Multiple Disciplines Work Together in Second Annual RICE Bowl

The Rural Interdisciplinary Case Experience (RICE) Bowl is an experiential learning opportunity for students across multiple disciplines to work in teams to address complex rural health issues in a competition format. This competition originated at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston in 1992, and has been successfully replicated by Dr. Bettina Beech, Executive Director of the MEW Institute, at three major medical centers. On Tuesday, October 27, Dr. Monica Flippin-Wynn, Assistant Professor of Mass Communications at Jackson State University, facilitated the competition among three teams each composed of 12 students from the five UMMC schools (medicine, nursing, dentistry, graduate studies, and health related professions); University of Mississippi (pharmacy); Mississippi State University (nutrition); Jackson State University (public health and social work); Mississippi College (law and physician assistant); and Belhaven University (business). As a result of working in interdisciplinary teams to address a realistic case scenario, students are better prepared to work collaboratively to provide the highest quality of care to individuals. LEARN MORE

The 2nd Annual RICE Bowl was sponsored by the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities, the Office of Population Health and the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at UMMC, BankPlus, and Baptist Health Systems.
Accomplishments and Achievements

Drs. Bettina Beech and Roy Duhé Recognized at UMMC Excellence in Research Awards Ceremony

The 2015 Excellence in Research Awards Ceremony honored 15 medallion award recipients along with recipients of nominated awards on Wednesday, November 4th. Dr. Bettina Beech and Dr. Roy J. Duhé, an affiliate of the MEW Institute, were among those recognized as having been successful in attracting extramural funding for their research programs.

Dr. Bettina Beech, associate vice chancellor of population health, professor of pediatrics and family medicine, and executive director of the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities was awarded the Bronze Medallion for receiving $250,000 in extramural funding for her research programs. Dr. Beech is a population health scientist whose research interests include population-based intervention approaches to the primary and secondary prevention of pediatric obesity and type 2 diabetes (T2DM), primarily among African-American youth. Her recent grants include an NIDDK-funded R34 diabetes translation study (T3) for African-American families and their 8-10-year-old children at risk for T2DM and an NHLBI-funded multi-site R25 to provide a two-year research training and mentoring program in obesity health disparities for early career faculty members employed or trained at HBCUs. She is editor-in-chief for the Journal of Family and Community Health. Before joining UMMC in January 2012, she was a tenured professor and vice chair of the Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy, and co-director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity at the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

Dr. Roy J. Duhé, professor of pharmacology, professor of radiation oncology, and associate director for cancer education was awarded the Gold Medallion for receiving $1,000,000 in extramural funding. Dr. Duhé focuses on colorectal cancer prevention and on changing clinical practices to identify and treat aggressive colorectal cancer subtypes. He has received awards for his public service, such as the American Cancer Society’s St. George National Award. As the founder of Mississippi’s 70x2020 Initiative, Duhé is the UMMC Cancer Institute’s representative on the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable. Following his academic training as a biochemist, he joined the Farrar laboratory at the National Cancer Institute—FCRDC, where he cloned the rat jak2 cDNA and established his expertise in cytokine signal transduction and cancer biology. He joined the UMMC faculty in 1999. The PhD graduates and other members of the Duhé lab identified the cysteine-based redox switch and other molecular mechanisms which control Janus kinase catalytic activities.

Congratulations to Dr. David Buys!

David R. Buys, PhD, MSPH
Assistant Extension and Research Professor
Department of Food Science, Nutrition, & Health Promotion, Mississippi State Univ.
State Health Specialist, Mississippi State University Extension Service

Dr. David Buys, a MEW Institute affiliate, was recently named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Mississippi College. He also published in the July edition of the American Journal of Public Health: CLICK HERE
Accomplishments and Achievements

MEW Institute Recognizes 2015 Rural Health Champion

Each year, the MEW Institute recognizes an “unsung hero” who makes a notable contribution to health, healthcare, or a healthcare delivery system in a rural MS community. A Rural Health Champion is selected by a committee of several prominent state & community-based representatives. This prestigious award is given in conjunction with National Rural Health Day, which is Thursday, November 19, 2015. The MEW Institute is pleased to announce Patrick Brent Smith, MD as the 2015 Rural Health Champion.

