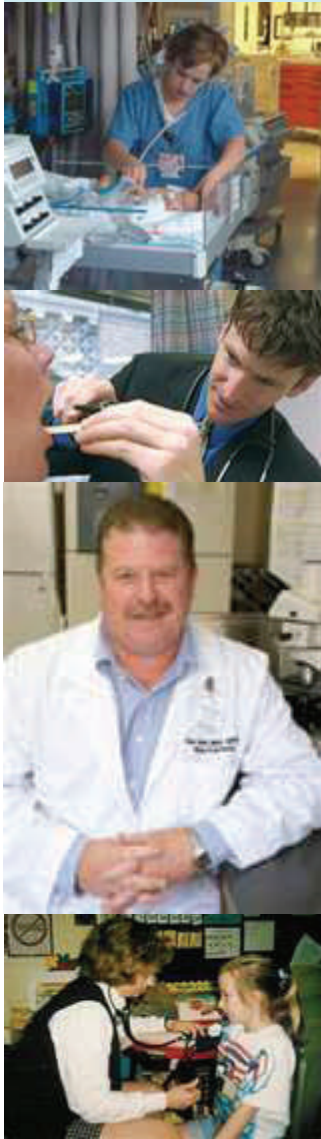


# Research Reporter July 2009

## Major King receives a Grant of \$71,276



**Major King**, Ph.D., RN, CCNS, Professor of the Doctoral Program in Nursing in the School of Nursing, received a grant of \$71,276 for the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship program from the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The School of Nursing has had tremendous success over the past several years in being awarded grants from HRSA. Major King continued this tradition by writing an excellent proposal for scholarship funds for nursing students seeking advanced practice nursing roles, such as clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, and school nurse. Given the chronic shortages of registered nurses, nurse leaders, and nursing faculty in southern California, APU's School of Nursing MSN and doctorate programs provide a variety of options to nursing students to further advance their careers at APU's main campus and regional centers. The MSN programs include ten single and combined nursing specialties de-



Major King, Ph.D., RN, CCNS, Professor of the Doctoral Program in Nursing in the School of Nursing

signed to "prepare nurse graduates who are well equipped to provide leadership in advanced practice roles in clinical settings." The doctorate in nursing program is entering its fifth successful year in preparing educators and academicians in the field of nursing. APU currently has 139 students enrolled in the Master's programs and 24 in the doctorate program. HRSA traineeship funds are essential to support stu-

dents in their study and living expenses. Congratulations to Major King and the School of Nursing for their continued dedication and hard work in securing grants to support the advancement of nursing education.—Abbylin Sellers



## Grant Writing Tips and Strategies by Lou Hughes, Ph.D., Director, Office of Sponsored Research and Grants (OSRG)



Lou Hughes, Ph.D., Director,  
Office of Sponsored Research  
and Grants (OSRG)

*“Money does move around, and some detective work is involved in determining current ‘hot areas.’”*



Grantwriting may appear to be somewhat complicated and abstract, but it's actually basic technical writing directed to a specific audience (grant reviewers). There are two main aspects to successful grantwriting, (1) knowing where the money is, and (2) learning how to write competitive proposals. At APU, we are blessed to have a department (Office of Sponsored Research and Grants) devoted to assist faculty in identifying appropriate sources of funding and to help them prepare and submit quality proposals.

**Where is the Money?** Grants are available from private foundations and governmental agencies (local, State, Federal) and can be used

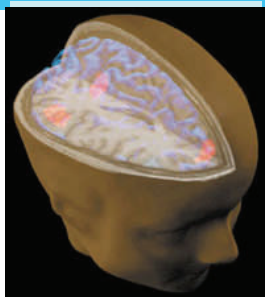
for program services, research projects, equipment purchases, and facilities. In spite of the current economic climate, and to continue a fifty year trend, there is more money available this year than there was last year. Money does move around, and some detective work is involved in determining current “hot areas.” For example, one of the hottest funding areas is for STEM projects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math); e.g., the National Science Foundation’s budget is being doubled for the next ten years, and in California \$100 million has been set aside for “STEM Green projects.” The current “Stimulus Package” (Recovery Act) funding, to give another

example, is for \$820 billion, of which only \$52 billion has been spent, about 10% of what was planned through the end of June. Recovery Act Funding is included in hundreds of federal agencies. Please help your government by trying to secure some of this money. A recommendation for faculty is to submit a brief concept paper or a one page Inquiry Form to OSRG (please see website for details).

**How do I get some of the money?** will be discussed in next month’s *Research Reporter*.—Lou Hughes



## “Neuroscience, Moral Reasoning, and the Law” by Joshua J. Knabb, Robert K. Welsh, Joseph G. Ziebell, and Kevin S. Reimer



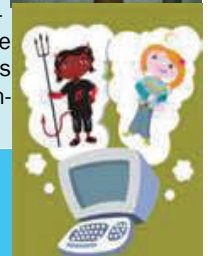
Joshua J. Knabb, Robert K. Welsh, Joseph G. Ziebell, and Kevin S. Reimer explore the current theories relevant to brain

responses registered during moral decision making moments in their “Neuroscience, Moral Reasoning, and the Law” (*Behavioral Sciences and the Law* 27 [2009]: 219-236). They summarize several neuroscientists’ frameworks that help in understanding the dynamic interplay among “the brain, morality, and human decision making.” They particularly emphasize event-feature-emotion complexes (EFEC), as mod-

eled by J. Moll and his colleagues, which can be important to jurors and those dealing with persons exhibiting criminal behavior.

