

University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Research on Women and Gender

BUILDING RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Fall 2011

Volume 9, Issue 2

Welcome to the Fall 2011 Newsletter

We are all happy and thriving at the CRWG, continuing to engage in national and international research projects, as well as program and community outreach activities. I had a productive year of research leave. I was able to travel to many countries around the world, including Ghana, India, New Zealand, Australia, and Saudi Arabia. I have been able to implement several projects to improve maternal health across the globe.

The CRWG has had a productive year as well. All of our programs are flourishing. We received a 5 year, \$1.5 million grant from Office on Women’s Health of DHHS to improve cardiovascular health for women living in rural Illinois. We also just submitted our renewal for our NIH-funded Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) program for another 5 years—so wish us all good luck.

This fall our BIRCWH program along with WISEST (Women in Science and Engineering System Transformation) Initiative and FAAC (College of Medicine Faculty Academic Advancement Committee) hosted our BIRCWH keynote speaker, Susan R. Johnson, MD, MS. Dr. Johnson is a professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa College of Medicine and former Associate Provost for Faculty. She has expertise in time management and organization for faculty and has published and presented extensively on these topics in addition to mentoring many individual faculty members. Her seminar on organizing work and time management – an area of great concern for many junior faculty and fellows – was “standing room only.”

Our work with the STEM disciplines is also doing well. This is the last year of our NSF funding for WISEST but many of us across campus are working to institutionalize the initiative so we can continue this important work. Similarly our WISE program continues to reach out to students on campus as well as potential new students from the Chicago communities. And if it wasn’t enough to meet President Obama this year our WISE Director Veronica Arreola appeared on an NBC Nightly News segment on *Our Bodies, Ourselves!*

This fall we are bringing on a new research director for the CRWG, Dr. Pauline Maki, from the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Maki, also the program director for the BIRCWH will work with faculty and staff on developing their research agendas, grant writing and publications. You can read more about Pauline’s work in this issue of the BRC. We look forward to her joining our CRWG family.

This spring we will celebrate our the CRWG 20th birthday as well as the WISE 10th birthday. We look forward to sharing this important milestone with all of you. Our plans are evolving and we will be in touch soon with details.

My best,

Stacie Geller



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Featured Researcher

Pauline Maki, PhD

Professor, College of Medicine & College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Director, Women's Mental Health Research, College of Medicine



Pauline Maki

The CRWG welcomes Pauline Maki, PhD, as CRWG Research Director. Dr. Maki is Professor in the College of Medicine (Psychiatry) and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Psychology). She leads a program of research that focuses on the effects of sex hormones on cognition, mood, and brain function. Dr. Maki is the Director of Women's Mental Health Research at UIC. She is the Principal Investigator on an NIH-funded randomized clinical trial comparing the effects of hormone therapy and plant estrogens on cognition, anxiety, and stress in midlife women.

Dr. Maki also serves as the Director of the Neurocognitive Working Group of the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), the largest prospective study of the natural and treated history of HIV in women (n = 1526 in the neurocognitive study). In this role, she leads investigations of female-linked risk factors for cognitive function and mood, including menopausal status and childhood trauma, and she conducts neuroimaging studies.

Since November 2010, Dr. Maki has been the Program Director for the UIC BIRCWH program that provides protected time, structured mentoring and

career development support for junior faculty women's health researchers. Dr. Maki is also the founding director of the North American Menopause Society (NAMS) mentoring program.

Dr. Maki has numerous publications on hormones and cognitive function and has won a number of NIH awards for her research and service. She is on executive committees for several women's health advisory boards, the Board of Trustees for NAMS, and is Chair of the NAMS Research Affairs Committee. She is a frequent international and national speaker on women's mental health.

What was your path to becoming a researcher?

As an undergraduate with a double-major in psychology and French, I thought I would become a clinical psychologist. That changed after I spent a summer in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) at the University of Minnesota. At the time I was pretty naïve to research, but once I was exposed to research in the UROP, I knew I wanted to go to graduate school for research. I didn't fully understand the significance of pursuing graduate school, but that was how I got started. During graduate school, I decided to do human research and I became interested in Alzheimer's disease (AD) and memory. This was before brain imaging was widely available, so I pursued research in the field of neuropsychology. Neuropsychological studies relied on matching up what kinds of tasks people could and couldn't do with the part of the brain that they knew was affected by disease.

