

### Kaiser Grants Awarded



**Connie Brehm, Ph.D., MSN, C.FNP, RN,** Associate Professor of Nursing and Director of the Homeless Health Outreach Program

**Connie Brehm, Ph.D., MSN, C.FNP, RN,** Associate Professor of Nursing and Director of the Homeless Health Outreach Program, and the Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing received a grant of \$13,800 from the Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center. The Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Charitable Contributions Program awards annual grants for local nonprofit organizations and schools focused on specific priority areas, such as improving access to health care and support of social services. The School of Nursing has had the privilege of partnering with the East Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless to bring health care services to those in need, “to provide health assessments, basic treatment, and health education in addition to referral services on-site” at the center. APU Nursing faculty and students (BSN, Master’s, and doctoral programs) donate their time on a weekly basis. The hands-on experience for the students not only helps foster growth in reaching out to the

needy and the hurting, but also puts their training and skills into practice in caring for a “vulnerable and complex population.” With the awarding of this grant, the School of Nursing seeks to continue to expand its collaborative efforts with the East Gabriel Valley Coalition by providing staffing for the Emergency Assistance Center as well as bringing further awareness to the plight of homelessness with other homeless service providers and concerned citizens.

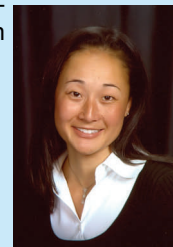
**Julie Pusztai, MN, RNC,** Instructor of Nursing and Director of the Neighborhood Wellness Center, also was awarded a



**Julie Pusztai** is an Instructor in the School of Nursing and Director of the Neighborhood Wellness Center

grant by the Kaiser Baldwin Park Medical Center in the amount of \$8,000 for the Neighborhood Wellness Center. The Center provides primary prevention services to the community of Azusa and has been utilized by the Azusa Pacific School of Nursing as a “hands on” learning experi-

ence in wellness and preventative care for senior level baccalaureate nursing students. Three objectives have been the guiding force for its growth and expansion: 1) “increase access to preventative and primary care services for a predominately minority underserved population; 2) establish a community based center that is easily accessible, friendly, culturally competent and effective in improving health behaviors and reducing the effect of chronic disease; 3) promote the collaboration between an academic institution, local government and agencies to improve access to health services and promote health behaviors in the residents of Azusa.” The Kaiser grant will specifically continue to fund the Wellness Center in implementing a program called *Neighbor to Neighbor – Health Education Leadership Program (N2N-HELP)*. This program seeks to increase awareness of pre-diabetes, diabetes, and obesity prevention, and promotes healthy lifestyle behaviors, such as physical education activity education and strategies, nutrition education, and even cooking classes to demonstrate healthy meal choices. Both Dr. Brehm and Director Julie Pusztai are to be congratulated for their continued partnership with Kaiser to help bring much needed health care services to the San Gabriel Valley community.—Abbylin Sellers



## “Virtual Communication and the Role of Diasporic Communities in Conflict Mediation” by Bala Musa, Ph.D.



Resolving disputes  
voluntarily,  
nonviolently,  
economically,  
within your own  
community



**Bala Musa, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, examines media framing effects and sheds light on how globalization and the information revolution have had an impact on the perceptions and interpretations of conflicts in Africa in his chapter “Virtual Communication and the Role of Diasporic Communities in Conflict Mediation” [R.T. M'Baylo, C. Onwumechili, and B.A. Musa, eds. *Communication in an Era of Global Conflicts: Principles and Strategies for 21st Century Africa* (University Press of America, 2009), 161-177]. Large scale global conflicts, such as the first Gulf War, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and genocides and ethnic cleansings in Bosnia and Rwanda, have received attention worldwide largely due to the heavy media presence and involvement. Smaller and “silent genocides” have largely been ignored by the media despite the magnitude of atrocities, such as the genocide against the Anuak people of Ethiopia. A former *New York Times* reporter, Doug McGill, became aware of the situation through members of the Anuak immigrant community in his home town in Minnesota. After traveling