Dr. Smith practices family medicine with an emphasis on sports medicine in his hometown, Cleveland, MS. One of his foremost passions is providing access to care to the public school youth athletes in the area where he grew up, which was previously unavailable. Dr. Smith has also worked to increase safety at local high schools in regards to sudden cardiac death and concussions. His long-term goals are to continue to work to improve athlete safety in the MS Delta & statewide, and to help improve the health of MS citizens by improving the primary care workforce and helping to start a family medicine residency program in the MS Delta. LEARN MORE

Mississippi Primary Health Care Association Announces New CEO

The Mississippi Primary Health Care Association (MPHCA) is pleased to welcome Janice Sherman, MPA, as the association’s new CEO. Ms. Sherman officially assumed her new duties on Nov. 2, 2015, and comes to MPHCA from Atlanta, GA where she served as the CEO of Baselines, LLC. Ms. Sherman will assume the duties of MPHCA’s retiring Executive Director, Robert M. Pugh, MPH, who has served MPHCA and the state’s CHCs in exemplary fashion for the past 25 years. Ms. Sherman has noted MPHCA’s mission will not change and that MPHCA will continue to advocate for the provision of equal access to quality, comprehensive and affordable health care services and the elimination of health disparities in the state. LEARN MORE

Meet Our Newest Affiliate!

Kenisha Potter-Stevenson, LMSW
EPSDT Coordinator
Child Health & Wellness Coordinator
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

National Rural Health Day
Celebrating the Power of Rural
NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Congratulations to Our Deputy Director, Michael L. Jones, and Science Director, Dr. Marino Bruce!

Michael L. Jones, deputy director of the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute, and Dr. Marino Bruce, science director of the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute, have been selected as members of the Southeastern Health Equity Council (SHEC). SHEC is one of ten regional health equity councils formed to achieve health equity in the United States. The mission of SHEC is to coordinate efforts in Region IV to achieve health equity through policy changes, effective programs, and greater awareness. LEARN MORE
Earlier in November 2015, UMMC lost a beloved member of its family. For more than 20 years, Dr. Sharon Wyatt has graced the School of Nursing as a professor in the PhD and DNP programs while maintaining an active clinical practice and research program. Among her many accomplishments during her 44 years as a Nurse Practitioner, Dr. Wyatt also served as the principal investigator for the National Children’s Study Hinds County Study Center; director and co-principal investigator for the Examination Center of the Jackson Heart Study; co-chair of the Governor’s Task Force for the Prevention of CVD; Community Outreach Core lead investigator for the Deep South Network for Cancer Control; and was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing. Her research was focused on health disparities in cardiovascular and renal disease, particularly renal disease, among African Americans. Dr. Sharon Wyatt will truly be missed by all of her students, friends, and colleagues at UMMC.

The memorial service will be at St. James Episcopal Church (3921 Oakridge Drive, Jackson, MS 39216) at 12 pm on Monday, December 7, 2015. There will be a reception at the church immediately following and then an open house at 639 Broadway Avenue, Jackson, MS 39211.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the memorial endowed scholarship fund for doctoral student travel at:

Sharon B. Wyatt, Ph.D. Memorial Fund
Office of Development
University of Mississippi Medical Center
2500 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39216

You may also give online at www.umc.edu/givenow
Instructions: Select this category: School of Nursing Options
Select “Sharon B. Wyatt, Ph.D. Memorial Fund”
For additional assistance, please call Sheila Henderson at 601.815.3302
Cancer Health Disparities

