

Creating New Possibilities  
for Health Improvement  
through collaborative  
Scholarship, Research,  
Teaching/Learning  
Practice

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Opening:...

Can you imagine the world of the future...  
instantaneous communication with others...  
endless amounts of knowledge at your  
fingertips?

That future is now.....but.....

Do we have tools to access, use and disseminate  
this information to improve our communities?

## Background of UVA SAVANA

- Several decades of relationship building by Environmental Science Dept with four universities in southern Africa
- Interest by the federal government in building an infrastructure for American-African political and economic relationships
- University of Virginia moves SAVANA to the top of its priority list for international programs

## School of Nursing (SON) and SAVANA

- 2001 SON becomes involved through efforts of Bob Swap.
- 2003 February Brashers & Farrell et al host six Provincial nurses from Limpopo at UVA
- 2003 July Brashers & Farrell seek funding for Nurse Practitioner Student, Lindsey Powell to explore relationships in South Africa
- 2003 November Prof. Farrell visits Southern Africa with Prof Swap, Shuggart and Dr. Guerant (Pascal Besong selected as Scholar)

## Sustainability

- 2005 March Workshop
- 2005 Prof Farrell returns to region with 2 students in Distinguished Majors Program
- 2006 Prof Farrell and Dr. Brashers host Vhonani Netshamdama as visiting scholar

And J term

2007 Prof Farrell returns to region with Dr. Dillingman, Ms. Firehock and Swap with student group

## Faculty involvement

OVERALL GOALS:

Scholarly Sustainable Collaboration in Scholarship, Research, Teaching/Learning and Practice

Exploratory investigation concerning the tripartite dynamic relationship between socio-economic transformation, spatial environment, and health in developing rural communities in South Africa

## Student Projects

- Powell 2003 – Primary Healthcare Nurse Knowledge and Attitudes Towards Mental Illness (Sarah Farrell)
- Anderson 2004– The Experience of Sexual Assault in Limpopo Province (Barbara Parker), Candace Burton, Distinguished Major Project

## Nursing Students without Borders

- How to support this endeavor in addition to faculty scholarship, service and practice mission?
- Amazing group of students



## PRINCIPLES

- Studies need to be  
Consistent with School of Nursing  
And  
SAVANA guidelines


## WORKSHOP 2005

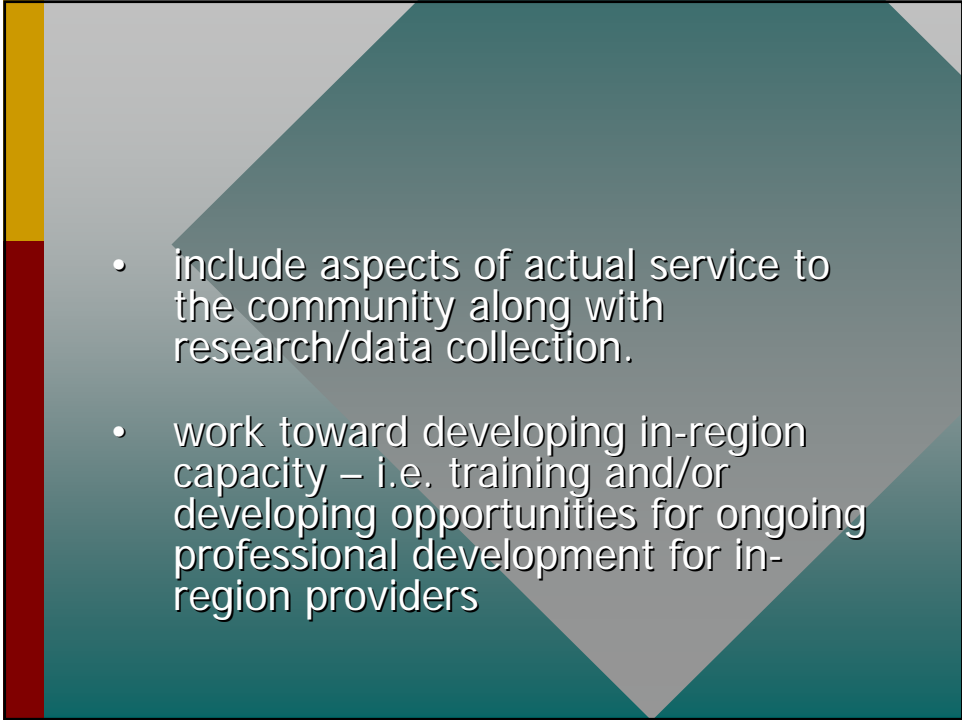
Spring Break March 2005

- Southern Africa workshop held in Charlottesville, VA to further develop Community Assessment Models: UNIVEN, WITS, U. of Botswana, UVA

## Studies need to:

- Be responsive to healthcare needs and priorities that were identified in-region through collaborative visits with our South African colleagues
- Compliment SON research that is already being done/planned for other geographic locations: eScreen for Depression, Psychosocial needs of children

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- be partnerships with South African communities with local faculty and students to assess skills, practices, and attitudes of health care professionals toward important and difficult healthcare issues

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- include aspects of actual service to the community along with research/data collection.
  - work toward developing in-region capacity – i.e. training and/or developing opportunities for ongoing professional development for in-region providers

- provide future opportunities for technology/distance learning/telemedicine projects for ongoing development and expansion of programs
- lay the foundation for long-term research, T/L and service opportunities and relationships

## 2005: OUTCOMES

Since March 2005

- Proposals submitted for funding by Farrell and Netshandama
  - Service/ Student WITS course and exchange: Students: Garrett and Allebaugh, University of Venda and WITS
  - Research/ R21 Psychosocial Needs of Children
- Students attend May/June 2005 service learning project at WRF along with students from WITS and UNIVEN
- Shared presentations and..... Publications

## Future Possibilities

- Incredible number of research possibilities
  - Rural Health Center funded at UVA by NIH
  - Complementary Alternative Therapies Center: ways to partner with traditional healers
- Behavioral issues in HIV
- Links between poverty, gender, trauma, abuse, suicide, depression and HIV
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine
- Student and Faculty Exchanges
- NSWB as one exemplar student initiative/leadership development

## SAVANA / SON

A unique opportunity to build on a University-wide initiative that provides avenues for research that are consistent with the goals of UVA's Envision statement, while opening the doors to international experiences for faculty and students to another English speaking country for purposes of developing relationships and scholarly partnerships in Research, Teaching/Learning and Service.

Next steps:  
Celebrate our successes  
Roll up our sleeves  
Seek funding

**INFINITY AND BEYOND**

- Assess
- Plan
- Implement/Build
- Evaluate
- Modify
- Sustain

THANK YOU