

ALABAMA'S

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Tuskegee women's conference looks at health care disparities in the state

Health advocates from across the state joined together on April 30 in Tuskegee to exchange information and ideas at the research conference titled "Breast Cancer Disparities in the State of Alabama among African American Women."

Director of the Minority Health Section at the Alabama Department of Public Health, Gwen Lipscomb, was among the many panelists to speak at the conference. Lipscomb spoke about the status of minority health and breast cancer in Alabama.

"We must do something about the health disparities in the state, primarily in the Black Belt," said Lipscomb.

Working in conjunction with the Center for Health Statistics, Lipscomb presented data indicating the disparity between African American women and white women in breast cancer death rates. The death rate for African American women was disproportionately higher in regions such as the Black Belt.

"The challenge is to look at those areas of the state at risk and target those areas for treatment. We need to promote health events throughout the state. Getting people education is the only way to improve health disparities in the state," said Lipscomb.

Tuskegee University and Tennessee State University researched the matter further in their project "Increasing Mammography Screening Among African American Females in Rural Areas: An Educational Intervention Program."

The goal of the project was to reduce racial disparities in health outcomes for breast cancer mortality among

African American women by evaluating the effectiveness of breast cancer screening education programs on mammography rates among African American females age 40 and over, living in rural communities.

The project also studied whether such a program had more or less of an impact among women who had a history of breast cancer and compared the results of the rural intervention program with the results of the same program previously delivered in an urban setting.

The study was conducted in Macon and Greene counties, both rural areas located in the Black Belt. The project had 400 participants and found that one of the issues involved was access to hospitals. Residents in Macon County had to drive 20 miles to Auburn and residents in Greene County had to drive 45 miles to Montgomery. There was no place in Macon County where a woman could even get a mammogram.

Lipscomb feels that access is a major factor to look at in health care disparities. She cited in her presentation that "access-related factors may be the most significant barriers to equitable care, and must be addressed as an important first step toward eliminating healthcare disparities."

Other areas of health disparities were also discussed by Dr. Baqar Husaini, Director of the Center for Health Research at Tennessee State University. Dr. Husaini discussed six critical areas of health disparities as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which include cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes,

Tuskegee.....continued on page 8

Heimlich maneuver training helps provider save baby's life

Lessons learned in the required CPR/first aid training conducted by department employees have great value, a day care provider learned when she saved her own toddler's life.

Dianne Seliga, day care nurse consultant with Healthy Child Care Alabama in several southeast Alabama counties, certified the provider in CPR and first aid. Ms. Seliga received thanks after the day care mother used the Heimlich maneuver. The woman said she was driving with her children when her four-year-old gave a piece of hard candy to the two-year-old and the baby choked.

The mother immediately pulled off the road, lifted the child from the child passenger safety seat, and administered the Heimlich maneuver. The candy popped out and the child began breathing.

"They know the importance of the skills they learn in class, but when it really hits home is when they can apply what they have learned," Ms. Seliga said.

The Healthy Child Care Alabama program is coordinated by Sharis LeMay of the Bureau of Family Health Services. The program provides CPR and first aid training in its professional development program for child care providers.

The Alabama Department of Public Health Community Training Center continues to provide a valuable source for certification for CPR and first aid, training which is important for not only day care providers but for health

care professionals and the community.

Carolyn Morgan, assistant director of the Nursing Unit, Office of Professional and Support Services, directs the center. For information about CPR/First Aid classes being offered in the RSA Tower in Montgomery, you may contact Michele Jones, Training Coordinator, at 334-206-5665. Contact your supervisor to obtain information about CPR classes being offered in other areas and counties.

Alabama Department of Public Health

Mission

To serve the people of Alabama by assuring conditions in which they can be healthy.

Value Statement

The purpose of the Alabama Department of Public Health is to provide caring, high quality and professional services for the improvement and protection of the public's health through disease prevention and the assurance of public health services to resident and transient populations of the state regardless of social circumstances or the ability to pay.

The Department of Public Health works closely with the community to preserve and protect the public's health and to provide caring quality services.