Lung Cancer Disparities in the Era of Personalized Medicine

Widespread disparities by race and socioeconomic status in cancer outcomes are well documented. These disparities exist throughout all areas of the cancer spectrum, spanning screening, diagnosis, and treatments, as well as survivorship and end-of-life care. African-American patients and other racial/ethnic minorities are less likely than white patients to receive stage-appropriate cancer care, including surgery, radiation, and systemic therapy. The impact of personalized medicine on disparities is discussed, along with a novel community-based intervention to address these disparities. READ MORE


Elucidating Patient-Perceived Role in “Decision-Making” Among African Americans Receiving Lung Cancer Care Through A County Safety-Net System

The authors explored patient-perceived role in “decision-making” related to active treatment and palliation among African Americans receiving lung cancer care through a county safety-net system. Drawing from a cohort of over 100 African Americans treated in a safety-net hospital, the authors invited a subsample of 13 patient-caregiver dyads to participate in a series of dyadic, ethnographic interviews conducted at the patients' homes. Findings from ethnographic interviews demonstrated that healthcare communication with physicians is difficult for patients. While caregivers and patients describe a deep engagement in lung cancer care, they expressed a concurrent lack of understanding their prognosis and outcomes of treatment. Distinct lack of understanding about disease course, severity, and prognosis may constrain patient perception of the need for informed decision-making over the course of care. READ MORE


Cancer Support Needs for African American Breast Cancer Survivors and Caregivers

Improved cancer screenings and treatment advances have led to higher cancer survival rates in the United States. However, racial disparities in breast cancer survival rates than white women. These disparities suggest that unmet needs related to survivorship still exist. This study focuses on the challenges that both African American (AA) cancer survivors and caregivers face across the care continuum. Participants discussed five themes: (1) a culture that discourages the discussion of cancer; (2) lack of support services for AA cancer survivors; (3) lack of support services for cancer caregivers; (4) need for culturally appropriate cancer resources, including those targeted at AA women; and (5) aspects that were helpful for cancer survivors and caregivers, including strong social support networks. READ MORE

Disparities in Social Support Systems for Youths With Type 1 Diabetes

Low socioeconomic status (SES) is consistently identified as a major risk factor for poor health outcomes in youths with type 1 diabetes, yet little is known about the social factors that yield such disparities. This study used survey research to examine the role of SES by focusing on differential resourcing in social support systems for youths with type 1 diabetes and their parents/caregivers. The authors identified significant inequalities in social support systems and found that parents from lower-income households engage in few coping activities and rarely identify a primary care provider as the main point of contact when facing a diabetes-related problem. The findings underscore the need to better connect low SES families to diabetes-specific professional resourcing and to raise awareness about the important of extracurricular activities as a form of social support for youths. READ MORE


Associations Between Caregiver Health Literacy and Preschool Children’s Secondhand Smoke Exposure

The objective of this article was to examine the associations between caregiver health literacy (HL) and smoking-related outcome experiences, implementation of home/car smoking bans, and child secondhand smoke exposure. Caregivers of Head Start children residing with a smoker(s) completed measures assessing JL, outcome expectancies, and home/car smoking bans implementation. Biomarkers of child secondhand smoke exposure included home air nicotine monitors and child salivary cotinine. Caregivers with lower HL had higher levels of home air nicotine and child salivary cotinine in the full sample and among smokers. After controlling for child age and number of smokers in the home, lower HL was associated with higher endorsement of negative smoking expectancies in the full sample and in smokers. The conclusion is that caregiver HL is associated with child secondhand smoke exposure and is important in shaping smoking-related beliefs. READ MORE


"There are all kinds of things you can do to marry literacy with health.”