The first part of their essay discusses biological functions in the brain’s prefrontal cortex and other related areas, as measured by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) tests, and indicates behavioral changes that can be mani-

festated when damage occurs to any of these areas. For example, “damage to the OFC [Orbital-Frontal Cortex] is likely to result in aberrant social behavior. . . [patients] exhibiting poor social judgment, impulsive decisions, and a decreased ability to appreciate and identify with the mental states of others (e.g. empathy and comments made to others).”



(This article “Neuroscience, Moral Reasoning, and the Law” is continued on the bottom of page 4)



## Spiritual Practices, Parenting Style, and Parenting Practices of Korean American Christians: A Multi-Group Path Analysis for Mothers and Fathers” by Hae-Song Park, Ph.D.

**Hae-Song Park, Ph.D.**, Professor of Doctoral Studies in Education, conducts an exploratory empirical analysis focusing on Korean immigrants and how their parenting practice by gender is associated with their religious involvement and spiritual practices in his article “Spiritual Practices, Parenting Style, and Parenting Practices of Korean American Christians: A Multi-Group Path Analysis for Mothers and Fathers” (*Journal of Immigrant Theology*, 1 [2009]: 383-389). A unique and common experience among Korean Americans is their extensive church involvement. The role of the church plays an integral part in their “spiritual, social, and psychological support” for Korean immigrants, and regular church attendance is fairly common. Korean immigrant parents have also been described as possessing an “authoritarian parenting” style, and there tends to be some delineation in the parent-child relationship between mothers and fathers. Dr. Park explores the relationship between active religious involvements of Korean immigrants with their

parenting practices by posing questions such as: “Is there is a significant difference of educational aspiration, church attendance, spiritual practices, and perception for pastors and father? Is there a significant difference of parenting practices based on five subscales between mother and father? If a difference exists, is the pattern of an exploratory path model inconsistent between mother and father? Is there a significant impact of the years of residence in the United States on parenting practices?” The methodology of this study involved three Korean ethnic churches with a total of 95 Korean American Christians who volunteered to participate (35 males, 60 females). By conducting a multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) and data analysis, Dr. Park is able to determine the relationships between one’s spiritual practice, parenting practices of complimenting and punishing their children, gender, church attendance, and perception of one’s pastor. The results yielded “significant differences of Korean



**Hae-Song Park, Ph.D.**, Professor of Doctoral Studies in Education

American Christian parents’ spiritual and parenting practices between mothers and fathers,” but there was relatively little difference of spiritual practice between the two. Based on the path coefficients from the path analysis, the spiritual practices of mothers did have a significant impact on their parenting practices through the punishment variable, and for fathers it was through the variable of compliment. Due to the exploratory nature of this study, Dr. Park recommends conducting additional research and analysis to further develop this theory, which provides him ample opportunity to further his research pursuits.—Abbylin Sellers



**“The role of the church plays an integral part in their ‘spiritual, social, and psychological support’ for Korean immigrants, and regular church attendance is fairly common.”**



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(continued from page 2)

## “Neuroscience, Moral Reasoning, and the Law” by Joshua J. Knabb, Robert K. Welsh, Joseph G. Ziebell, and Kevin S. Reimer

The second part of their article focuses on “moral emotions” such as empathy, guilt, and shame which humans begin to experience at age three. fMRI technology examines what happens, particularly in the slowly maturing prefrontal cortex, which is not fully developed until age 25, when evident dysfunction is seen. Their research appears in a clear chart with four categories: Prefrontal cortex (PFC) region, Anatomical location, Function, and Moral relevance. The anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), for example, when dysfunctional,

“commonly results in an amotivational and apathetic state.” Knabb, Welsh, Ziebell, and Reimer particularly elucidate Event-Feature-Emotion Complexes (EFEC) which “allows for the prediction of (a) moral emotions, (b) moral values, and (c) long-term goals” as well as “potential patterns of moral behavior changes that come from dysfunction of different brain regions.”

The third part of their article explores the legal implication of these neuroscientific discoveries. Re-

search has already indicated which areas of the brain are activated when jurors make certain types of decisions. Neurological tests of criminals may in the future help researchers as well as legal personnel understand these lawbreakers' ability to make moral decisions.

The brief final section of their essay raises the issue of “determinism” that can occur when neurological research invades the legal milieu. Where do “intent,” “free will,” and “culpability” line up with recognized

dysfunction in certain areas of the brain? They conclude, “Just how moral frameworks such as the EFEC model by Moll and colleagues will impact the field of law remains to be seen.”—Carole J. Lambert

