

The Beacon

AHEC South Arkansas –

A beacon of model health care for all.

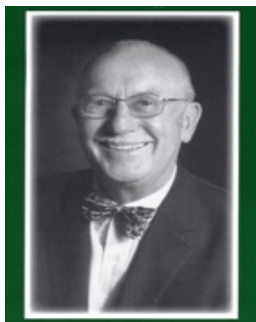
Change at AHEC South Arkansas

A quote from Benjamin Disraeli states, "Change is inevitable. Change is constant." AHEC South Arkansas has certainly observed the realization of this quote during the last year. From personnel changes to operational changes, we have seen and will continue to see many changes in our daily routines at AHEC. Many of these events are exciting and energy boosting while others are stimulating yet energy draining.

During the past year we saw AHEC South Arkansas Director Mel Fratzke, PED, retire to Fayetteville, AR, while Residency Director Marilyn Marshall, MD, made the decision to return home to Louisiana. Stephen King, MD, was selected as Interim Residency Director and Eli Vinson, PharmD, joined us as Director of Pharmacy Education. Michael Fitts, PsyD, who served as Director of the Professional and Continuing Education Department at AHEC South Arkansas since 2005, became Interim Director on July 1.

Much activity can be observed around AHEC South Arkansas as the preparations continue for our upcoming accreditation visit in February. There has also been much turmoil, anxiety, and a little hair pulling as preparations were made for the installation of our new electronic medical records software, Centricity. We are happy to report that the practice management portion of this system went live at the end of October with much success. The project is scheduled for completion in January 2009 when the medical records segment will be implemented. Chad Rhinehart, Director of Information Technology, has taken the lead in this project, assisted by a team of consultants from AHEC Central as well as many of our local faculty and staff.

Peter J. Carroll, M.D., Scholarship Fund Benefits Employees



Peter J. Carroll, MD
Faculty Physician

Three AHEC South Arkansas employees have been able to continue their education by receiving grants from the Peter J. Carroll Scholarship Fund. This fund was established to honor Dr. Peter Carroll and to allow full-time employees of AHEC South Arkansas to attend local institutions of higher education.

This scholarship fund is an open account and tax-deductible contributions are welcomed. Thank you for supporting this scholarship fund for our employees.

For additional information on the Carroll Scholarship, contact Gen Abdella at (870) 881-4426 or visit the web page at www.ahecsa.uams.edu/carroll_scholarship.asp.

Residency Update

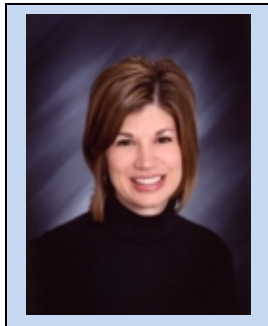
The AHEC South Arkansas Residency Program is in its 28th year. The focus continues to be on teaching and training residents in Family Medicine. Dr. King, who served as Program Director of the Hospitalist Group at Medical Center of South Arkansas since 2006, took over the post of Interim Residency Director on June 16. King received his medical degree from the UAMS College of Medicine in Little Rock in 1984. He completed residency training in family medicine in 1988 and an obstetrical fellowship in 2006 in Spokane, Washington, at University of Washington Affiliate, Family Medicine Spokane. Some alumni may recall Dr. King's father, Billy King, MD. Dr. Billy King was a radiologist who served as a preceptor during the early years of our residency program.



*Stephen King, MD
Interim Residency Director*

In addition to Dr. King, our full-time faculty physicians include Peter J. Carroll, MD; Martha Garrett-Shaver, MD; and Philipp Narciso, MD. Other health care professionals involved in the training of our 15 residents are Michael Fitts, PsyD; Eli Vinson, PharmD; Kim Havard, PhD, GNP-BC; Angela Norman, MNSc, ACNP-BC; and many local community preceptors. In addition, Pamela Schonefeld, MD, Internist, continues to work with our residents in the VA Clinic. Drs. Garrett-Shaver and Narciso are graduates of the AHEC South Arkansas Residency Program.

Diabetes Center of South Arkansas



*Angela Norman,
MNSc, ACNP-BC*

The vision of empowering diabetic patients with knowledge to prevent complications of diabetes and to improve the quality of life for diabetic patients has led to the founding of the Diabetes Center of South Arkansas. Angela Norman, MNSc, ACNP-BC, applied for and was chosen to receive the Arkansas Diabetes Prevention and Control Section Community Mobilization Grant for 2008-2009. This grant is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reduce the burden of diabetes in Arkansas. Grants are available to non-profit community-based entities focusing on community mobilization in conducting community grassroots diabetes activities.

The Diabetes Center of South Arkansas is a non-profit educational organization located at AHEC South Arkansas. A community consortium composed of UAMS/AHEC South Arkansas, HealthWorks Fitness Center, Interfaith Clinic, local physicians, and nurse practitioners will work to educate patients with diabetes. Services provided by the Diabetes Center of South Arkansas include one-on-one counseling, group classes, individualized consultations, individualized fitness and exercise planning, exercise classes, support groups, access to Carroll Medical Library, nutrition buddies, interactive video programs, pre-diabetes classes, and diabetic education for health care providers.

Service Awards Presented

The presentation of AHEC South Arkansas 2008 Employee Service Awards was held on Tuesday, November 18, in the Ellis Conference Center. Receiving awards were

Sherry Andrews – 20 Years
Peter J. Carroll, MD – 20 Years
Sharon Graves – 10 Years

Martha Garrett-Shaver, MD – 5 Years
Lisa McCuiston – 5 Years
Debra Odom, LPN – 5 Years

Employee Service Award Recipients



Pictured left to right: Martha Garrett-Shaver, MD; Debra Odom, LPN; Peter J. Carroll, MD; Sherry Andrews; Sharon Graves; and Lisa McCuiston.

Faculty Physician Position: AHEC South Arkansas is currently seeking a full-time faculty physician with Family Medicine Board Certification and obstetrical experience. Please contact Dr. King at sking@ahecsa.uams.edu if you would be interested in this position or know of someone you feel would be a great addition to AHEC South Arkansas.

Questions or Comments?

Contact the Newsletter Editor Vicki de Yampert at vdeyampert@ahecsa.uams.edu