



# Georgia State University Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing Alumni News Summer 2009 E-Newsletter

Summer 2009: Volume 2, Issue 3



Dr. Mark P. Becker, GSU President

## President Becker's State of the University Address

On April 16, 2009, Georgia State University students, faculty and staff, as well as the general public, attended Dr. Mark Becker's State of the University Address in the Student Center Ballroom.

Dr. Becker, who became GSU's seventh president in January, gave what was believed to be Georgia State's first State of the University Address. He discussed the university's proven ability to adapt and grow to meet the needs and ambitions of Georgia, historically, today and in the future.

Dr. Becker stated that "demand for a Georgia State education has never been higher, the students we are recruiting are the best in our history, and the faculty is the strongest ever, we will emerge from the storm, headed in the right direction, and with wind in our sails."

To read Dr. Becker's Address click [here](#).

---

## BFLSON Participates in CPR Study

The Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing was selected to take part in a national multi-site research study with approximately 600 students from 10 nursing schools around the United States. The purpose of the study, sponsored by the National League of Nursing, the American Heart Association, and the Laerdal Corporation, is to discover better ways to teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Under the direction of faculty members Monica Tennant, MSN, RN, CCNS, and Nancy Difalco, MSN, RN, the GSU student cohort practiced CPR using an online program and simulation mannequins. The simulation mannequins provided real-time feedback on rate, depth, and hand position during compressions as well as adequacy and force of breath during ventilations.

Free CPR certification was given to all study participants. The School of Nursing will be given all simulation equipment upon completion of the project.

If you would like more information on the study, please contact Monica Tennant at [mtennant@gsu.edu](mailto:mtennant@gsu.edu).

### Inside This Issue

- 1 President Becker's State of the University Address
- 1 CPR Study
- 2 Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship
- 2 Alumni Spotlight-Michelle Byrne
- 3 Spring 2009 Commencement
- 3 BFLSON Pinning Ceremony
- 4-5 Faculty Accomplishments
- 5 GSU Family Dynasty
- 5 Name the E-Newsletter
- 6 Upcoming Events

## *School of Nursing Awarded the Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship*

The Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing was recently awarded \$63,298 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, to assist students in the attainment of advanced practice nursing education or doctoral studies.

The purpose of the Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship grant is to provide funding for all or part of the costs of the tuition, books, and fees for the advanced nurse education program.

To receive traineeship support, the students must be enrolled in full-time study. In this era of economic constraints, this funding is especially important as it allows students to attain their graduate degree without extraordinary strain on their personal resources.

For more information about the Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship contact, CeCe Grindel, PhD, RN, FAAN at [cgrindel@gsu.edu](mailto:cgrindel@gsu.edu).



## Alumni Spotlight



Michelle Byrne, PHD, RN

Michelle Byrne, PhD, RN, graduate of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing was recently elected President of the Competency and Credentialing Institute (CCI).

CCI is a leader in competency credentialing and education that promotes safe, quality patient care.

Dr. Byrne is currently a professor of nursing and Program Coordinator for the Masters in Science and Nursing Education program at North Georgia College and State University.

## Calling all Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing Alumni

If you are a graduate of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing we would love to hear from you! Send your news to [acorley@gsu.edu](mailto:acorley@gsu.edu) and you may appear in an upcoming edition of the e-newsletter. Be sure to keep your contact information current. Please visit the Alumni Association at [www.gsu.edu/alumni](http://www.gsu.edu/alumni) or 404-413-2190.

## GSU Commencement Ceremony



Georgia State University's 94th commencement ceremony ushered in a new method of conferring degrees.

The first annual PhD commencement and hooding ceremony was held at 9 a.m. on May 9 in the GSU Sports Arena. The bachelor, master and specialist degrees were conferred at a commencement ceremony at 2 p.m. in the Georgia Dome.

"We felt it was appropriate to recognize doctoral students with a smaller, more intimate hooding ceremony in the morning," GSU President Mark Becker said. He further commented that "both occasions will be times of great celebration honoring the hard work that went into realizing such an important goal."

The keynote speaker for the afternoon ceremony was Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, the founding dean and first president of Morehouse School of Medicine. With the exception of his tenure as secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1989 to 1993, Dr. Sullivan was president of Morehouse School of Medicine for more than two decades.

The speaker at the PhD ceremony was Dr. Peter Lindsay, associate professor of political science and philosophy as well as the director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Georgia State. Dr. Lindsay is the author of *Creative Individualism* and numerous academic articles on subjects such as 19th century political economic theory, contemporary property rights, Lincoln on secession and the role of reason in judgments of conscience.

The spring ceremonies were also notable because it was Dr. Becker's first as GSU president and Provost Ron Henry's last commencement before his retirement. Dr. Henry will be retiring this summer after 15 years of service at Georgia State University.

For more information, visit [www.gsu.edu/commencement](http://www.gsu.edu/commencement).

### SON Pinning Ceremony ~ Congratulations Graduates!

In May, the School of Nursing recognized its spring and summer graduates with a Pinning Ceremony held on campus. This was a time of celebration for the 75 graduates and their families and friends. The inspiring speaker for the evening was Cathleen Wheatley, Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer for Dekalb Regional Health System. Ms. Wheatley is a 2003 graduate of the School's master's degree program. Following the ceremony, a reception was held for the graduates and their guests.

## Faculty Accomplishments

Sylvia Lee, PhD, RNC and Huey Chen, PhD, RN, APRN-BC co-sponsored Georgia State University pre-nursing and nursing students at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Georgia State University Undergraduate Research Conference held this spring on campus. Three projects were presented at the conference. The first project was entitled: *The Non-traditional Educational Culture of GSU and Students' Health Advocacy through Photovoice*. With this project, students used photography to explore the non-traditional educational culture at GSU and its impact on student's physical and mental health.

