

THE CULTURAL NETWORK

From the Desk of the President

Dr. Paul Leung

NAMRC Friends and Family:

By now you all have hopefully recovered from Detroit... it was THAT kind of an experience - full of knowledge, useful stuff, new friends and contacts, some music, comedy and a bit of fun, etc. Maybe some of you left some of yourself in Detroit or more than you would have liked (think Casino). Anyway, I want to reiterate how much we appreciate the work that Terrie and Fran put into the conference along with the work of the entire Michigan chapter.

I want to also acknowledge again all the award winners but I won't repeat them here as they are mentioned in NRA's Contemporary Rehab's most recent issue. We are all looking forward to next year's training event in Oklahoma City.

While numbers for numbers sake is not our goal, our ability to have impact and to advocate for changes that result in better lives for persons with disabilities is dependent in part on our numbers. A voice that is loud, clear and in unison is hard to ignore. Our mission and what we stand for should provide us the impetus to increase our membership and thus a greater and greater impact in all of our states and in our nation. More and more, those with lesser voices are increasingly ignored and programs are slowly cut. We need to work together so that all in our communities are heard and their multiple needs met. Persons with disabilities from diverse populations must have the same opportunities afforded all but as we all know there is a ways to go. NAMRC can play a part to change this.

Internally, we have striven to make NAMRC more responsive to you the member. The redesigned website (we are looking to update and continue to improve it) and the availability of the newsletter by electronic format is hopefully a much more efficient way to deliver a vital communication tool of NAMRC. We are exploring new ways to bring you the information you need to do your

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work including a refereed section that will appear hopefully during this next year. If you have an interest in being a part of a new multicultural rehabilitation journal, please let me know.

Thanks again for being a part of NAMRC.

Your President in your service,
Paul

2006 Conference Updates

The program committee was pleased to make available some forty concurrent workshop sessions and a half-day pre conference session on a variety of multicultural themes of interest to practitioners, rehabilitation educators and administrators. The variety of workshops available at the conference represented the highest number ever available to NAMRC conference participants, enabling attendees to earn up to 15.5 possible CRC credits, and a number of specialized ethics credits. In addition to the traditional content workshops, the 2006 conference offered several sessions of a "dialogue room", where attendees had an opportunity to discuss and address topics of their own choosing consistent with the conference theme. In both written and verbal feedback, attendees commented on the high quality of conference workshops, including a recommendation to continue the special "dialogue room" sessions. The schedule of conference workshops and program can be seen on the NAMRC website at www.namrc.org. The conference proceedings will also be available on the website after the beginning of the New Year.

L. Robert McConnell and Tennyson Wright co-chaired the program committee, assisted by James Bethea, Chandra Donnell, Joy Inniss-Johnson and Allen Lewis.

Respectfully Submitted,

L. Robert McConnell, Program Committee Co-chair

NAMRC Mission Statement

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



*2006 14th Annual
Conference Recap!!!*

Reinventing Rehabilitation in a Diverse World: Achieving Professional Excellence Conference Wrap Up!

205 Conference Attendees
122 (NRA/NAMRC Members)
46 Students

State Representation
102 Michigan (85 Michigan Rehabilitation
Services Management/Counselors)
33 Oklahoma
12 North Carolina
9 Louisiana

We would like to thank Conference Chairs Fran Howze and Terrie Hylton and the conference committee along with Conference Program Chairs, Drs. L. Robert McConnell and Tennyson Wright and their committee, as well as all of our conference attendees for making this conference in the Motor City of Detroit one of our most successful yet!!

15th Annual National Training Conference:

Oklahoma City, OK

We look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma!!! The Oklahoma Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns is eagerly planning and can't wait to welcome you out to Oklahoma!!

Go to www.NAMRC.org for more details!!

NAMRC Member Updates...

Please join us in congratulating student member, Cozetta Shannon. Cozetta, a doctoral student at Michigan State University, was recently elected as Student Representative to the NCRE (National Council on Rehabilitation Education) Board!! She will serve in this position for a two-year term.