How did your research interests develop?

When I was doing my doctoral research at an Alzheimer's clinic, the husband of a woman in my dissertation study reported that his wife developed the disease after having her ovaries removed. At the time, none of the clinicians believed him, there was no evidence to support a link between ovary removal and memory impairment. I was at Johns Hopkins University for a postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology the year that the first reports were published that hormone therapy (HT) was protective against AD. To further investigate

continued

the relationship between HT and AD, I designed a randomized controlled study of estrogen therapy on AD in women (and a similar study of testosterone in men) that was funded by the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

From Hopkins, I went on to another postdoctoral fellowship, this time in the intramural program at the National Institute on Aging (NIA). The technology of neuroimaging was changing rapidly at that time and my fellowship was focused on learning new methods, particularly positron emission tomography (PET) for studying brain function. After my postdoc, I joined the NIA as a tenure-track investigator, and worked closely with Susan Resnick, PhD. She and I co-developed and were co-Principal Investigators on the Women's Health Initiative Study of Cognitive Aging (WHISCA) and Cognition in the Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene. When the Women's Health Initiative study of the effects of HT was halted in 2002, my research became viewed as "high risk." Even though I believed the findings from the WHI dementia study that showed that HT in older women could increase the risk of AD, I wasn't convinced that those findings could necessarily be generalized to younger postmenopausal women. My cognitive and neuroimaging studies had indicated that estrogen could be protective of brain function and especially against memory decline in those younger postmenopausal women – I knew I needed to rethink my research program in light of the WHI findings.

After meeting Stacie Geller and learning about her randomized trial comparing of HT to botanicals for treatment of menopausal hot flashes, I came to UIC in 2002 to conduct an ancillary study of HT and botanicals on cognitive outcomes. I also wanted to learn how to use functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), which enables us to see blood flow in the brain to detect areas of activity. Since I have been at UIC, I have also extended my work to include cognitive functioning and menopause in women infected with HIV who participate in the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS). In addition to studying factors that influence cognitive decline in women with HIV, we have the opportunity to study how cognitive aging differs in HIV+ versus HIV- women. The main goal of my research on menopause is immediate translation of my findings to clinical practice. The work on HIV work is much more at an epidemiological level. Together, the treatment trials and the epidemiological studies provide a good balance for my program of research.

You are involved in mentoring women at many levels—how did mentorship become so important to you?

My career path as a researcher has been immensely impacted by the advice and mentoring I've gotten over the years. I would not have pursued a research career if my undergraduate advisor had not recommended the UROP program and I want to give other young women exposure to research opportunities, too. I've had several outstanding mentors, including Susan Resnick, John Sweeney, and Stacie Geller, at various points in my education and career. I currently mentor a psychiatry resident, a second-year medical student, a first-year medical student, an honors undergraduate, several PhD students, two assistant professors who are BIRCWHS scholars, and two K23 awardees. Over the years, I've also mentored undergraduates and even high school students.

For more information about Dr. Maki's research, see the following select articles which are representative of her work:

Maki PM, Cohen MH, Weber K, Little DM, Fornelli D, Rubin LH, Perschler P, Gould F, Martin E. Impairments in memory and hippocampal function in HIV+ versus HIV- women: A preliminary study. *Neurology*. 2009; 72:1661-8.

Maki PM, Rubin LH, Fornelli D, Drogos L, Banuvar S, Shulman L, Geller SE. Effects of botanicals and combined hormone therapy on cognition in postmenopausal women. *Menopause*. 2009; 6(6):1167-77.

Maki PM, Drogos L, Rubin LH, Shulman L, Banuvar S, Geller SE. Objective hot flashes are negatively related to verbal memory performance in midlife women. *Menopause*. 2008; 15:848-56.

Featured Community Partner: Lane Technical College Preparatory High School

When UIC Alumna Emily Finchum was an undergraduate student from 2005-2009, she participated in WISE as a mentor and tutor. She observed first-hand how afterschool enrichment programs can augment class curriculum and have a direct impact on education goals and achievement. Emily was one of twelve tutors who took part in WISE's *GEM-SET Mentoring for Success* program at Chicago Public Schools. Not only did this opportunity give Emily a chance to hone her mentoring skills, it also influenced her own career decisions as she weighed teaching versus medical school. Now Emily is enriching the next generation of WISE students with her links to UIC.