ALABAMA'S HEALTH

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Informational materials in alternative formats will be made available upon request.

Alabama Public Health Association honors professionals with awards, scholarship

The Alabama Public Health Association recognized persons from across the state who demonstrated exceptional merit during the past year in the field of public health. The following individuals were presented awards April 30 at the association's Annual Meeting and Health Education Conference held jointly with the fifth Annual Rural Health Conference at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa.

Alfreda Arrington was presented the Frederick S. Wolf Award, which is given to an individual active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years and who has demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in the delivery of public health service and has provided unselfish community service in areas unrelated to public health.

Her supervisor writes, "I've come to know her both professionally and personally. She has impressed me not only as a highly competent and diligent worker, but also as a compassionate and fair-minded leader. Her spirit and accomplishments make her a very fitting choice for this prestigious award."

A lifetime member of Friendship Baptist Church, she has been its financial secretary and is on the Scholarship Fund Committee. She is a team mom for the soccer and baseball teams. Ms. Arrington has been employed for nearly 15 years with public health.

Miriam Gaines, director of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Unit of the Alabama Department of Public Health, was selected as the recipient of the Virginia Kendrick Award. This prestigious award goes to an individual who has provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supportive position in public health.

The recipient should



Vee Stalker, Dollie Hambrick and Alfreda Arrington hold their plaques.

exemplify such qualities as loyalty and dedication to public health, friendly, unselfish cooperation with coworkers, enthusiasm and conscientiousness in job performance, and expertise in the practice of effective public relations.

"She has touched the lives of many with her compassion and encouragement. She is a great listener and a wonderful teacher who practices what she teaches," Another credited her with helping many people change their nutrition and activity habits. "She works with each individual to develop a plan that will fit in with their daily schedule and helps them reach their personal goals."

Dollie Hambrick, state public health social work director, was presented the D.G. Gill Award. This award is given to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama which is statewide in scope.

Supporters described her as "a constant source of inspiration and encouragement who is able to communicate her vision in ways that inspire others to follow her. She is positive, enthusiastic, energetic, dedicated and dependable."

Another letter of support states, "In all of the positions she has held, she has worked successfully in bringing together multiple disciplines working in public health to achieve common goals in improving the health status of Alabamians. She has shown dedication to the underserved populations, and continues to be an advocate for patients' rights and services."

Ms. Hambrick has been with the department for more than 13 years, initially as social work consultant in the Rural Health Program. She has served as the agency's representative with the Children's Trust Fund and has provided overall direction and leadership to the department's social work program. She has organized and heads the state's Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Vee Stalker, director of Community Core, Center for Health Promotion at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health, was honored with the Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence. The Myers Award

Honors.....continued on page 8



Miriam Gaines

Students gear up for summer safety

Students at T.S. Morris Elementary School in Montgomery took part in a relay race promoting summer safety and fun. The Montgomery Area SafeKids Coalition has been touring schools in Montgomery with its Gear-Up Games. During the relay games students learn about bicycle safety, fire safety, water safety, poison safety, seatbelt use and water temperature safety.

The game is set up as a relay where students have a series of activities to do before they make it to the finish line. The students start with bicycles where they have to make sure their helmets are on properly and then travel around a designed course on their bikes.

When J'Varra McCall from Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division asked the students how many had bicycles, almost all of the students raised their hands. But when she asked how many wore bicycle helmets, only a third of the students raised their hands, emphasizing the importance of reinforcing the message that when riding a bicycle you need to wear a helmet.

"My goal here today is to make sure that the kids know to wear helmets and pads whenever they ride a bicycle or skate, and to make sure they understand the risks of not wearing them," said McCall.

After bicycle safety, students move on to poison safety where they must identify what items are poisonous and what items are safe.

"Our real goal today is to get kids to ask an adult before they ingest anything they are not sure of, because poisons are everywhere," said Maureen Emerson of the Family Guidance Center. Before the relay students were instructed that not all plants are edible and that they should not eat anything if they are unsure about it. They were also asked to be careful around bug and animal dangers such as bees and snakes.