In her own words: "As I prepare for my tenure as Student Representative of NCRE, I would like to thank the *NAMRC Family* for the support that I have received thus far. NAMRC has set the foundation on which I am building my future. As a student, the knowledge and inspiration that I have received from this illustrious organization is priceless".

Cozetta D. Shannon
NCRE Student Representative



The Student Corner

Rep Report

Submitted by Lakeysa J. McLaurin

NAMRC students...can you say "success". Yes indeed, success is one of the many coveted words that describe the Student Outreach events of the recent 2006 Annual Training Conference. Congratulations are also in order to Euchay Horseman, recipient of the 2006 Scholarship Award and Caprice Quinn, recipient of the *Silvio Sean Reyes Student of the Year Award*. As promised student attendees received more than enough information, networking, inspiration and laughter to harbor unprecedented success in their personal and professional lives. Imagine brushing elbows with the likes of Drs. Bobbie Atkins and Carl Flowers while taking a stroll down Motown memory lane or being graced with profound words of wisdom from Drs. Tyra Turner Whittaker, Yolanda Edwards and Chandra Donnell. Can you image? Such encounters accentuate the essence of NAMRC— come, see, and be apart of the student movement within NAMRC.

The latest avenue for student members to become involved is the newly developed NAMRC Student Corner listserv. The listserv was established for student members seeking electronic networking connections with fellow graduate students, potential employers, and rehabilitation professionals alike. It is a given that many students enter the field of rehabilitation yearly. In fact, approximately 30 to 40 percent of students present at the annual conference were new members and/or first time attendees. The listserv is growing daily. Submit inquires at thenamrcstudentcorner@yahoo.com to be



*Check out NAMRC's
New Web Site!*

Our website is steadily growing!! Go to www.NAMRC.org for enhanced, user-friendly access to information, useful updates and important news and issues relevant to multicultural persons in the rehabilitation community. The *Cultural Network Newsletter* will also be featured exclusively on our new site!! However, if you would like to receive the *NAMRC Cultural Network Newsletter* in an alternative format please contact Chandra Donnell with your relevant contact information.

added to this network of NAMRC's greatness in the making. Also, Educators interested in obtaining a copy of the NAMRC Student Outreach Recruitment Video released in September 2006 should submit requests to the aforementioned email address.

Finally, in the words of a great crooner on today's music charts—"I don't wanna leave, but I gotta go right now". Such words describe my sentiments regarding the cessation of my term as NAMRC Student Representative/Board Member in December 2006. My humble affiliation with this organization has catapulted my status to unimaginable heights for a young professional of my stature. My most rewarding accomplishment is the production the Student Outreach Recruitment Video—special thanks to Cozetta Shannon for co-production labor on this project as well. This tool will allow students nationwide to view the spirit of NAMRC which captivated me from the start.

I would be remiss if I did not give honor to the members of the NAMRC Executive Board, Michigan State University, Treva Roanhorse of CANAR, Dorothy Quinn of MRS, MAMRC, colleagues, family and dear friends. Because of you, I accomplished groundbreaking goals that will impact both my life and the lives of NAMRC students from here forth. To those of you who are interested in taking the NAMRC student identity to the next level for 2007-2009, see details in the nominations section of this newsletter. You may also submit questions regarding the Student Rep. position to my attention at thenamrcstudentcorner@yahoo.com.

**National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC)
2006 Award Winners**

To celebrate the achievements of our colleagues and partners who excel in serving persons with disabilities, we are pleased to congratulate the following award-winners:

Sylvia Walker Education Award

2006 Recipient—Dr. George Parris, Wayne State University

The Sylvia Walker Education Award is named after a professor, researcher and director of the first federal Research and Training Center focused on minority issues and disability. Recipients of this award should be acknowledged for excellence in rehabilitation education at the graduate or undergraduate level; commitment to student learning and development, as well as commitment to multiculturalism, as evident in teaching, publications and involvement; and their ability to serve as a role model, example and mentor.

