Symposium

By Jean Breny, Ph.D., Public Health

Last April I had the great honor and pleasure to be a part of the First International Health Promotion and Communication Symposium, held in Istanbul, Turkey. Along with Turkish and Canadian counterparts, my U.S. colleagues and I were invited to be a part of this conference on planning, implementing, and evaluating health promotion programs, as well as social marketing, health communications, and health policy.

Turkey's Ministry of Health opened its Health Promotion Office in 2008, and since its inception they have been successful at establishing indoor smoking bans throughout the country. It's easy to facilitate legislation in Turkey, a country with a republican parliamentary democratic government; if the Health Minister wants it done – it's done.

We presented chapters from our new textbook, in order to help them develop national programs and policies to curb emerging health concerns: obesity prevention, reducing smoking rates, and cancer prevention. Presenters from all three countries touted the importance of using a social ecological model not only to plan, but also to assess communities and develop health promotion policies and programs. Sessions included topics on globalization and health, implementing and evaluating health promotion programs, and health promotion in specific settings, including work sites, schools, and hospitals.

**The Department of Public Health** is a participant in a HRSA grant awarded to the newly funded Yale University Public Health Training Center Program for Connecticut and Rhode Island. The Training Center promotes and facilitates collaborative education and training programs among academic institutions, state and local public health agencies and organizations, to enhance the quality of the public health workforce, especially in underserved areas. The \$292,000, four-year grant will be run by Drs. William Faraclas, department chair, and Peggy Gallup, who will conduct two annual projects: a conference on "a vital public health practice competency" for current public health practitioners, and a project involving SCSU public health students working in a paid assistantship with the Bridgeport Department of Health and Social Services.

**The Department has also been awarded** its third and final REACH grant of \$25,000 from the Boston Public Health Commission. REACH is focused on making systemic changes to eliminate health disparities caused by racism in minority communities. Faculty and students have been working with community members and the Bridgeport Health Department to address food access and zoning concerns in the East End of Bridgeport. Dr. Peggy Gallup is the project director, and Dr. Marian Evans and Professor Stanley Bernard serve on the Leadership Team. Dinny Mathew, an MPH student, has been awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship to support REACH.

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## Southern collaborates with Collegiate Health Service Corps

**The School of Health & Human Services** is collaborating with the Southwestern CT AHEC to implement the Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC). Open to all students, this program offers an exciting opportunity to engage in health-related service learning projects. Interim Associate Dean Dr. Cesarina Thompson has worked with campus coordinator Tinesha Sneed, (one of our own public health graduates) on implementing the program. To date, 2 PCH majors and 14 pre-nursing majors have participated in the required training and are now qualified to participate in service learning projects

For more information, please email [ThompsonC1@SouthernCT.edu](mailto:ThompsonC1@SouthernCT.edu) or visit [www.swcthec.org](http://www.swcthec.org).

**Welcome to this latest addition** of the School of Health and Human Services Newsletter. This has been a busy year for us. We added new faculty in Social Work, Communication Disorders, Nursing, and Marriage and Family Therapy. The school also received the go-ahead to conduct faculty searches for the coming academic year as well, and we will be looking to add additional faculty to Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Public Health, Recreation and Leisure Studies and Nursing.

The most significant accomplishment this year, however, was the approval of the Ed.D. in Nursing Education, which will be offered collaboratively between Southern's nursing department and the nursing department at Western Connecticut State University. After two years of intensive work by the nursing faculties of both universities, the approval of this unique on-line program will help address the growing shortage of doctorally-trained nursing faculty. The school is looking forward to admitting its first class this fall. For more information, please visit [www.SouthernCT.edu/nursingEdd](http://www.SouthernCT.edu/nursingEdd).

As the school continues to help address the workforce needs of the State of Connecticut in the health and human services, it is my hope that each of you will have a productive year. I look forward to seeing both our current students and our alumni at various campus events throughout the coming year.