The second project was entitled: *Analysis of a Gender's Psychiatric Needs: A Look into Gender Distribution, Psychiatric Prevalence Rates, and the Availability of Provider Services in Fulton and DeKalb Counties*. The purpose of this study is to determine if adult females are more likely to have difficulty accessing psychiatric care in two metro Atlanta counties where they reside. The specific objectives are 1) to examine the gender distribution and the difference in psychiatric prevalence rate between adult male and adult female population in the target area, and 2) explore the provider-patient ratio difference between adult male and female individuals who need psychiatric care in the target area.

The third project was entitled: *Relationship Among Sleep Disturbance, Fatigue, Stress and Depression in Mothers with an Infant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*. Students used data to describe the relationships among sleep disturbance, stress, depression and fatigue in mothers with an infant hospitalized in the intensive care unit, and explored the relationship between light exposure and sleep. This project was selected by GSU to represent the university with a poster presentation at the Colonial Academic Undergraduate Research Conference at Townson University in Baltimore, MD.

For additional information about either of these research initiatives, contact Dr. Sylvia Lee at [slee29@gsu.edu](mailto:slee29@gsu.edu) or Dr. Huey Chen at [hchen17@gsu.edu](mailto:hchen17@gsu.edu).



Sylvia Lee, PhD, RNC

---

Patricia Clark, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN and Clinical Assistant Professor Dawn Aycocock, MSN, RN, APRN-BC, CCRC and their research team recently published an article, "Pros and Woes of Interdisciplinary Collaboration with a National Clinical Trial" in the *Journal of Professional Nursing* 25(2) 93-100. The article describes linking the successful collaboration of Caregiver-EXCITE (Extremity Constraint-Induced Therapy Evaluation), a nursing study funded by NINR to explore family function, stroke recovery, and caregiver outcomes. The EXCITE trial, a multisite, national clinical trial tested a neurorehabilitative technique to improve upper extremity function in stroke survivors, had been led by Dr. Steven L. Wolf, an internationally known physical therapist and researcher in stroke rehabilitation. Dr. Clark was the Principal Investigator for Caregiver-EXCITE and Ms. Aycocock was the project coordinator. The article addresses the advantages and challenges of the collaboration between the projects. For more information about this article, contact Dr. Clark at [pclark@gsu.edu](mailto:pclark@gsu.edu) or Ms. Aycocock at [daycock@gsu.edu](mailto:daycock@gsu.edu).



Huey Chen, PhD, RN, APRN-BC

---

A poster presentation entitled *Circadian Activity Rhythms for Mothers with an Infant in the Intensive Care Unit* was presented by Sylvia Lee, PhD, RNC and Dawn Aycocock, MSN, RN, APRN-BC, CCRC. This research project described the relationship between circadian activity rhythms (CAR), sleep disturbances, and fatigue among mothers with an infant in the Intensive Care Unit. There was also a comparison of characteristics, fatigue severity and CAR between good sleepers and poor sleepers. The poster was presented at the SLEEP Conference in Seattle, WA. For more information about this research project contact, Ms. Aycocock at [daycock@gsu.edu](mailto:daycock@gsu.edu).



L-R-Patricia Clark, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN and Ms. Dawn Aycocock, MSN, RN, APRN-BC, CCRC



Jennifer Klinedinst, PhD, RN, MPH

Jennifer Klinedinst, PhD, RN, MPH, was one of twelve individuals from across the country to participate as a Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing Research Scholar for Summer 2009. This week long seminar was held in mid-July at New York University.

This opportunity allows Dr. Klinedinst to hone her research skills and gain a competitive edge in research proposal submission. Dr. Klinedinst worked with nationally prominent geriatric nursing researchers who served as faculty to the program.

Specifically, Dr. Klinedinst worked on a research proposal to determine the feasibility of a community-based walking program and its ability to decrease depressive symptoms among stroke survivors. Dr. Klinedinst will submit this proposal to the Hartford Foundation for funding in January.

---

### GSU family Dynasty ~ Is your family a GSU Dynasty

Do you have multiple family members or generations who have graduated from Georgia State University? If so, you have a GSU Family Dynasty and the university is searching for families who have two or more GSU graduates or even generations of graduates for a publication or video. It does not matter what the major or degree was, only that the degree is from GSU. If your family has two or more GSU graduates and you are interested in possible participating with this project, please let us know at [chhs@gsu.edu](mailto:chhs@gsu.edu).




---

### NAME THE BYRDINE F. LEWIS SCHOOL OF NURSING E-NEWSLETTER CONTEST

The "Name the E-Newsletter" contest has been extended. Please be sure to send all your ideas to [acorley@gsu.edu](mailto:acorley@gsu.edu) by October 1. The winner's name will appear in the fall e-newsletter plus win a prize!!

## Upcoming GSU Events

Time Out Family AI-Anon Group	08/05/2009
Touch the Earth: James Edmonds Trail Hike	08/08/2009
Nantahala Whitewater Rafting	08/09/2009
Yoga Meditation	08/14/2009
Speed Networking and Business Card Exchange	08/20/2009
Horse Back Riding	08/23/2009
Hard Labor Creek Observatory Open House	08/29/2009
Alumni Night at the Braves Game	09/04/2009
Fire Safety Carnival	09/30/2009

For more information about GSU events click [here](#).

### ATTENTION ALUMNI:

Be sure to keep your contact information current. Please visit the Alumni Association at [www.gsu.edu/alumni](http://www.gsu.edu/alumni) or 404-413-413-2190.

We look forward to hearing from you!

---

Georgia State University  
College of Health and Human Sciences  
Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing

140 Decatur Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-413-1200  
<http://chhs.gsu.edu/nursing>