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SCHOOL of MEDICINE

MAYA ANGELOU CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY **HEALTH EQUITY UPDATE**

September 2010

COMMUNITY IMPACT CHAMPION



Emery L. Rann III has a history of service within government, non-profit organizations and educational institutions. A Charlotte native, he earned his B.A. and Juris Doctorate from Lincoln University and Howard University School of Law, respectively. He has worked as special assistant to Governor James G. Martin, director of the Land Ownership Information Project at NC A& T State University and

the Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission, and currently is the director of Mediation Services of Forsyth County. Emery is an adjunct instructor of Political Science at Winston-Salem State University and the pastor at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church in Woodleaf, NC. He also consults with neighborhood groups on organizational and project development through his company, The SPHINX Group. He is married to RaVonda Dalton-Rann and they have two grown children and three grandchildren. Click here to read more.

New North Carolina American Indian Health **Board Receives Grant**



The North Carolina American Indian Health Board has received a \$15,000 grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) Foundation. The grant will ultimately be used to improve the health outcomes of American Indians in the state.

The North Carolina American Indian Health Board, newly formed by the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs in 2009, is focused on promoting quality health care and health lifestyles within American Indian families and communities in North Carolina through research, education, and advocacy. The

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SNMA WFUSM Chapter Update



With the start of the academic

agency's vision is to eliminate health disparities for American Indian communities in North Carolina so that American Indians and communities can reach their full potential. The agency has a strong partnership with the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity of Wake Forest University Health Sciences. Dr. Ronny Bell, Director of the Maya Angelou Center serves as vice chair of NCAIHB.

Moving Mind-Body Mental Health Promotion, Partnerships, and Advocacy to the Community



Identifying and preventing the development of neurocognition health impairments, such as dementia, represents an opportunity for helping financially constrained adults and improving primary care health services research and care delivery. As part of the Maya Angelou Community Outreach,

Partnerships, and Advocacy Campaign for mental health literacy promotion and dissemination, Dr. David L. Mount, a clinical neuropsychologist, was recently awarded a NIH RO3 grant focused on adverse cognitive functioning health risk reduction. Project 'Heads UP on Diabetes' seeks to strengthen clinic-community engagement practices by implementing biopsychosocial educational programs to help ensure cognitive health functioning and its related risk factors as recognized by adults diagnosed and living with diabetes.

Low-income adults diagnosed with type 2 diabetes have a differentially higher burden of diabetes health related complications, including elevated risk for adverse neurocognition health functioning. The development of neurocognition risk communication strategies may significantly benefit diabetes health behavior change initiatives and strengthen primary care health services delivery, particularly as it relates to low-income patients.

This mind-body health disparities reduction effort will work to provide important information on preventing, recognizing, and responding to adverse cognitive health functioning, while identifying additional promising strategies for raising mental health literacy among groups at the greatest risk for health and health care disparities and/or inequities.

Collaborative Research Project to Focus on Lumbee Culture, Suicide Ideation in Youth



Faculty and staff from the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, the Department of Epidemiology and Prevention and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke are partnering with the

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina to study the effect of Lumbee cultural education on suicide ideation in Lumbee Indian youth in Robeson County, North Carolina. The project, entitled, "Lumbee Rite of Passage," is funded by the National Institute of Mental

year, the Student National Medical Association welcomed the incoming Class of 2014 with a Student, Faculty and Physician Mixer. On July 29th at Big Shotz Tavern, minority medical, PA and science graduate students mingled with WFUBMC faculty, house staff and members of the Twin City Medical Society. Guests from the Center for Health Equity included Dr. Ronny Bell, Dr. Alain Bertoni and Dr. Kristen Hairston. The event was a successful launching pad to connect students with mentors and research opportunities.

Upcoming Events

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Saturday, September 18, 2010 Join the movement to help end violence against women!

Grant Opportunities

NCMHD Health disparities

Research R01 The overarching goal of this FOA is to solicit innovative research addressing elements of health disparities.

Health Promotion Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Males

(RO1) This Funding Opportunity
Announcement (FOA) encourages Research
Project (R01) grant applications from
applicants that propose to stimulate and
expand research in the health of minority

Effects of the Social Environment on Health: Measurement, Methods and Mechanisms

[R01] This FOA, issued as part of the NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet), solicits Research Project Grant (R01) applications from institutions/organizations that propose to investigate structural, behavioral, sociocultural, environmental, cognitive, emotional, and/or biological mechanisms through which the social environment affects health outcomes.

<u>Psychosocial Stress and Behavior:</u> <u>Integration of Behavioral and</u>

Physiological Processes (R01) This

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) issued by the NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences Opportunity Network (OppNet) solicits Research Project Grant (R01) applications from institutions and organizations that propose to investigate the mechanistic pathways linking psychosocial stressors and behavior.

Implementation of Behavioral
Interventions for Obesity and

Health of the National Institutes of Health, and is a two-year project that began July 1st. Dr. Ronny Bell, an enrolled member of the Lumbee tribe who is Professor of Epidemiology and Prevention and Director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity is the Principal Investigator, and Dr. Elizabeth Arnold, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, is a co-investigator for the study.

Adolescents from the Lumbee Boys and Girls Clubs in Robeson County will be recruited to participate in the study. Youth who are participating in the culture classes offered by the Lumbee tribe will be compared to those who have not gone through the classes. Data from the study will be gathered from focus groups and surveys given to study participants. The study will focus on measures that influence suicide ideation, including self-esteem, depression and other mental health indicators.

First KidZone/KidFit Health Nutrition Day



The very first Kid Fit/Nutrition Day was held Sunday, August 8th at St. Peter's World Outreach Center in Winston Salem. Activities included Zumba dance for kids as well as a nutritionist to discuss healthy snacks and the importance of exercise and proper rest. There were 78 kids in attendance and Montez Lane, Community

Outreach Project Manager for the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity attended as a representative for the Center and provided giveaways to the children.

<u>Diabetes</u>. The most recent obesity prevalence estimates are 32.2% in men and 35.5% in women. Millions of Americans stand to benefit from effective weight loss treatment. A large literature has developed for lifestyle weight loss interventions, which typically include nutrition and physical activity counseling and behavioral modification.

Resources

Disparities in Peaks, Plateaus, and Declines in Prevalence of High BMI Among Adolescents.

Diabetes Barometer:

A New Resource For Understanding the Full Impact of Diabetes in America **Disclaimer** (Through this website you are able to link to other websites which are not under the control of The Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity. We have no control over the nature, content and availability of those sites. The inclusion of any links does not necessarily imply a recommendation or endorse the views expressed within them).

The N.C. Office of Minority Health Releases Reports

The N.C. Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities has released their 2010 Racial and Health Disparities Report Card for 2010 and the Hispanic, African American and American Indian Health Fact Sheets. You can access these reports below.

Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in North Carolina - Report Card 2010

North Carolina Minority Health Facts: Hispanics/Latinos

North Carolina Minority Health Facts: American Indians

North Carolina Minority Health Facts: African Americans

Closing

We hope you enjoyed this month's Health Equity Updates. Please email with any comments or suggestions.

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