~ C. Everett Koop

Experiences, Functioning and Needs of Low-Income African American Mothers of Children with Asthma

The purpose of this proposed study was to explore experiences, needs and functioning of low-income, African American caregivers of children with asthma in order to better understand symptom management. A qualitative, descriptive design was used. A purposive sampling technique was used to screen 32 caregivers of children with asthma, and 15 caregivers agreed to participate. Three main themes were identified: managing the symptoms; cultural beliefs and values; and culturally competent health care provider. For the caregivers, culture disparity is not just about access to health services but instead the healthcare providers’ understanding of the complexity of symptoms management. READ MORE

From the Director’s Desk: Dr. Marino A. Bruce

November 11 is a day when we celebrate those who are members of our nation’s armed forces. These individuals place their lives on the line to defend our nation against foreign threats and to serve as a stabilizing force during natural disasters and civil unrest. Our military is unique because those who currently serve in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, and Coast Guard are volunteers. These brave individuals answer our nation’s call for a defense force by enduring rigorous training and living by a code where they risk their lives for the benefit of others without hesitation. Military life can have its costs as the sacrifices can be great. Thousands miss milestone life events like the birth of a child or a child’s first steps. Others experience the horrors of the battlefield up close and return home with scarred bodies, minds, and souls. They care for us by allowing us to go about our days without the fear experienced in so many war-torn areas in the world. Let us make sure that we care for them with encouraging words or expressions of kindness during their active duty and advocacy on their behalf when their service is done. We can never thank them enough for their sacrifice!

Special Issue Featured at APHA Annual Meeting

The “Social Determinants of Men’s Health” issue of Family and Community Health was featured at the Wolters and Kluwer booth at the American Public Health Association annual meeting recently held in Chicago, IL. This special issue was led by C-HMM director Dr. Marino Bruce along with executive advisory board members Drs. Derek Griffith and Roland Thorpe and was published this past September. The collection of peer-reviewed articles about social determinants, their interaction, and subsequent impact on the health outcomes men and boys has had an early impact as this volume has already been included on reading lists for gender studies and health disparities courses. More information about this special can be found at: CLICK HERE.

Last Men’s Health Monday is November 30!

Come join us for the final night this fall for good food, great fellowship, Monday Night Football, important health information, and free health screening at the Open Arms Healthcare Center (500 E. Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216) from 6-9pm.

DEADLINE COMING SOON—LAST CALL FOR PAPERS!

For the next volume in Research in Race and Ethnic Relations: Inequality, Crime, and Health among African American Males, the editors invite scholars to contribute studies utilizing original quantitative and qualitative research methods as well as theoretical and conceptual review articles that will further broaden our understanding of the relationship between inequality, crime, punishment, and health. Deadline is December 1, 2015. LEARN MORE
Social Representations of HIV/AIDS in Mass Media: Some Important Lessons for Caregivers

This article provides an overview of published studies on social representations of HIV/AIDS. It argues that, despite changes over time in the peripheral elements of negative social representations, such representations remain present within the health care field and continue to affect populations across various cultures. This underlines the importance of healthcare that accounts for cultural needs in interventions with people living with HIV/AIDS. A review of the relevant literature suggests that it is necessary to assist caregivers (including social workers) in understanding both the social significance associated with the illness and the concept of cultural competence. READ MORE


“One of the best ways to fight stigma and empower HIV-positive people is by speaking out openly and honestly about who we are and what we experience.”
— Alex Garner, HIV Activist

HIV as Chronic Illness: Caregiving and Social Networks in a Vulnerable Population

The authors sought to understand the support networks of people living with HIV, particularly of their network of caregivers and with a focus on people from disadvantaged and/or stigmatized communities. Among the findings was the heavy reliance on institutional caregivers and on nonhuman sources of support. There was evidence of peer-to-peer networks of care, but the strongest connections were with their formal caregivers. HIV as a chronic condition among disadvantaged and/or stigmatized groups requires paying special attention to informal and formal care dynamics and to where social or family networks cannot meet the basic needs. READ MORE


Preferences for Professional Versus Informal Care at End of Life Amongst African-American Drug Users with HIV/AIDS