After poison safety students move onto water



temperature safety, where they have to correctly place the sticker on 120° F as the burning point for water. Aline Barfoot, a nurse for the Montgomery County Public School System warned students about picking up water hoses that have been sitting in the sun for long periods of time and spraying people with them. Sometimes the water temperature in these hoses can reach the 120° mark.

"Kids should also be careful this summer when they go on road trips and stop at unfamiliar rest stops. They need to be careful to make sure they read which handles are hot and cold on the faucets," said Barfoot.

On the students' next stop they learn about seatbelt safety. They are required to sit in chairs and buckle up correctly. Nancy Wright, director of the Injury Education Branch at the Alabama Department of Public Health, instructed students that the first thing to do when they get in a car, truck or van is to buckle up. They were also told that the back seat is the safest place for them to sit.

The next stop is water safety where Roger Moore of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Marine Police, stressed wearing life jackets and learning how to swim, as many of the students did not know how.

"Also you should never swim alone or in places that

Students.....continued on page 6

Department and State Farm Insurance® partner to keep children safe

State Farm Insurance presented the Alabama Department of Public Health with \$8,200 for its Black Belt Child Passenger Safety Program on Wednesday. This project serves Hale, Marengo, Perry and Sumter counties.

Observational surveys show that this area of Alabama is lagging behind the rest of the state in seat belt usage. Studies show that when adults do not use occupant restraints, they do not restrain their children.

State Farm's donation will purchase infant and child safety seats for these four counties. Seats will be given through the county health departments, based on a voucher system. Seats will be installed by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration-certified child passenger safety technicians who will also provide education about the importance of using the proper child safety seat for the age, weight and height of the child.

"The Alabama Department of Public Health knows that State Farm is an advocate of vehicular safety. We are happy to partner with them for our Black Belt Child Restraint Program. Their contribution will help ensure that more children will be safe on the roadways," says Lynn B. Williams, manager of the Occupant Restraint Program for the Alabama Department of Public Health.

State Farm Public Affairs Specialist David Majors adds, "Child safety seat checks are important because they help to educate parents, grandparents and guardians while ensuring that children are safe in their car seats. State Farm believes the partnership with the Alabama Department of Health's Black Belt Child Restraint Program will help do this. State Farm applauds the efforts of this worthwhile program."

As many as three-quarters of child passenger safety seats are misused, thus reducing their effectiveness in crashes. For this reason, it is important for child safety seats to be installed by a NHTSA-certified child passenger safety technician.

U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, certified child passenger safety technicians, and representatives of the Alabama Department of Public Health and State Farm Insurance were on hand for this presentation.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths among children ages 14 and under. Unrestrained children are at a far greater risk for injury and death than those who are transported in correctly installed, approved motor vehicle child passenger



Pictured, left to right, are Ashvin Parikh, assistant area administrator, Public Health Area 7; Demopolis Mayor Austin Caldwell; Lynn Williams, ADPH Occupant Protection Manager; State Farm Agents, Joe Moore, Livingston; Kris Mullins, Demopolis; Jim Cole, Greensboro; U. S. Rep. Artur Davis; John Bowers, State Farm Agency Field Executive.

safety seats.

A correctly used child passenger safety seat is 71 percent effective in preventing fatalities, 67 percent effective in reducing hospitalizations and 50 percent effective in preventing minor injuries, according to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

No children ages 8 and under died in motor vehicle crashes in the four counties which will receive the seats. The following are facts about injuries to children 8 and under in these four counties during 2002:

Hale County children experienced five injuries. Only three of these were in child safety seats. In Marengo County there were nine injuries to children with four using safety seats. Perry County had eight injuries with three of these children in safety seats. Seven injuries were sustained to children in Sumter County. Two of these used child safety seats.

Babies up to 1 year of age and weighing 20 pounds should be in a rear-facing infant seat. Children over a year and up to 4 years of age who weigh between 20 and 40 pounds should be in a forward-facing seat. Children over 4 years of age weighing 40 to 80 pounds should be in a booster seat which enables the lap and shoulder belts to fit them properly. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat of a motor vehicle.