Emily is now a biology teacher at Lane Technical College Preparatory High School, the newest Chicago Public School partner in the WISE pre-college outreach program. Emily was instrumental in establishing the partnership along with Assistant Principal Christopher Dignam, EdD and several other Lane faculty members who saw the need for more science-focused afterschool programs, as well

as bridge programs that link high school environments with college campuses to ease student's transition into college.

The partnership between WISE and Lane includes both opportunities for UIC WISE student mentors to travel to Lane for hands-on science demonstrations after school, and for Lane students to visit UIC to tour the campus, and participate in conferences, presentations and panel discussions that are often targeted to college students and professionals.

Recently Lane Tech students participated in the *American Institute of Chemical Engineers Midwest Regional Conference* and the *Girls and Computer*



Lane Tech students and faculty joined in on a water purity demonstration provided by Engineers Without Borders (EWB) at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) conference held at UIC November 11, 2011. Pictured above (left-right) are Lane student Nina Sedeno, Lane science teacher Emily Finchum, Lane student Vincent Sedeno, EWB UIC student chapter president Paul Roots, EWB UIC student chapter treasurer Brian Wells, and WISE outreach director Sarah Shirk. For more information on EWB go to <http://www.ewb-uic.org/> and for more information about AIChE go to <http://www.aiche.org/>

Science Day. Both events were held in November 2011 and were co-hosted by the UIC College of Engineering and WISE. UIC staff and students will also be serving as science fair judges at the *Lane Tech Science and Math Fair* on December 13, 2011. Judges are still needed. If you would like to participate, please go to the judge application at <http://lanetech.org/sciencemathfair.php>.

If you would like to present your research to students at Lane Tech, WISE will be presenting to the afterschool science club on Monday, December 5th from 3pm-4pm. Contact Sarah Shirk at WISE_Outreach@uic.edu to be added to the presenter list.

CRWG/COE Awarded \$1.5 Million Health Community Grant

In September 2011, the CRWG/COE was awarded a “Coalition for a Healthier Community” (CHC) Phase II grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women’s Health to continue efforts of the Southern Seven Coalition for Women’s Health (SSCWH).

SSCWH is a collaboration among nine partners, including the CRWG/COE and the Southern Seven Health Department. It was created to promote health and wellness in women and their communities throughout Illinois’ seven southernmost counties, where residents have among the worst risk factors and outcomes for chronic disease in Illinois.



Last year SSCWH received funding for CHC Phase I, which awarded \$1.6 million in grants to 16 health coalitions around the country. The five-year CHC Phase II grant was awarded to 10 of the 16 coalitions funded in Phase I.

In 2010, the Southern Seven Health Department identified cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity and diabetes as their priority areas for five years. SSCWH used these priorities as a starting point to conduct a community health assessment and strategic planning process to better understand the factors that influence health and how they can be addressed to improve the health of women and the population overall in the seven counties. The strategic plan can be found at <http://www.southern7.org/downloads/SSCWHstrategicplan.pdf>.

The SSCWH strategic plan guided the development of SSCWH CHC Phase II proposal to create the Faith-Based Collaborative, which aims to reduce chronic disease among women through partnerships with area churches.

The CHC Phase II funding of \$300,000 per year over five years will allow SSCWH to partner with 12 churches to implement Heart Smart for Women, an evidence-based lifestyle change intervention conducted in a group setting over 12-weeks. After the conclusion of HSFWS, SSCWH will work with each church to develop and implement a series of community-driven maintenance programs with each church, both to help sustain healthy lifestyle change among Heart Smart for Women participants, and to promote healthy lifestyle change among church members and community members more broadly.

The Faith-Based Collaborative was developed based on lessons learned through SSCWH’s previous work conducted from 2007-2010. Specifically, the initiative builds upon our previous efforts implementing Heart Smart for Women, where participants demonstrated positive health behavior changes in the short-term, but did not sustain positive changes at one year. In addition, in our community health assessment, we identified the need for social support to sustain positive behavior change.

For more information about SSCWH or FBC, please contact Kris at kzimme3@uic.edu.

