

# National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Cultural Network News

## Spring Issue

May 2003, Volume 5, No. 3

### From the Desk of the President

*Tyra R. Hawkins, President*

Greetings NAMRC Members and Supporters:

This year's annual conference is just around the corner, July 23-27, 2003, and your presence is humbly requested! Consider this my personal invitation to you. Our conference theme **"Enhancing Competencies: Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation Research and Practice."** Conference Co-Chairs, Dr. Brenda Cartwright and Ms. Sherry Billings, and their various committees have done an outstanding job in planning this year's conference.

As I began my Presidency, I outlined several goals that I along with the NAMRC Board of



Directors hoped to accomplish. Let me bring you up to date on the progress that we are making:

- NAMRC leadership and members are actively

participating in state, regional, and national NRA Conferences. This year NAMRC awarded its first scholarship to a NAMRC member for attendance to the annual Governmental Affairs Conference, Ms. Veronica Harrison a VR Counselor with the MS Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and a member of the MS AMRC chapter, **DROVE** to the Governmental Affairs Conference in Alexandria, VA from MS. This shows real interest and dedication!

**Congratulations, Ms. Harrison!**

- NAMRC will continue with the addition of new chapters and the revitalization of former state chapters. (Please join me in **WELCOMING** back the Georgia Chapter of NAMRC.)
- NAMRC continues to provide up-to-date membership information on our web page. [www.rcepv.siu.edu/namrc](http://www.rcepv.siu.edu/namrc) (then bookmark the site as namrc.org. (Thanks to our talented webmaster Dr. Scott Forbes).
- The NAMRC Board of Directors met during the weekend of April 4-6, 2003 at the Hampton Inn Tropicana in Las Vegas, NV and completed phase two of three Strategic Planning Sessions. Dr. Lee Gaseoma served as the facilitator for this session. An outline of NAMRC Strategic Plans will be shared with the membership during our annual membership meeting in New Orleans.
- An update on membership: As of March 31, 2003 NAMRC has 443 members. **NAMRC needs your assistance in recruitment and retention.**

As always please feel free to contact me with your concerns and suggestions at: work (256) 231-1025 or [thawkins@rehab.state.al.us](mailto:thawkins@rehab.state.al.us) and home (256) 358-4097 or home email - [tjr11855@aol.com](mailto:tjr11855@aol.com). I am accessible to the members of NAMRC at all times.

#### **NAMRC Mission Statement**

NAMRC is a diverse group whose mission is to advocate for the rehabilitation needs of multicultural persons with disabilities; ensure the provision of quality and equitable services; and enhance the development of multicultural rehabilitation professionals.

## NAMRC Board Member goes to Oxford!

By Keith Wilson

Keith Wilson, NAMRC Board member and Assistant Professor at Penn State University recent had the honor of delivering a lecture at the University of Oxford in Oxford England.

### *Purpose of the Oxford Round Table*

The purpose of the Oxford Round Table was to promote human advancement and understanding through the improvement of education. To this end, the Oxford Round Table provided a forum for the study and consideration of current issues facing state and national systems of education. The Round Table meets periodically and each session is comprised of a small select group of leaders from both the public and private sectors of several countries.

In short, the Oxford Round Table was highly structured and included the following daily activities: breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or coffee, evening receptions with wines and cheeses, and four course dinners. These activities enabled participants to socialize and share their ideas in what I would categorize as a “think tank” milieu. Oh, I forgot to mention the two banquets that required the attendees to wear after-five attire on Sunday and Thursday evenings. In addition, we toured the colleges at the University of Oxford, the Bodleian Library, and the Blenheim Palace (the birthplace of Winston Churchill).