Few studies have examined the association between having an informal (unpaid) caregiver and viral suppression among persons living with HIV/AIDS who are on antiretroviral therapy. The current study examined relationships between caregivers’ individual and social network characteristics and care recipient viral suppression. Baseline data were from the BEACON study caregivers and their HIV seropositive former or current drug using care recipients, of whom 89% were African American (N=258 dyads). Using adjusted logistic regression, care recipient’s undetectable viral load was positively associated with caregiver’s limited physical functioning and negatively associated with caregivers having few family members to turn to for problem solving, a greater number of current drug users in their network, and poorer perceptions of the care recipient’s mental health. READ MORE


“One of the best ways to fight stigma and empower HIV-positive people is by speaking out openly and honestly about who we are and what we experience.”
— Alex Garner, HIV Activist

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Click Image to Learn More
Health Care Services in the Community

School of Nursing Family Health Clinic Serves Community

UNACARE (University Nursing Associates-Community Access to Health Resources and Education) Family Health Clinic opened in 1998 as UNACARE Health Center, the first nurse faculty-run health clinic in Mississippi. The clinic began as a joint effort with the Midtown Community Development Center, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, and the UMMC School of Nursing (SON) and was the first of eight nurse-run clinics operated by SON faculty. UNACARE Health Center opened as a division of University Nursing Associates, PLLC and collaborated with UMMC clinical faculty in Departments of Family Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Ambulatory Pediatrics. This clinic became part of the SON practice plan and provided a venue for faculty with varying credentials to be engaged in clinical practice. In July 2014, University Nursing Associates consolidated with UMMC and the clinic name was changed to UNACARE Family Health Center.

The clinic is located in Jackson’s oldest residential neighborhood, Midtown, where faculty have served community members and trained student nurse practitioners, RN trainees, and baccalaureate students for over 16 years. Wellness and well-child visits are among the most frequent clinical activities; however, clinicians at UNACARE also see patients dealing with health problems that are common in Mississippi (i.e., hypertension, diabetes, obesity and hyperlipidemia). Monthly visits at UNACARE average between 200 and 250 patients from all age groups.

Currently, there are three part-time NP faculty members and one full-time FNP. Clinic hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8 am-4:30 pm, Wednesday 8 am-6:30 pm and Friday 8 am-2 pm. Most insurances are accepted as well as Medicaid and Medicare and while appointments are preferred, walk-ins are welcome.

LEARN MORE

Open Arms Healthcare Center’s Becoming a Healthier U Program

The OAHCC offers free preventive screenings through the Becoming a Healthier U Program, a Community Health Team led initiative that aims to provide an integrated, comprehensive community-based and clinical healthcare approach for improving health. Services include screenings for: blood pressure, cholesterol/glucose levels, HIV and STDs, and other health risk assessments.

Services rendered at OAHCC focus on ‘whole person care.’ The clinical team is a diverse group of well-trained healthcare professionals with the necessary cultural competence to serve underinsured and underrepresented populations with a particular understanding of the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Most importantly, the services provided at OAHCC are free from discrimination, judgment, and prejudice.

Hours of Operation are Monday through Friday 8 am-5 pm and Saturday 8 am-1 pm. LEARN MORE
In the 50 years since its founding, the White House Fellows Program has helped prove that those who love their country can change it. Our Nation needs your drive and talent, and we hope you consider applying to the program.