**Dr. Gregory J. Paveza**



FROM THE DEAN

## SOCIAL WORK

### Faculty Present Research Findings

**Elizabeth Rodriguez-Keyes**, Dana Schneider and Liz Keenan presented their research at the 58th annual Council on Social Work Education meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. They discussed the use of hybrid course models across the social work curriculum and provided participants with an overview of the model used and sample online student activities while focusing on student engagement, critical thinking and pedagogical issues.

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## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

**The Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) program** has been providing individual, couple, and family therapy to clients for 25 years. In the past five years, the clinic's mission has broadened to provide a variety of services that were not available to low income families, including supervised visitation, anger management, and parent education. Students work at the clinic 18 hours a week. One student works in the supervised visitation program doing intakes, conducting orientations for new families, supervising visits and writing reports for referring agents. The second student works with the clinic director doing intakes and case management and providing therapy to individuals. Both students are part of a therapy team. Each team is made up of a faculty member and five to seven students. The team meets once a week for three hours, conducting therapy sessions with the aid of a two-way mirror. Working together with their own unique skill sets, the MFT students and social work students are able to use a multidisciplinary approach to serve a greater number of clients.

## NURSING

Southern's undergraduate nursing programs continue to see a strong demand from students. Additionally, enrollment in the graduate nursing programs, especially the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program, continues to increase. Lastly, the Nursing department plans to enroll its first cohort of students in the new Ed.D. in Nursing Education program for the Fall 2012 semester.

For the third consecutive year, the department received one of the prestigious New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) grants by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The NCIN program is designed to increase the numbers of students from traditionally underrepresented groups in accelerated nursing programs. This year, SCSU was the only nursing program in Connecticut to receive this grant. To date, the department has received \$250,000 in scholarship funds from the NCIN program.

Southern's Nursing department is preparing for its reaccreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Site visitors are scheduled to be on campus from April 16-18, 2012. The department is also planning for a review by the Connecticut State Board of Nurse Examiners in Spring 2012.

The Nursing department held two continuing education workshops during the month of November.

"Pushing Change from Front Lines of Care Delivery" was held on November 4 and featured Julie A. Kliger, MPA, BSN, RN, a leading voice on patient safety and improving patient outcomes.

On November 11 the department presented "The Rewards and Challenges of Working with People with Disabilities: What We Need to Know" with Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, FAAN, professor and director for the Center for Nursing Research at Villanova University. Dr. Smeltzer, an internationally known scholar, researcher, educator and author, is committed to making health promotion practices and services accessible and acceptable for those who are physically challenged.

Dr. Barbara Aronson, Dr. Barbara Glynn, and Professor Timothy Squires recently completed a one group pre- and post-test quasi-experimental study to assess the effectiveness of a role-modeling intervention on student nurse competency in responding to a simulated response to rescue event. The results of this feasibility study were very

encouraging: student nurses' mean scores increased by 47.5% after exposure to the role-modeling intervention. The study was supported by a SCSU creative activity grant. An article describing the study has recently been accepted for publication.

Dr. Cynthia O'Sullivan recently presented two papers: "Using the Omaha System to Evaluate Patient Problems," and "Nursing Interventions in Relation to Psychological Distress in Ovarian Cancer," presented at the Omaha System International Conference, Eagan, Minnesota, April, 2011, and "Targeting Advanced Practice Interventions to Patient Problems in Ovarian Cancer at the American Psychooncology Society Annual Meeting, Anaheim, California, February 2011.

Dr. Leslie Neal-Boylan presented "The impact of physical and/or sensory disability on the professional experiences of physicians and nurses: A qualitative study," at the Council on the Advancement of Nursing Science, Washington, D.C., October 12, 2011.