Winning posters, essays promote seat belt usage

The Alabama Department of Public Health announces the winners in its Buckle-Up, Alabama! Traffic Safety Poster Contest for 2004, an event designed to promote consistent seat belt usage among elementary school children.

Posters are published in an activity book distributed as a complement to Buckle-Up America Week, which is observed nationally in May.

The contest consists of two levels. Each school held its own contest, selecting first place winners for each grade level from kindergarten through grade six. Then winning posters were sent to the state level for judging.

First and second place state-level winners were selected, with first place winners receiving \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds and second place winners receiving \$50 bonds. Students receiving honorable mentions had their posters included in the activity book.

Awards are provided by businesses and organizations committed to the safety of Alabama's children. These include the Alabama Head Injury Foundation and ALFA Insurance. The Alabama Department of Transportation and the Alabama SAFE KIDS Coalition are also sponsors of the contest.

Winners are as follows:

Kindergarten

First: Julia Gorti, Madison, Ala., Heritage Elementary School
Second: Ashley Jackson, Bessemer, Ala., Abrams Elementary School

Honorable Mention: Brook Childers, Union Grove, Ala., Union Hill School

First Grade

First: Cadley Jackson, Guntersville, Ala., Guntersville Elementary School
Second: Lorin Byrd, Mt. Vernon, Ala., Calcadeaver Elementary School
Honorable Mention: Carrington Cole, Wetumpka, Ala., Trinity Presbyterian School
Da Quan Kennedy, Alberta, Ala., ABC Elementary School

Second Grade

First: Jessica Pope, Alexandria, Ala., Wellborn Elementary School
Second: Jessica Lawley, Alabaster, Ala., Creekview Elementary School
Honorable Mention: Mary Grace Garrett, Montgomery, Ala., Alabama Christian Academy
Paige Koesters, Madison, Ala., Heritage Elementary School

Third Grade

First: Jessica Coleman, Castleberry, Ala., Sparta Academy
Second: Heather Hale, Madison, Ala., Heritage Elementary School
Honorable Mention: Tollie Faulk, Perdue Hill, Ala., Monroe Academy

Poster contest.....continued on page 7

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are unfamiliar," Moore said.

The final stop is fire safety which requires students to practice the stop, drop and roll process. They also place a simulated phone call to 911 where they were asked to provide the information needed for the fire department to make it to their home.

"When you hear an alarm, get out of the house, go call 911 and do not go back into the house for any reason," said Amanda Calhoun, project manager for the Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative at the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Joy Barrett, a teacher for four years, feels that programs such as the Gear-Up games are valuable for students.

"Students can't be reminded enough about safety, especially since many of them are at home alone. They

need to know this information," said Barrett.

Students participating in the relay not only enjoyed the games, but seemed to gain valuable information as well.

"I learned how to put on a life jacket and what they ask you when you call 911," said fifth grader Brinesha Thomas.

"I learned not to eat poisonous things," said third grader Alexis Maxwell.

Ladarian Williams, a fifth grader and part of one of the winning teams, praised the games. "This is a fun way to learn. I learned that the first thing you do when you get into a car is to put on your seatbelt, and I learned how to stop, drop and roll."

By TAKENYA STOKES

Poster contest.....continued from page 6

Robert Forsman, Gadsden, Ala.,
Episcopal Day School
Jimmy Lee Haddox, Dadeville,
Ala., Dadeville Elementary School

Fourth Grade

First: Nikita Herron, McCalla, Ala.,
McAdory Elementary School
Second: Logan Robertson, Gadsden, Ala.,
Westbrook Christian School
Honorable Mention: Helen Lee Gresham, Phenix City,
Ala., Glenwood School
Landon Key, Anniston, Ala.,
Coldwater Elementary School
Thomas Saulsberry, Alberta, Ala.,
ABC Elementary School