— President Obama & Mrs. Obama

MAKING AN IMPACT!
Become a 2016-2017 White House Fellow

Application Due Date:
Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 5:59 PM (EST)

Founded in 1964, the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships is the nation’s most prestigious program for leadership and public service. White House Fellowships offer exceptional Americans, who have demonstrated remarkable achievement early in their careers and a commitment to service, first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government. After a competitive application process, selected individuals spend a year in Washington, DC working as a full-time, paid Fellow to Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House staff, and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis. APPLY NOW or LEARN MORE

Funding Opportunities

National Institutes of Health
Promoting Caregiver Health Using Self-Management (R01)

Application Due Date: March 3, 2016
Number and Amount of Awards: Up to 4 at $350,000 each

The purpose of this initiative is to stimulate research in promoting caregiver health using self-management. Caregiving is an important science area since the number of people living longer with chronic conditions is growing. Informal caregivers (lay caregivers) are defined as unpaid individuals (spouses, partners, family members, friends, or neighbors) involved in assisting others with activities of daily living and/or medical tasks. Formal caregivers are paid, delivering care in one’s home or care settings (daycare, residential care facility) (Family Caregiver Alliance, 2012). This concept focuses on informal caregivers. LEARN MORE
Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi Hosts Mississippi’s Walk for Diabetes

Dozens of people participated in Mississippi’s Walk for Diabetes hosted by the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi. This was the 6th walk out of 7 walks this fall put on by the foundation. Several local businesses like Southern Eye Center, Hattiesburg Clinic, and Forrest General Hospital participated in the walk. Many people with diabetes and diabetes supporters also participated in the event. READ MORE


Partnership Brings Teen Health Clinic to High School

Students at Lanier High School in Jackson will learn how to adopt a healthier lifestyle in addition to receiving primary medical care when they visit the school’s new Teen Wellness Clinic, a partnership between Jackson Public Schools, UMMC, and the University of MS School of Nursing. Services include treatment for acute and chronic illnesses as well as referrals to appropriate health care when an illness or treatment is out of the scope of practice for the nurse practitioner. READ MORE


Open Enrollment for 2016 Health Insurance Plans

For 2016, the Open Enrollment Period, when people can enroll in a health insurance plan, is November 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016. The last day to enroll in or change plans is December 15, 2015 for new coverage to start on January 1, 2016. People may qualify for Special Enrollment Periods allowing them to enroll outside of Open Enrollment if they have certain life events, like getting married, having a baby, or losing other coverage. LEARN MORE

Thanksgiving

From all of us at the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities

Back to Home Page
Caring for America: Home Health Workers in the Shadow of the Welfare State

In this sweeping narrative history from the Great Depression of the 1930s to the Great Recession of today, Caring for America rethinks both the history of the American welfare state from the perspective of care work and chronicles how home care workers eventually became one of the most vibrant forces in the American labor movement. Ellen Boris and Jennifer Klein demonstrate the ways in which law and social policy made home care a low-waged job that was stigmatized as welfare and relegated to the bottom of the medical hierarchy. Disparate, often chaotic programs for home care, which allowed needy, elderly, and disabled people to avoid institutionalization, historically paid poverty wages to the African American and immigrant women who constituted the majority of the labor force. READ MORE


Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving Book Series

Beginning in 2001, the Rosalynn Carter Institute (RCI) for Caregiving began convening expert panels in caregiving to identify best practices in caregiving for specific conditions and illnesses, caregiving in rural areas, and education and support for caregivers. The books below are the results of these panels and can be ordered by clicking here, LEARN MORE

Education and Support Programs for Caregivers
Toseland, Ronald W.; Haigler, David H.; Monahan, Deborah J. (Eds.)

Rural Caregiving in the United States
Talley, Ronda C.; Chwalisz, Kathleen; Buckwalter, Kathleen, C. (Eds.)

Caregiving Across the Lifespan
Talley, Ronda C.; Montgomery, Rhonda (Eds.)

Welcome to Our New MEW Institute Staff Members!