### Publications

- O'Sullivan, Dr. Cynthia (2011). *Psychological Distress During Ovarian Cancer Treatment*, published in *Nursing Research and Practice*, doi: 10.1155/2011/351642.
- Neal-Boylan, L. (2011). *Clinical case studies in home health care*. Ames, IA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Neal-Boylan, L. (2011). *Clinical case studies for the family nurse practitioner*. Ames, IA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Wallace Kazer, M., & Neal-Boylan, L. (2011). *Gerontological clinical case studies for the advanced practice registered nurse*. Ames, IA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Neal-Boylan, L. (In press). An exploration and comparison of the work life experiences of registered nurses and physicians with permanent physical and/or sensory disabilities. *Rehabilitation Nursing*.
- Neal-Boylan, L. (In press). Rehabilitation clients in the community. In Maurer and Smith (Eds.) *Community Health Nursing*. St. Louis: Elsevier.
- Neal-Boylan, L., Skeete, R., Hopkins, A., Nunez-Smith, M. (In press). The impact of physical and/or sensory disability on the professional experiences of physicians and nurses: A qualitative study. *Academic Medicine*.

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## RECREATION AND LEISURE STUDIES

### The Value of Youth Sports

Sports Management, a popular new concentration in the Recreation and Leisure Studies department, was the focus of the April 2011 program "The Value of Youth Sports," featuring special guest Bobby Valentine. Valentine was the former manager of the New York Mets and featured baseball broadcaster on ESPN, and is now the new manager for the Boston Red Sox. Nearly 200 people attended the lecture by Valentine and a panel discussion with Julie Greenwood, executive director of Squash Haven; and Karreem Mebane, former professional baseball umpire. Bob Picozzi, ESPN sportscaster, served as moderator.



Bobby Valentine

### SCSU Professor Travels to Jordan

This past summer, Dr. Jan Louise Jones received a CSU grant to conduct research on the development of voluntourism (travel which includes volunteering for a charitable cause) in Jordan.

Dr. Jones interviewed faculty from 13 different universities about their current knowledge and perceptions of the development of voluntourism in Jordan. Dr. Jones worked closely with the Jordan Inbound Tour Operators Association (JITOA) and with David Clemmons, founder of VolunTourism.org. It was concluded that the best way to educate people about voluntourism was to develop experience-driven workshops, allowing participants to experience voluntourism and its benefits for themselves.

The results of these interviews are now being analyzed and key themes regarding the understanding of voluntourism concepts and potential tourism impacts are being identified. The data collected will help establish training and workshop sessions for academics and community members in Jordan.

## COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

### New Faculty Join Department

The Department of Communication Disorders is pleased to announce the appointment of two new faculty members.

Dr. Richard Zipoli earned a Ph.D. in special education from the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Zipoli holds Masters degrees and licenses in speech-language pathology and physical therapy, as well as a certificate of competence in assistive technology. His areas of interest include developmental disorders of language and literacy, phonological and motor speech disorders, and service delivery in high-need schools.

Dr. Kelly Mabry earned a Ph.D. in Communication Disorders from the University of Connecticut in 2002 and Bachelors and Masters degrees from SCSU. Dr. Mabry's career passion is craniofacial disorders. She has been part of Craniofacial Teams since 1988 and is currently a member of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Craniofacial Team in Hartford. As a medical volunteer for Operation Smile, Dr. Mabry recently completed her first mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Dr. James Dempsey, department chair, was one of only nine professionals from the U.S. selected to participate on an international panel at the Ida Institute, Denmark, in March. In May, Dr. Dempsey was a professional presenter at the Sixth International Adult Aural Rehabilitation Conference in Florida.

Dr. Jonathan Preston was recently awarded a grant from the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Foundation of North America to conduct a treatment study with school-age children with apraxia of speech. The study is a collaborative effort between SCSU and Haskins Laboratories. The project will use ultrasound to provide children with a visual display of their tongue while they talk. This display will be used to cue the children to change their tongue configuration, and to coordinate lingual movements during speech.

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