### *The Selection Process*

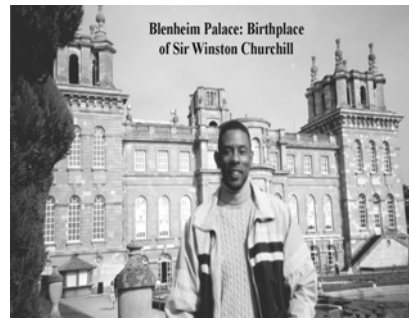
Invitations to the Oxford Round Table were sent to selected individuals throughout the United States. Individuals selected for the Oxford Round Table are identified through several screening processes that include: recognized presentations and awards at the state and national level and recommendations from the Board of Directors of the Oxford Round Table. Past membership has included Ministers of Education, State Governors from the United States, Members of Parliament, executive officers of international corporations, educational administrators, and academicians from major universities.

### *Publication*

The Oxford Round Table sessions cover educational issues at both local and international levels. The results of the deliberations are

published (peer reviewed) and made available to policymakers and academic libraries around the world.

Of course, I was truly honored and humbled to receive such an invitation. Addressing the Special Education Needs of Children was the theme of the Round Table. It was evident from several of the Round Table presentations that children who have special needs may be hindered by many teachers



who will not adjust their teaching pedagogy to increase success for students with special needs. Thus, putting

children with special needs in jeopardy of falling behind in academic and social pursuits because they may not learn like the “typical” youth. The Round Table presentation on math disabilities in children was particularly insightful to not only elementary school students, but college students who may want to pursue elementary and secondary education.

My particular lecture was titled: *The Exploration of Vocation Rehabilitation Acceptance and Ethnicity: A National Investigation*. My central theme was that the kinds of discrimination we see in the vocational rehabilitation system is a microcosm of the ills of the larger society and that racial minorities with disabilities are possibly being discriminated against because of the color (hue) of their skin.....As we know from the literature on colorism, hue discrimination continues to be a concern not only in the United States, but other parts of the world. When I completed my presentation, a round table delegate stated the following: “Your presentation opened my eyes to the kind of discrimination I did not know existed.” In short, I was very surprised how positive my presentation was received by many of the delegates of the Oxford Round Table. I believe that the purpose of this particular Oxford Round Table and my presentation were in keeping with the mission of NAMRC, which is advocating for people who may not be part of the American

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Board Member lectures at Oxford, from pg 2

or International mainstream. As an organization, we must continue to advocate for all people with disabilities, in general, and racial and ethnic minorities with disabilities, in particular. Our advocacy as an organization should have no geographical boundary! I am hopeful that I represented NAMRC in the best possible way.

#### **Silent Auction Committee seeking donations**

The Silent Auction Committee for the 2003 NAMRC Conference is soliciting donations of items to be auctioned. For additional information, contact Carolyn Turner at [cjturner@ars.state.ar.us](mailto:cjturner@ars.state.ar.us) or 501-324-4741.

#### **2003 Conference Update**

As noted in the President's message, conference time is almost here! The NAMRC Training Conference, with its theme of **Enhancing Competencies: Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation Research and Practice**, is less than less than four months away. It seems like only a few short weeks ago that we were in Las Vegas for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. We hope you have made your hotel reservations! Don't be left out! Reservations can be made at the W New Orleans Hotel, official conference hotel, at 333 Poydras St. in New Orleans, by calling (800) 522-6963 or (504) 525-9444.

Conference Co-Chairs, Brenda Cartwright and Sherry Billings, along with Program Chairs Drs. Chandra Donnell and Yolanda Edwards are starting to dot the i's and cross the t's, with regard to the conference planning. As you will note in the conference at a glance, included with this newsletter, the conference has sessions that will appeal to everyone.

The downloadable registration form for conference is available at the NAMRC website: <http://www.rcepv.siu.edu/namrc>. Feel free to download, copy and share with others. Our goal is to expand the range of persons attending our conference to include social workers, educators and other rehabilitation and human service professionals.



New Orleans is The Big Easy

NAMRC 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Don't miss the good times, good information, networking, and of course, good food and sights and sounds in the Big Easy!

**Are you registered yet?**

W New Orleans Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

Veronica Harrison (r), recipient of the NAMRC First Timers Award, poses with NAMRC President Tyra Hawkins (l) and NRA President Bob McConnell during a break at the NRA Governmental Affairs Conference in Alexandria, VA.