Fifth Grade

First: Anna Williams, Rainbow City, Ala.,
John Jones Elementary School
Second: Tavar Lewis, Decatur, Ala.,
Somerville Road Elementary
School
Honorable Mention: Marlee Long, Bay Minette, Ala.,
Bay Minette Intermediate School
Ashtyne Cole, Wetumpka, Ala.,
Trinity Presbyterian School
Hunter Eddy, Somerville, Ala.,
Union Hill Elementary School
Abby Katherine McHugh,
Hartselle, Ala., Crestline
Elementary School

Sixth Grade:

First: Sean McGonagle, Prattville, Ala.,
Prattville Intermediate School
Second: Anna Ruth Parks, New Hope, Ala.,
New Hope Elementary School
Honorable Mention: Lindsey Gearhart, Monroeville, Ala.,
Monroe Academy
Cameron Johnson, Gadsden, Ala.,
Episcopal Day School
Marquis Lewis, Prattville, Ala.,
Prattville Intermediate School
Susie Salter, Evergreen, Ala.,
Sparta Academy

The essay contest also consists of two levels. Each school held its own contest, selecting first place winners for each grade level from seventh through ninth grades.

Then winning essays were sent to the state level for judging.

First and second place state-level winners were chosen, with first place winners receiving \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds and second place winners receiving \$50 bonds.

Awards are provided by businesses and organizations committed to the safety of Alabama's children. These include the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, Alabama SAFE KIDS Coalition and ALFA Insurance.

Winners in the 2004 essay contest are as follows:

Seventh

First: Colby Phillips, Harvest, Ala.,
Athens Bible School
Second: Brianne Leary, Pike Road, Ala.,
Emerald Mountain Christian School

Eighth

First: Rebecca Hart, Eufaula, Ala.,
Admiral Moorer Middle School
Second: Marisa Ara, Elberta, Ala., Elberta
Middle School

Ninth

First: Whitney Hobson, Montgomery,
Emerald Mountain Christian School
Second: Cord Pack, Henager, Ala., Sylvania
High School

These activities are made possible by a grant from the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

For information about seat belt safety, please contact Lynn B. Williams, Injury Prevention Division, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, The RSA Tower, Suite 983, P. O. Box 303017, Montgomery, Ala. 36130-3017, telephone (334) 206-5539 or 800-252-1818, e-mail lwilliams@adph.state.al.us.

Injury News

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and Community Affairs

Tuskegee.....continued from page 1

HIV/AIDS, immunization and infant mortality.

“Education is the gateway to success,” said Dr. Husaini. “The reason that the incidents of cancer are higher in whites, but the incidents of cancer mortality is higher in blacks is the lack of education and the lack of treatment.”

Dr. Mary McIntyre, medical director for the Alabama Medicaid Agency, stated that there is a clear recognition by the department of the racial disparities in health in the state. Dr. McIntyre also stated that with 19.9 percent of the state currently enrolled in Medicaid, budget constraints are causing the Medicaid Agency to look at other ways to address the health issues, specifically focusing on preventive care so that patients will not get to the point where they need serious medical care.

“We need to give people the tools they need to be better able to participate in their own health care,” said Dr. McIntyre.

Dr. McIntyre emphasized that the Medicaid Agency would like to come in at the prevention stage which means people are going to need to get health care earlier and doctors are going to have to encourage preventive methods and make sure patients understand those methods before they leave their office.

By *TAKENYA STOKES*

Honors.....continued from page 3

was established in 1986 to recognize an individual, group or organization that, through excellence in their work, has made a significant impact upon some aspect of public health in Alabama. The nominee should represent excellence in effort and significant achievement toward the promotion and protection of public health.

Her nominator said, “Her approach to health promotion and disease prevention has always been community driven. She believes in moving into the community, disseminating what has been learned, and giving the residents a toolbox of information to keep them independent and sustainable.” Ms. Stalker’s areas range from welfare, domestic violence, obesity to hypertension.

“As a community researcher she teaches, inspires, guides and encourages community residents to become actively involved in all research taking place in their community. She is a dedicated public servant who gives unselfishly of her time and energy.”