to Ethiopia and visiting a refugee camp in the Sudan to interview survivors, McGill started news blogging about the genocide, championing the issue to raise awareness, which was eventually picked up by the mainstream media and human rights organizations. This spread awareness and advocacy for the Anuaks globally. The use of virtual communities via the Internet allows for the creation of networks or diasporic communities, and they can communicate “through community events, ethnic newspapers, and occasional national and international gatherings.” The information revolution has helped create “global villages,” building communities and intergroup relationships. These communities rely on the media for information, and this enables them to be “prosumers” of information, not just consumers.

For the remainder of his study, Dr. Musa analyzes meta-narratives that have been utilized to frame African conflicts. Media framing provides visual imagery, and “when images appeal more to our emotions forcing us to process the information through a peripheral rather than a central route” this can have a limiting effect on comprehending issues. Dr. Musa provides explanations for different types of media framing: affective framing appeals to people’s emotions and feelings, intuitive framing connotes slanting or petting, episodic frames provide only a snap shot of an event, scopophilic frames look more at the object rather than the person, and aesthetic frames are image driven, which can lead to using the most shocking image avail-

able. With these frames, meta-narratives have been created to depict the nature and causes of African conflicts.

For example, the meta-narrative of premodernity is where the Western media portrays African and Third World conflicts by means of images of uncivilized natives engaged in barbaric behavior and practices. The hypermodernity meta-narrative is where countries experience “crises deriving from rapid modernization [which] has led to cultural dislocation.” The rapid Westernization in Africa has led to various structural conflicts. Due to their distance from the conflict situation, diasporic and virtual communities have varying perspectives and can either resolve or escalate conflict based on their choice of rhetoric in the virtual world. Dr. Musa contends that these diasporic communities that have knowledge and contact in the African communities “can serve as advocates and agents of conflict transformation” and “have the means to mobilize external resources toward conflict resolution and community building.” As evidenced by the example of Doug McGill’s influence with the Anuak, the virtual community brought global awareness to a horrific conflict that otherwise might have remained ignored. The hope is that virtual communities and proxy tribal members can seek to promote peace. Since they have the unique ability to influence globally and “transcend the constraints” of the traditional media, there is hope that they will be able to aid the peace processes in Africa.—Abbylin Sellers

**“Should Family Members Be Present when Their Child Is Being Resuscitated?” by Vicky Bowden, DNSc, R.N., and Cindy Smith Greenberg, DNSc, R.N., CPNP**



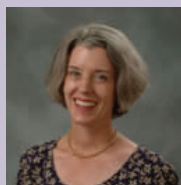
**Vicky Bowden, DNSc, R.N.**, Professor of Nursing and Director of the Honors Program, with Cindy Smith Greenberg, DNSc, R.N., CPNP, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Nursing, California State University, Fullerton, provides important data about parents’ and other family members’ presence when health care providers are trying to keep their child alive. “Should Family Members Be Present when Their Child Is Being Resuscitated?” (*Pediatric Nursing*, 35.4 [2009]: 254-256). lists objections from health care providers to this presence as well as affirmations of it, concluding with a substantial bibliography of relevant

scholarly articles about this debated topic.

Some objections to familial presence at this crucial moment are that health care providers may feel uncomfortable with family members present as these professionals perform invasive, but absolutely necessary, resuscitation procedures; they fear such presence may violate patient confidentiality, traumatize those who are watching, and lead to future law suits; they also may feel stressed and distracted by family members watching them.

Some affirmations of family presence when attempts are being made to revive the dying child include comfort to both the child and his or her family members, improved communication with the medical staff involved, and improved medical decision making, as well as facilitation of the family’s grieving process in the event of the child’s death.

The authors highly recommend that a well trained family facilitator be present during such emergencies: “This role should be formalized within the institution.” Bowden’s and Greenberg’s compassion for the children, their families, and their health care providers shines through this brief but very important article.—Carole J. Lambert



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