## **NAMRC Board Representative Report**

By Carl Flowers

It was good to see many of you at the NRA Governmental Affairs Conference in Alexandria, VA recently. Regarding the NRA Board, following is the most recent information on the discussions and actions taken at the March NRA Board meeting held in conjunction with the Governmental Affairs Conference:

- The NRA Restructuring Committee provided information on the core services that will be made available to divisions, as part of the restructuring. However, costs associated with the planned services were not available for the Board to review. After discussion, it was the consensus that the Committee should bring a report back to the Board, at the Summer Board meeting, on the costs to divisions for services that will be provided to divisions under the Restructuring.
  - A recommendation by the Restructuring Committee to extend the timeline, until 12/31/04 (rather the original deadline of 12/31/03) for divisions to attain 500 members for retention of their seat on the Board was offered as an alternative to our (NAMRC) proposal to reduce the divisional membership requirements to 400. Following discussion, and NAMRC's acceptance of an amendment to our proposal from the NARSS division, the NRA Board voted unanimously to *eliminate the 500-membership requirement* for divisions to retain their seat on the Board. In effect, the vote by the Board allows all divisions with Board representation to continue in those roles.
- In other news:
- The search process continues for a new NRA Executive Director. The position announcement is on the NRA Website at [nationalrehab.org](http://nationalrehab.org).
  - Planning continues for the NRA National Conference in Nashville, TN in October. NAMRC members are encouraged to submit proposals for presentation. The deadline has been extended to April 30. See the NRA website for additional information.

### **2004 Conference Sites under consideration**

The NAMRC Board is seeking membership input on possible sites for the 2004 NAMRC

Conference. Atlanta, Louis, Memphis, Denver and Chicago are among those that have been mentioned and about which preliminary information has been solicited. If you have a preference for any of these locations, or for any others, send an email to Tyra Hawkins at [Thawkins@rehab.state.al.us](mailto:Thawkins@rehab.state.al.us) or [tjr111855@aol.com](mailto:tjr111855@aol.com) or.

### **Student Representative Report**

By Sean Reyes

There is much to be reported in this issue of the *Cultural Network Newsletter*. The Board of Directors recently convened in Las Vegas, NV for the NAMRC strategic planning retreat. The meeting was truly an enlightening experience in the sense of observing the "pros" in action.

As student representative, one responsibility that I have been charged with is to increase membership. My goal is to try to involve and recruit, but not be limited to, more Hispanics and Asians. By recruiting members from diverse ethnicities we can truly exemplify the name "Multicultural" as well as boost membership.

Remember that the Annual conference is *creeping* up on us! I look forward to seeing as many student members in attendance as possible. For students, we've included a job opportunities forum to introduce various areas of the rehabilitation profession that rehabilitation graduates can pursue upon completion of their respective programs. If there are any questions, comments or concerns, I can be reached at [Sreyes@siu.edu](mailto:Sreyes@siu.edu) or via telephone at 618 536-7704.

### **Award Nomination Deadline Extended**

Nominations are still being accepted for NAMRC Awards, as the Board recently agreed to extend the deadline to May 15.

Members and State Chapters are encouraged to submit nominations of members within their respective states. For additional information, contact Mr. Cobb at (262) 884-7316 or [cobbtr@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:cobbtr@dwd.state.wi.us)

## NAMRC Conference at a Glance July 23-27, 2003

### Wednesday July 23

Registration Desk Open 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference  
Workshop

**CRC Exam Preparation Workshop**

**9 am – 4 pm**  
**Dr. Jodi Saunders**

NAMRC Board Meeting 2- 4 pm

### 2003 Opening Session

(Poster Session and President's Reception) 5 pm – 10 pm

### Thursday July 24

Registration 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.**

General Plenary Session

Keynote Speaker

**Noemi Ortega, President**

**Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers Association**

9:00 a.m. until 9:45 p.m.