Another letter of support stated, “I have known and worked with her in a variety of capacities for more than 25 years and can think of no other individual who more completely embodies the ideals of public health and, specifically, community public health. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated time and again a deep and abiding commitment to the health and well being of individuals and the communities in which they live. For many of us she has been a beacon of honesty and commitment. She has served as a mentor to hundreds of faculty members at the UAB School of Public Health and other institutions across the state.”

It was also announced that **Sherri Lynn Poole** is the recipient of the Ira L. Myers Scholarship to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. A graduate of Auburn



Sherri L. Poole

University at Montgomery, she is pursuing a master’s degree in public health. Ms. Poole works as a disease intervention specialist with the Immunization Division.

CDC data show arthritis is leading cause of disability

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC data also show that the number of Americans with a disability who have heart trouble, diabetes and stroke combined do not equal the number of persons with arthritis.

“It is important that Alabamians know how to manage their disease properly to prevent further disability,” said Linda Austin, director of the Arthritis Prevention Branch. “One major step they can take is to participate in evidence-based self-management courses like the Arthritis Self-help Course.”

Alabama has had tremendous success in obtaining train-the-trainers for the Arthritis Self-Help Course. This course makes it easier for more community members to become ASHC lay leaders.

Data for Alabama show that 36 percent, or more than 1,150,000 adult Alabamians, have arthritis. Another 18 percent, approximately 578,000 adult Alabamians, have chronic joint symptoms or possible arthritis. They are among the 49 million American adults with doctor-diagnosed arthritis and an additional 20.9 million with chronic joint symptoms.

“The Alabama Arthritis Control Program wants to expand the use of self-management education such as the Arthritis Self-help Course (ASHC) to address this problem among persons with arthritis and other rheumatic conditions,” said Ms. Austin. “In conjunction with National Arthritis Month in May, we want to urge awareness of these opportunities.”

The ASHC is a six-week series of classes for two hours per session, taught in a group setting by a pair of trained leaders (lay people with one having arthritis). The instructors receive three days of leader training. The course content focuses on what people need to know and can do to address these arthritis-related problems, as well as generic skills such as how to make informed decisions and use problem-solving skills to adapt to fluctuations in their disease activity and level of impairment. ASHC involves small group education with a focus on problem solving, exercise, relaxation and communication.

This course has proven to reduce arthritis-related pain by 20 percent and decrease physician visits by 43 percent. To achieve these results, ASHC strongly emphasizes adult learning principles and group process techniques designed to improve self-efficacy, establish behavioral change, and

foster positive health outcomes. The course is conducted over six weeks to allow participants adequate opportunity to practice new behaviors and skills.

Alabama had four people become ASHC train-the-trainers in March 2004, bringing to eight the number of ASHC train-the-trainers. Another trainer, Cleo Clency, completed train-the-trainer for PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise), another evidence-based self-management exercise program.

Being able to work for a living, play with children or grandchildren, do chores around the house, or just maintain independence, are among the concerns of people with arthritis.

For more information contact Linda Austin, R.N., Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, 334-206-5603, email: laustin@adph.state.al.us, or visit the department’s Web site at www.adph.org/arthritis.



Trainers receiving congratulations are (left to right) Virginia Jackson, Shirley Alston, Cleo Clency, Leslie Lowe and Alma Butler. Ms. Jackson is Public Health Area 7 arthritis educator and Ms. Lowe is Public Health Area 3 arthritis educator.

UAB names Ron Grantland Alumnus of the Year

State Rep. Ronald Grantland, of Hartselle has been named Alumnus of the Year by the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Grantland, Area 2 public health administrator for the Alabama Department of Health and legislator for District 9 (Cullman and Morgan counties), received his master's degree in public health from UAB in 1982.

The award, along with a gift of \$1,000, was presented to Grantland during the school's convocation ceremonies held on May 7 at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Grantland has spent his entire career in public health. He began working as an environmental assistant for Morgan County in 1971 while pursuing his undergraduate degree at Athens State University.

After completing his degree, he accepted a position with the Alabama Department of Public Health Disease Control Division. In 1983, he was appointed county administrator for Madison County, and later accepted a multi-county administrator position. In 2000, he became the public health administrator for the seven counties of Area 2.