WISE ON CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Training tomorrow's women scientists and engineers

What's Up With WISE?

WISE Program Commences Another Busy Year

The WISE program is off to another wonderful start. We kicked the semester off with jam-packed Open Houses and a popular table at the Fun Fair in the quad. WISE is proud to report that there are over sixty women participating in our award-winning peer mentoring program.

We also have a full and active floor on the WISE Wing, the WISE residential space on the third floor of Stukel Tower A. This year the Welcome Home dinner was held with the men's engineering students on the second floor. The October dinner featured three students sharing their experiences with independent research.

WISE Chic, our student organization, has an active group of members this fall. They have decided to participate in the UIC Experience (www.uicexperience.uic.edu) together. Their first activity was dinner in Greektown. WISE Chic also plans to continue to volunteer at the Pickard elementary school in Pilsen working with their librarian.

Knitworking is back and just in time for scarf season! Grab your knitting needles and head over to the WISE office every Wednesday at noon.

Caceres Speaks on Interdisciplinary Math and Computer Science Research



Gloria Liu (left), Oakton Community College Coordinator of Center for Promoting STEM and Rajmonda Sulo Caceres (right) WISE Graduate Assistant at UIC's Women in Science and Engineering program.

UIC WISE Graduate Assistant Rajmonda Sulo Caceres spoke on September 14, 2011 at the Oakton Community College STEM Speakers Series. Her talk entitled, "Looking at the World through Networks" covered many applications of network theory. Ms. Caceres discussed how network analysis applies to a variety of arenas such as the stock market, ant colonies, human social groups, and political parties. She also discussed exciting computational research being done at UIC to understand networks that change and evolve over time. Her own PhD research focuses on understanding the time scale at which these changes happen. Other researchers in the Computational Population Biology Lab at UIC are developing methods for analyzing such dynamic networks, from genes to social interactions of animals, including humans.

In her talk to the Oakton students, Ms. Caceres pointed out that math and computer science are not isolated, but are ripe for collaborations that have the potential to revolutionize the way research is conducted in other fields such as sociology, biology, and economics. The latest advancements in technology and computer science are presenting new challenges. Interdisciplinary cooperation is needed to help answer how to process and analyze massive data sets and identify meaningful patterns in those data. Audience members were encouraged to consider how mathematics and computer science advances will be advancing their field of interest.

WISE has been working with Gloria Liu, Oakton Community College Coordinator of the Speakers Series to highlight research at UIC. If you are interested in presenting your research to this audience, please contact Gloria Liu at glorial@oakton.edu.

For more information about WISE, visit us at www.uicwise.org.

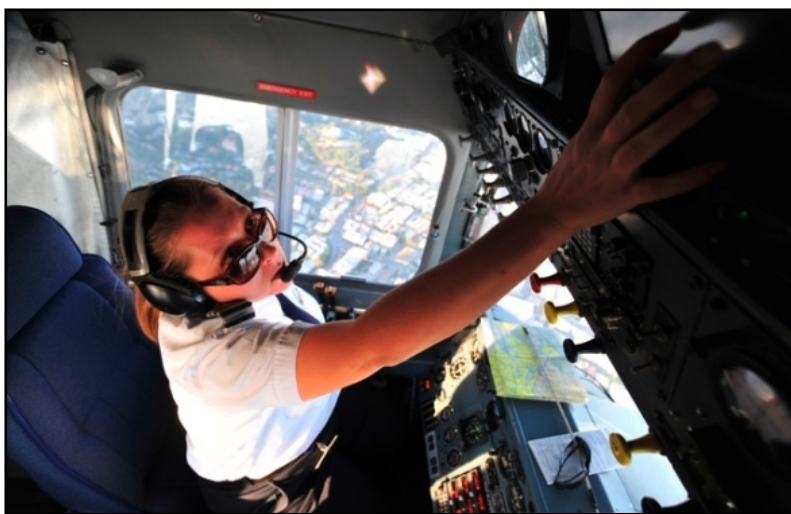
WISE Mentor Kristen Davis Flies the Goodyear Blimp

WISE welcomes new GEM-SET mentor Kristen Davis, Assistant Pilot in Charge on Goodyear's Spirit of America. Kristen is originally from Chicago, but spread her wings and flew west to serve as the sole female pilot on the Spirit of America based in Carson, California. Each airship has four pilots and a team of specialists to maintain the operation. Kristen has the rare "Lighter than Air-Airship Rating," which is required for flying a blimp. She has also completed the Goodyear blimp pilot training program. When asked how she got into this non-traditional career, Kristen indicated that she has always been interested in flying. "Even when I was a kid, I knew I wanted to fly a plane. I really didn't think that I would love it as much as I do. I thought it would be just another hobby of mine. It was after I landed a plane that I knew how much I loved it. Why not get paid to do something that enthralles you?"