### Concurrent Morning Sessions

10:00 until 11:30 a.m

1. Capacity Building Initiatives: Impacts and Outcomes
2. Cultural relevance and diversity when working with adolescents and troubled youths
3. Mental health disparities among African Americans
4. Building local capacity through successful Implementation of tribal vocational rehabilitation projects

***Lunch - On your Own 11:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.***

### Concurrent Afternoon Sessions

1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. until 4:15 p.m.

1. I don't know how I got tenure: Managing your career and professional development
2. Enhancing the rehabilitation counseling process: Issues in Asian American Family Dynamics
3. Evaluation of a transcultural integrated ethical decision-making model with rehabilitation counselors
4. The Migrant seasonal farm-worker program: History and Future Comes together
5. Coping and tenure process: A roundtable discussion of what they tell you and don't tell you in the doctoral programs
6. Coping and tenure process: A roundtable discussion of what they tell you and don't tell you in the doctoral programs

**Student Outreach Committee Room, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**

*Bid Whist Tournament 7 – 10 PM*

### Friday, July 25

Registration 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.

### Concurrent Morning Sessions

8:30 a.m. until 10:00 and 10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

1. Developing successful grant proposals
2. What I didn't learn about severe mental illness and multicultural issues
3. A primer on ethical and legal issues in the human services program
4. Domestic violence come to the workplace: A concern for rehabilitation professionals
5. Building a personal three factor conceptual approach for assessing individuals in multicultural counseling situations
6. An analysis of the unintended consequence of criminal incarceration of African American Consumers”  
Spirituality counseling and rehabilitation counseling training programs”  
Extending diversity within rehabilitation programs

12:00 p.m. until 1:45 p.m.

### NAMRC Awards Luncheon

**Keynote Speaker: Michael A. Tongg, J. D.**  
**Polynesian Voyaging Society**

### Concurrent Afternoon Sessions

2:00 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.

1. Ethical decision- making approaches among counseling professionals
2. Spirituality counseling and rehabilitation counseling training programs
3. The get to work group: Gestalt therapy in vocational preparation of methadone maintenance treatment program patients and ex-offenders
4. Appalachian culture and rehabilitation counseling
5. Ethical issues and decision making in rehabilitation and mental health settings
6. 'I can't do it anymore': Experiences of African American Faculty at Predominately White and Historically Black Institutions
7. Servicing individuals with traumatic brain injury in diverse communities

### Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

**8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**Morning Concurrent Sessions 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.**

1. A cultural perspective: developing and enhancing capacities of Native American rehabilitation”
2. Rehabilitation consultation: Can we actually do that
3. Understanding transferable skill analysis as a tool in vocational assessment”

**10 – 12 Noon General Session**  
**NAMRC Membership Meeting**

### Concurrent Afternoon Sessions:

1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.

1. Conducting international research in central and eastern Europe
2. Disability identity: Morphing multicultural identity models
3. Exploring variables that predispose customers to VR acceptance in the U.S.: A reassessment
4. Understanding writing for publication
5. Personal and adjustment training needs of deaf/hard-of-hearing consumers
6. The rehabilitation profession: What in the world are my options”
7. Cultural sensitivity on the field of rehabilitation

### Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**NAMRC Board Meeting and Closing Session**

**Wrap Up/Look Ahead 8:30 until 11:00 a.m**

Have A Safe Trip Home



The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) publishes this newsletter.

Editor: Carl Flowers, Rh. D.

Submissions to the Cultural Network Newsletter should be in MS Word (preferred) or Word Perfect. Submissions may be mailed (on disk) or sent to the Newsletter Editor, via email, to [Cflowers@siu.edu](mailto:Cflowers@siu.edu). Photos should be submitted as JPEG files. Contact information should be included with your submissions. The deadline for submissions is **May 15 for the June/July 2003 issue**.

Other submission date deadlines are:

April 11 for the May 2003 issue

September 12 for the October 2003 issue

May 15 for the July 2003 issue

January 2004 Issue is December 15, 2003

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