

2004-2005 Research Circle Reports

◆ **Carol J. Leppa** (Nursing)

During the 2004-2005 academic year, I participated in a research circle with **Becky Reed Rosenberg** (Interim Director of the Teaching and Learning Center) and **Mary Abrums** (Nursing). Each of us worked in different areas of diversity and pedagogy. My specific project was the writing of the introductory chapter to my edited book, *Late to Class*. With the support of my research circle, I set regular writing goals, received exceptionally helpful feedback on several drafts, and incorporated feedback to meet the challenges of integrating a complex literature on social class with the themes developed by authors of the chapters of my book. The book is now in press.

◆ **Carol J. Leppa** (Nursing), **Andreas Brockhaus** (Director, Educational Technology), **Julie Planchon Wolf** (Instruction and Reference Librarian)

Our research circle focused on distilling our experiences with the faculty institutes into a series of manuscripts for publication. One significant accomplishment was the development and acceptance of an article, "Developing Online Teaching and Learning Resources that Engage Faculty," for presentation at E-Learn 2005—World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare, and Higher Education. Another accomplishment for the 2004-05 academic year was a poster presentation at the National Learning Infrastructure Initiative (NLII) and EDUCAUSE conference in New Orleans in January 2005. In addition, we are using the material from these posters and presentations in the development of three manuscripts that focus on different aspects of the Online Faculty Institute. We will complete and submit these manuscripts (to include the results of our current institute work) during the 2005-06 academic year.

◆ **Mary Abrums** (Nursing)

In 2004-2005, I participated in a research/writing circle with **Becky Reed Rosenberg** (Writing Center director) and **Jane Van Galen** (Education). I found that meeting with Jane and Becky encouraged me to explore ideas and approaches for writing about our mutual interest in resolving issues of disparity in our various fields. The conversations were motivating and insightful; and the regular meeting times gave me the structure that I needed to keep writing on a regular basis.

I worked primarily on revising a grant that I had written and submitted to HRSA for workforce diversity in nursing. This research group gave me the incentive and the opportunity to begin to formulate an article for an educational nursing journal, based on the grant literature review, which covered the scope of the problem and outlined a possible approach for addressing diversity issues in nursing schools.

I had done thorough research and written extensively for the grant. This research group gave me the opportunity to begin working on rewriting and reformulating the grant into a publishable article. Becky and Jane's suggestions were invaluable.

◆ **Mark Szarko** (UWB Librarian)

The research circle I shared with librarian colleagues, **Laura Barrett** and **Suzan Parker**, during 2004-2005, served as an excellent sounding board for several ideas and projects. One of them culminated in a roundtable discussion that Laura and I co-facilitated at the 2005 conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries in Minneapolis.

Prior to the conference, our discussions revealed a mutual interest in the relationship between academic libraries and their communities. After reviewing and discussing the literature, we decided we wanted to hear more about what our peers at other institutions were doing to strengthen these ties. In Minneapolis, we enjoyed a well-attended and well-received conversation, which included David Silver and Sarah Washburn, co-founders of the September Project, a grass-roots effort to encourage library activities on the anniversary of September 11, about topics such as citizenship, patriotism, and democracy. The barriers to effective partnerships that several participants described struck me as particularly compelling, and I returned from the conference even more convinced of the value of strengthening our ties with the community