Kristen Davis standing in front of the Goodyear Airship Spirit of America

Kristen took her first flight when she was 20, which prompted her to switch colleges in order to pursue her interest in aviation. There, she took various classes to learn how to fly, many mechanical in nature. As blimp training is very expensive, pilots only learn how to fly a blimp after being hired by a blimp company and proving their flight skills on other types of aircraft. The comprehensive Goodyear lighter-than-air flight training program can last up to six months. Following successful Federal Aviation Administration testing, the pilot then receives an FAA airship license, which Kristen received in June 2005. Careers for women in blimp operations also include airship mechanic, airship rigger, ground crew chief, and radio/TV technicians.



Kristen in the pilot's seat

There are skills that high school and college students can work on now to ready themselves for a career in aviation. Kristen offers these tips: "Aviation requires a lot of mechanical knowledge, which I didn't know was so fascinating until I started to learn about it. I recommend that you learn about your car engine or even how to change a tire. Those basic blocks of learning are a good stepping stone to get behind aviation knowledge."

When it comes to career advice, she suggests, "Think outside the box. I found something I love doing because I had a random thought. I never really thought about flying a blimp until the idea popped into my head one day. I think people should pursue their 'crazy' ideas if they think it could possibly lead to an interesting life that you love."

WISE PRE-COLLEGE OUTREACH

Inspiring and empowering girls K to 12

UIC WISE Partners With IL Girls Collaborative at “Invent It. Build It.”

On Saturday, October 15, 2011 UIC WISE took part in the Illinois Girls Collaborative Project (ILGCP), which welcomed over 200 girls and their parents to the “Invent It. Build It.” workshop and information fair at Chicago’s McCormick Place. The event combined environmentalism, engineering, and positive energy to expose girls in Kindergarten through high school to non-traditional careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Girl Scout troops, school science clubs, and other community groups participated in the day-long event. Girls were challenged to build a “harmless holder,” an environmentally friendly soda can holder, with the help of volunteers from the Society of Women Engineers. WISE would like to thank the Society of Women Engineers for hosting this outreach event. *The IL Girls Collaborative is seeking additional partners for future conference opportunities. To sign up, find the collaborative in your region and join the program directory at www.ngcproject.org.*



Students participate in hands-on activities at “Invent It. Build It.”

WISE Volunteer Opportunity



Destiny Kellam (left, seated at table) and Lekeyna Spike (right, standing) have volunteered to be part of the WISE outreach efforts. Thank you Destiny and Lekeyna for sharing your experience with new WISE women.

Throughout the year, the UIC Admissions Office hosts events to welcome prospective students to campus to learn about UIC programs. Each year, hundreds of enrolled students as well as those considering applying to UIC visit the WISE table at these events to learn about WISE programs, including mentoring, the WISE Wing and WISE (Chicago). We are seeking active WISE students to attend these events, network with prospective students and introduce them to WISE programs.

If you are a current UIC student participating in WISE programs and are able to volunteer one hour of your time each month to network with prospective WISE students, please contact WISE_Outreach@uic.edu. The next opportunities are February 20 and 25, 2012 from 8:30am-9:30am.

WISEST Updates

The WISEST (Women in Science and Engineering System Transformation) initiative is in its last year of funding from the NSF Advance program, but important projects continue as the initiative moves towards institutionalization.

2011 UIC Faculty Work Climate Survey Launched

The WISEST Faculty Work Climate Survey was sent to all tenured and tenure track faculty in the Colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts & Sciences in October 2011. This survey is a follow-up to a baseline survey that was administered in 2004. The purpose of the survey is to capture faculty perceptions of work climate in these two colleges.