Joyce Keener Meritorious Service Award

2006 Award Recipient—Dr. Yolanda Edwards, University of South Carolina

This award is named after the inspirational first national leader of NAMRC, and convener of the first national association conference. Recipients of this award are individuals who have provide continuous and loyal service and leadership to the association, usually in a variety of capacities and at national, state and local levels; demonstrate extensive time and energy as evidence of their love for the association and belief in its goals; and display effective commitment and service to multicultural issues.

Bobbie Atkins Research Award

2006 Award Recipient—Dr. Chandra Donnell, Michigan State University

This award is named after Dr. Bobbie Atkins, a professor at San Diego State University who has been a leading educator, publisher, researcher and trainer, grant developer, and spokesperson on multicultural, gender and other issues in rehabilitation. Recipients of this award should have distinguished themselves by the production of a significant volume of exemplary research and associated publications; the inclusion of research related to multiculturalism and disability; and the development of research, which has or will make a difference in thinking and/or practice in the multicultural arena.

T. K. Bridges Practitioner Award

2006 Award Recipient— Ms. Cindy Mundis, Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

This award is named after a former counselor, supervisor, and manager for the Alabama Rehabilitation Agency from 1972-1994, who had a deep commitment to rehabilitation counseling and coined the term “elite practitioner” to denote competence and professionalism in the field. Recipients of this award are engaged in direct service delivery in rehabilitation as counselors, technicians or specialists and/or as supervisors, managers and consultants; have provided extended, dedicated and exemplary service to persons with disabilities from culturally diverse backgrounds; and continuously demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and competence in their field.

Silvio Sean Reyes Student of the Year Award

2006 Award Recipient—Ms. Caprice Quinn, Wayne State University

This award is named after a doctoral student in rehabilitation at Southern Illinois University who served as the Association’s first student representative to the Board. Recipients of this award are persons who have established themselves academically at the graduate level in rehabilitation or a related field; demonstrated a commitment to multicultural issues; and provided active service to the Association.

Virgie Winston-Smith Lifetime Achievement Award

2006 Award Recipient—Dr. Tennyson Wright, University of South Florida

This award is named in memory of a long time member of the association from California who advocated on behalf of the Association and the issues it represented. She was a strong and vocal spokesperson for multicultural issues and represented well the dignity and professionalism of persons of color. Recipients of this award are individuals who demonstrate continuous and dedicated service to NAMRC over time in a variety of service and leadership capacities; display extended exemplary leadership and service to the rehabilitation profession(s); and exhibit leadership, involvement, service and advocacy on behalf of multicultural issues in rehabilitation.

2006 NAMRC Call for Nominations for Officers and Board Members

Members interested in serving NAMRC are invited to seek election as an Officer, to the Board of Directors, or to volunteer for service on a committee. Elections will be held this fall to elect the President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as four members on the Board of Directors, the Representative to the NRA Board for two-year terms (2007-2009), and Newsletter Editor. Members may self-nominate or nominate other members of the Association.

The duties of the officers are as follows:

President-elect (*Two-year term, January 1, 2007-December 31, 2009*)

Assumes the duties of the President in his/her absence. Automatically becomes President following the term of office of the incumbent president. Becomes President in the event of incumbent's inability to fulfill term (i.e., resignation, death).

Secretary (*Two-year term to begin January 1, 2007*)

At all meetings, have available copies of By-laws and lists of Standing Committees and records attendance; maintain up-to-date list of active Association members Records minutes of all Association and Board of Directors meetings provides copies of minutes of all meetings to the Board members in a timely fashion.

Treasurer (*for two-year term to begin January 1, 2005*)

Maintains custody of all Association funds. Handles all deposits and pays invoices at the direction of the Board. Prepares financial report for all meetings. Prior to Annual meeting, prepares all records and vouchers for audit. Prepares financial reports and documents for submission to NRA.