In addition to his 30 years of professional public health work, he has served as member of the Hartselle City Council, the Alabama State Employees Association, the

Alabama Public Health Association and the Southern Health Association.

Grantland continues to maintain his ties to UAB's School of Public Health. He is a longtime supporter of the school's scholarship programs and has served on the Dean's Advisory Board since its inception in 1999.

While being of service to the people of Alabama and to UAB's School of Public Health, he also finds time for family, church and community activities.



Ron Grantland

Commendations

Health department employees who are listed here have received letters of commendation recently. To recognize other employees, please send letters through your supervisors or the state health officer to *Alabama's Health*.

Connie Danner
Center for Health Statistics

from Leigh Ann Terrell
Lake Ariel, Pa.

Nicole Henderson
Center for Health Statistics

from Dana W. George
Montgomery, Ala.

Evelyn Jackson
Center for Health Statistics

from Frederick Lawson
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sarah McCurry
Russell County Health Department

from Marcy R. Gilder, CRNP
Opelika, Ala.

Terra Tuck
Center for Health Statistics

from John McCode
Burbank, Calif.

Charlotte Denton receives Southern Health's Ficquett-Holley Award

Charlotte Denton, Director of the Infection Control Division, was presented the Southern Health Association Ficquett-Holley Award at its recent annual meeting in Louisville, Ky. SHA is the regional public health association comprised of eight states in the southeast of which Alabama is an affiliate.

The Ficquett-Holley Award was established in 1983 in memory of two nurses and past presidents of SHA and recognizes a nurse who has made significant contributions to public health.

Ms. Denton has been an infection control practitioner since 1978 and employed by the department since 1985. She has a passion and outstanding breadth of knowledge about infection control practice and she has been a valuable resource, both as an advocate and trainer, for individuals and institutions throughout Alabama.

During her tenure, she spearheaded four laudable projects with the department. She founded the Infection Control Section in the Bureau of Communicable Disease and has led the department to be consistent with standard practice as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Her infection control protocol and bloodborne pathogens manuals have been of notable success.

She also established the statewide program to provide care and follow-up for pregnant women with hepatitis B infection. Over the decade this program has been operational, hundreds of women have received appropriate management, thus averting many cases of neonatal hepatitis B infection that otherwise would have occurred.

She was instrumental in establishing the procedure for implementing the Infected Health Care Worker Act, which

required healthcare workers chronically infected with hepatitis B virus to be evaluated for how their infection might impact their ability to perform their job duties.

Lastly, she administered the annual grant to the department to provide screening and follow-up

services to incoming refugees who might harbor communicable diseases. This work has improved the quality of life for multiple refugees, who upon entrance to the country often find themselves without strong support services.

She has been a member of the Alabama Public Health Association since 1985, was president 1998-1999, and has served in various positions on the Board of Directors since 1988. She is also very active in the Alabama Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, having been president and served on the Board of Directors. She has been a member of the Southern Health Association since 1998.



SHA President Dick Jones presents the Ficquett-Holley Award to Charlotte Denton.

Retirement

Linda Fikes - Walker County Health Department, retired May 1.

June is National Safety Month.



Calendar of Events



June 16

Improving Male Participation in Reproductive Health, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



June 24

Agroterrorism: A Threat to National Security (SCCPHP), 12 noon-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.

June 29-30

Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, Civic Center, Montgomery. For more information contact Jamey Durham, (334) 206-5605.



June 30

Obesity and Family Planning: Reproductive Health Impacts, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



July 14

Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Michele Jones, (334) 206-5655.



July 20

Topic To Be Announced (SCCPHP), 12 noon-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



July 21

Home Health Aides and Home Attendants, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Brenda Elliott, (334) 347-2664, extension 402.



August 4

Lactation and Contraception, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



August 11

2004 Infection Control and Lab Update, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Michele Jones, (334) 206-5655.



August 12

Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism (SCCPHP), 12 noon-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



September 8

Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Michele Jones, (334) 206-5655.