The 2004 baseline questionnaire addressed several climate issues, including the hiring process, interactions with colleagues, the tenure process, balance of professional and personal life, diversity issues, and overall satisfaction with UIC. The recent follow-up survey included these topics as well as questions assessing the impact of WISEST programs and policies on work climate.

A total of 481 faculty received the survey and 268 responded for a response rate of 55.7%. Data analysis is underway, and results will be disseminated in spring 2012.



WISEST Initiatives to be Institutionalized

The Office of the Provost and the Deans of Engineering and Liberal Arts & Sciences have provided funding support to continue the *WISEST Facilitator Model* for three years starting fall 2011. In this model, each of the 11 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) department heads appoints a research active senior faculty “facilitator” to provide departmental leadership on recruitment, retention, and climate transformation. WISEST facilitators play a significant role in developing and implementing many WISEST initiatives and are paid a small amount for their efforts.

For the next three years WISEST facilitators will continue to implement WISEST activities based on the successes of the past five years, including: “SUCCEED search committee trainings” to train search committee members about unconscious bias. All faculty search committees in the Colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts & Sciences are required to do this training; “SUCCEED promotion and tenure committee trainings,” an adapted SUCCEED training to be given to promotion and tenure committees; and “WISEST Assistant Professor Institute Seminars,” career building seminars tailored for junior faculty in STEM. Topics include work-life balance, obtaining funding, and how to lead research labs.

For more information about WISEST please contact Manorama Khare at mkhare@uic.edu.

Viewpoints:

Women's Sports Deserve A Chance by Veronica Arreola



At a recent Chicago Sky game, I heard the most emotion-filled cheering coming from behind me. Was it my 8-year old daughter or one of her friends from Girl Scouts? I had organized the outing as a way for me to share my love of women's sports with these girls.

I turned around and was pleasantly surprised to see it was one of the brothers who had been dragged to the game. Next to my husband was another brother, who kept nudging him as if to say, "Did you just see that?"

After the game, one of the moms came up to me and asked, "Is it always like this?"

Oh, yes. Yes, it is.

Despite almost 40 years of Title IX and all the love we have for women athletes in the Olympics, there is still a stigma attached to attending women's sporting events. The biggest argument is that they are "boring." Women's games are slower than men's games. And, of course, (most) women don't dunk. I will admit that the games are different. But different isn't bad. It doesn't mean worse and certainly doesn't mean boring.

We just witnessed the country gripped in Women's World Cup fever. It broke the tweet-per-second record. Soccer is the most popular sport among children, especially girls. I would pick up my daughter from summer camp, and she would ask, "Did we win?" She didn't care that the game was waiting for her at home on our DVR; she had to know. For her generation of girls, this is their game – and it is far from boring. While she was certainly born with some bravado, excelling at sports made her see what that swagger can do. No amount of "Good jobs!" can equal dribbling down the field and kicking a goal.

This summer, I have attended women's professional soccer, basketball and softball games. Each game was filled with cheers, oohs and aahs. You could hear various chants from the crowd, including the ever-present, "Go, girl!"

The 8-year-old boy led a rousing round of Lets go, Sky! I believe we have a generation of boys growing up who will cheer a Sylvia Fowles block as well as a Derrick Rose dunk. These boys will grow up to value women's physical strength, not just their emotional strength.

What I learned at that Sky game is that it just takes one game. If someone is a sports fan and can let go of preconceived notions, they can get so caught up in the game that they will forget whether they are cheering on a woman or a man.

With just one game, I am betting that most people who hate on women's sports for being boring will end up just like that 8-year-old fan – cheering so loudly that someone will turn around and join in.

Originally published in the July 23, 2011 *Chicago Sun Times*. Reprinted with permission.

Featured Alumna Jessica Bushar



Jessica Bushar graduated in 2008 with a Master of Public Health degree in Maternal Child Health Epidemiology from the UIC School of Public Health. During her master's program, she worked as a graduate research assistant at the Center for Research on Women and Gender. We recently spoke to Jessica to find out where her career path has led since graduation.

After graduation Jessica moved to Washington, DC where she resided before graduate school. She currently works as a Senior Research Analyst in the Public Health Department at the Bethesda office of NORC at the University of Chicago. In this position, she contributes to the design and implementation of descriptive and evaluation research projects.