Representative to NRA Board (*Two-year term to begin January 1, 2007*) The Representative to the NRA Board may be an active Board member with full voting privileges or a Board member ex-officio (without full voting privileges). The NRA representative attends NRA Board meetings on behalf of the Association and represents the interest of the Association at the NRA Board meetings.

Board of Directors (*Four Positions - Two-year term to begin January 1, 2007*) Conducts necessary business between meetings of the Association; establish policies and procedures relative to the Association and meet at the call of the President or Board Chair, and a) Conducts necessary business between meetings of the Association b) Reports to the Association membership on all business c) Establishes policies and procedures relative to the Association d) Fill vacancies which occur between elections e) Meets at the call of the President f) Shall serve on a standing, special, conference or workshop committee.

Student Representative to the NAMRC Board: (*One-year term to being January 1, 2007*).

Acts as liaison between the student members and the NAMRC Board of Directors. Makes recommendations relative to student interests and matters regarding programs and professional development. Represents and communicates the interests of student members of the Association.

Newsletter Editor

Responsible for drafting of articles and layout of quarterly *Cultural Network* newsletter. Writes or solicits articles from President and other relevant parties. Produces complete 4 newsletter editions per year. Will also have responsibility for working with Webmaster to update web site and monitor web activity accessibility.

To nominate or self-nominate current NRA members, please forward nominations to Tyra Rice Hawkins at 1105 Woodstock Ave. Anniston, AL 36207. If you have any questions, please contact Tyra at Tjr111855@aol.com.

All nominations are due by October 27, 2006.

2006-2007

NAMRC Officers and Board of Directors Contact Information

Paul Leung, President

pleung@unt.edu

Tyra Rice Hawkins, Immediate Past-President

thawkins@rehab.state.al.us

Chandra M. Donnell, President-Elect

cdonnell@msu.edu

Yolanda V. Edwards, Secretary

yedwards@gw.mp.sc.edu

Felicia Hunter, Treasurer

Fhunter@goodwilldetroit.org

Bryan Sykes, Membership Chair/Board Member

cheyarapvr@hotmail.com

Board of Directors

Brenda Cartwright

drbcartwright@yahoo.com

Carl Flowers

cflowers@siu.edu

Eddie Glenn

drglennbryant@bellsouth.net

R. F. Truesdell

truesdellr@sbcglobal.net

L. Robert McConnell

lrobertmcon@voyager.net

Jenelle Pitt

pittj1@michigan.gov

Stacie Robertson

stacier5@siu.edu

Student Representative/Board Member

Lakeysha J. McLaurin, *mclauri7@msu.edu*

Legislative Representative

L. Robert McConnell, *lrobertmcon@voyager.net*

NRA Representative

Tyra Rice Hawkins, *thawkins@rehab.state.al.us*



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

Editor: Chandra M. Donnell, Ph.D., CRC

Submissions to the *Cultural Network Newsletter* should be in MS Word or .rtf format. Submissions should be made via e-mail to the Newsletter Editor at cdonnell@msu.edu.

Photos should be submitted as JPEG files. Contact information should be included with your submission. Please note that submissions may be edited for length.

The *Cultural Network Newsletter* is published 4 times a year with a special Election issue in December. Remaining Submission deadlines for 2006 are:

April 1	March/April/May Issue
July 1	June/July/August Issue
Oct 1	Sept/Oct/November Issue
Nov 15	December - Election Issue

Don't forget to submit your nominations for Officers and Board Members!!!

Thanks to the 2006 Conference Committee for an EXCELLENT conference in
Detroit, MI!!!

We look forward to seeing you all in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for our 15th Annual
National Training Conference!!



Visit us at:

www.NAMRC.org

NAMRC Cultural Network Newsletter
c/o Rehabilitation Institute
Mail Code 4609
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Carbondale, IL 62901-4609



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code