Jana Bailey
Research Projects Coordinator

&

Sydnie Wagner, MPA
Community Linkages Coordinator
Upcoming Events

NIH Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP) Webinar
November 20, 2015—3 PM EST
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP) is hosting a webinar to discuss the application process with students and faculty. The NIH MRSP is a comprehensive, 12-month closely-mentored research enrichment program designed to attract medical, dental, & veterinary students from diverse backgrounds and encourage them to consider biomedical research as a career. LEARN MORE

Join WebEx Meeting
Call-in toll-free number: 1-877-668-4493
Meeting number/access code: 627 550 723
Meeting password: MRSP1617

Fearless Caregiver Conference
December 16, 2015—Autumn of Sarasota, FL
The Fearless Caregiver Conference provides practical information, advice, and support for those caring for loved ones. The conference is designed to help attendees receive hands-on advice for his or her caregiving challenges. Attendees will also learn tried and true “time-off techniques” for all types of caregivers and expert advice for beating stress and depression. Gary Barg, Editor-in-Chief of Today's Caregiver Magazine, will host this event. LEARN MORE

American College Health Association’s Webinar Series:
Taking Care of Yourself so You Can Take Care of Others:
Cultivating Resilience among Counseling and Health Service Staff
December 8, 2015—2:30 PM CST
People must take care of themselves first in order to be at their best to help others. This webinar will explore the stressful nature of health service work within higher education, its impact on staff, and strategies to respond effectively. The presenter will examine some of the broader philosophical issues that contribute to this stress, consider the value of focusing on our personal needs and not just meeting our students' needs, establishing boundaries, and learning how to create resilience within a health service context. This webinar is being conducted by the ACHA Mental Health Section. There is no fee for viewing the webinar. However, there is a non-refundable fee for individuals requesting continuing education credit, with the exception of ACHA individual members at member institutions. LEARN MORE or Register for Webinar

Become an Affiliate of the Evers-Williams Institute!
The effort to eliminate health disparities in Mississippi requires collaboration and we seek to work with faculty, students, and community members who are interested in interdisciplinary approaches to improve the health of underserved and vulnerable populations. We encourage individuals interested in this work to become an Affiliate Member of the Myrlie Evers-Williams for the Elimination of Health Disparities.
Affiliate members of the Evers-Williams Institute will have access to: 1) individuals with content expertise in health disparities, social determinants of health, and program evaluation; 2) space for anthropometric and survey data collection; and 3) opportunities for student research and training experience in Institute focus areas. LEARN MORE

If you are interested in membership affiliation or participating in an orientation session, please submit your curriculum vitae (CV), resume, or statement of interest to Sydnie Wagner. She can also be reached at (601) 815-9544 or swagner2@umc.edu should you have further questions.
2015 November National Health Observances

National Family Caregivers Month
Visit www.caregiveraction.org

National Hospice & Palliative Care Month
Visit www.nhpco.org

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
Visit www.alz.org

National Rural Health Day
November 19, 2015
Visit www.celebratepowerofrural.org

National Family Health History Day
November 26, 2015
Visit www.hhs.gov

American Diabetes Month
Visit www.diabetes.org

COPD Awareness Month
Visit www.lung.org

National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month
Visit www.nostomachforcancer.org

Lung Cancer Awareness Month
Visit www.lung.org or www.lungcanceralliance.org

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Awareness Week
November 23-29, 2015
Visit www.aboutgerd.org

New Feature: Feedback Forum

We are interested in hearing from the CONNECT community and we are devoting space to provide a forum for readers to share their thoughts and ideas about health disparities, social determinants of health, other MEW Institute focus areas or newsletter content. Brief submissions under 200 words will be reviewed by the editorial team and published in the next issue of CONNECT.

In order to jump start the conversation, we are soliciting responses to the question, “What Needs to Be Done to Eliminate Health Disparities in Mississippi?”

We want to hear from you so please submit letters to the editor of 200 words or fewer to Gina Hamilton or by fax at (601) 815-9025. Please include your name and phone number for confirmation purposes. If you have any questions, Ms. Hamilton can be reached at (601) 815-9003 or evers-williamsinstitute@umc.edu.

NEXT MONTH'S FOCUS

Civic Participation

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