Among Jessica's current tasks, she is a project manager for a federally-funded evaluation of five demonstration projects designed to implement innovative health workforce development training programs targeting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals in tribal communities. She is also a co-project manager for a congressionally mandated study that seeks to explore the impact of health information technology (health IT) in underserved communities and those with health disparities.

When asked about Jessica favorite part of her job at NORC, Jessica said that going on site visits to learn about the programs or activities being implemented in different communities is what she enjoys most. "The best way to learn about the experience of a community is to go visit," she says. This past summer, Jessica visited health centers and other health organizations utilizing health IT in five locations, including the Mississippi Delta and central Washington State. Her graduate training and practicum at UIC coupled with working on two evaluation projects while at CRWG prepared her to lead many of the data collection activities she has conducted at NORC. These collective experiences have shed light on the challenges of designing and implementing program evaluations and other research studies in everyday practice.

If you are a CRWG alumna and would like to share your news in a future BRC newsletter, please contact Kris Zimmermann at kzimme3@uic.edu.

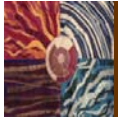
2011 Dissertation Award Winners

The Center for Research on Women and Gender is pleased to announce the 2011 Alice J. Dan Dissertation Research Award winners, Theerarat Boonkuna (Nursing) for her research entitled, "Job Stress, Coping Strategies, and Perceived Health Status Among Thai Female Home-based Workers," and Erin Sundermann (Psychology) for her research entitled, "Genetic Predictors of Cognition in Women with HIV."

The annual Dan Dissertation encourages original and significant research about gender and/or women by UIC doctoral students. Recipients are awarded monetary support to assist with their research.

In addition to these awardees, two honorable mentions were selected: Pallavi Banerjee (Sociology), for her dissertation entitled, "Gendered Migration: Indian Migrant Professional Families in the U.S." and Natthanaporn Sanguanklin (Nursing), for her research entitled, "Job Strain, Social Support, Coping Strategies, and Psychological Distress in Employed Pregnant Thai Women.

To enable us to continue to fund research by UIC doctoral students, support the Dan Dissertation Award Endowment at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/crwg/give.shtml>



CRWG Updates

Veronica Arreola on NBC Nightly News

WISE Director Veronica Arreola appeared on an NBC Nightly News segment on *Our Bodies, Ourselves!* A new edition of the classic women's health book has now been available in time for the 40th anniversary of the book's first publication. *Our Bodies, Ourselves* has been completely revised and updated with material critical to women's health issues.

To view the segment, visit <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/vp/45039563/#45039563>



New Staff

The CRWG is pleased to welcome four new graduate assistants

Rebecca Allen (School of Public Health) is assisting with the Southern Seven Coalition for Women's Health (SSCWH) and other health outreach activities.

Rajmonda Sulo Caceres (Department of Mathematics and Computer Science) is assisting with WISE activities, including pre-college outreach and undergraduate and graduate programs.

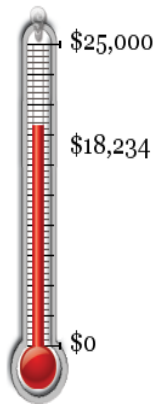
Karen Drill (College of Education) is assisting with the evaluation of the Women in Science and Engineering System Transformation (WISEST) program.

Shauna Gardino (College of Nursing) is assisting with the coordinating the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program.

We would also like to congratulate former graduate assistant **Allison Dahlke** who graduated from the UIC School of Public Health in May 2011 with her Master of Public Health degree.

Help Us Reach Our Goal of Raising \$25,000 for the Alice J. Dan Dissertation Research Award Endowment!

In 2007, Alice Dan, founding director of the CRWG and UIC Professor Emerita made a remarkable commitment. She presented the CRWG with a gift - 40% of the money that we need to raise to endow the Alice J. Dan Dissertation Research Award. With her seed money, Dr. Dan has challenged us to raise the additional \$15,000 by 2011. The endowment will sustain the Dan Dissertation Research Award indefinitely, allowing the CRWG to support women and gender research at a time in a scholar's career when funding opportunities are limited.



We need your help to reach our goal. To give to the endowment, visit our website at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/crwg/give.shtml> and select "Alice Dan Dissertation Awards".

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