Dear SOAR Scholars:

Welcome to the first issue of the SOAR newsletter!

This internal newsletter has been created to share news, resources, and accolades among SOAR members and scholars around UAMS. This newsletter includes achievements that SOAR members have had since June 2005.

A SOAR distribution list has been created on Global for your convenience in sharing ideas and scholarly insight with one another. Please feel free to use this distribution list to collaborate, ask for ideas and feedback, and further your pursuit of scholarly activities. The address is SOAR@uams.edu

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

News Briefs

- The AAMC GEA held a Consensus Conference on Educational Scholarship in Charlotte, NC on February 9-10. The conference focused on confirming what is known about educational scholarship and establishing standards for evaluating educational accomplishments for promotion and tenure.

  The results of this consensus conference will be summarized and presented by the conference planning committee at the AAMC Annual Meeting in November 2006 and subsequently disseminated as a Consensus Document on Educational Scholarship.

- Two Virtual Poster Sessions are up and running on the Office of Educational Development website: http://www.uams.edu/oed/virtual_posters/posters.asp and on the Teaching Scholars website: http://www.uams.edu/teachingscholars/posters.asp

  Stop by anytime and check out the exciting research going on around campus!
Faculty Spotlight: Diane Heestand

Diane Heestand, Ed.D., Professor and Director of the Office of Educational Development (OED), has been on sabbatical in Nigeria since September and will return in June 2006. She has been working as a visiting professor at two university hospitals, in Jos and Enugu. At Jos, she assisted with instructional technology and medical informatics; at Enugu, she is focusing on curriculum design, evaluation, and educational development.

Diane has learned to adjust to life and work with intermittent electricity, CNN International for televised news, and limited Internet connectivity, as well as adapting to Nigerian culture. Her experience has been extraordinary; here is a journal entry from one of her mornings in Enugu.

I sat in on the follow-up “seminar” on environmental health and listened to 7 of the student reports. Each student gives a 5-10 minute report on an aspect of environmental health. Dr. Chima Okona, a community medicine resident, was there until the resident in charge could free himself from the clinic. As Chima explained to the 60+ students, several of the residents had gone for exams and so they were short handed. Someone must have asked if community medicine physicians saw patients and Chima rolled with the question in a good natured way. He explained that the residents run the Chest Clinic where they see TB patients, half of whom have HIV. He said they see high risk patients with little protection...a face mask.

I tried to catch an O & G lecture Friday morning. Okon came a bit late...8:40, but we were making good time when the car gave out. He pulled to the center of the highway and flagged down a taxi. I asked how much I should expect to pay; he said 200 Naira (about USD $1.56). This was a far cry from the 1500 Naira (about USD $11.77) I paid the previous week.

I guess we got to school about 9:30 and the 9 a.m. lecture had not started.

The Departments of Surgery and Chemical Pathology in Jos, Nigeria.

I found my classmates and took a seat; pretty soon someone announced that the lecturer had traveled and the lecture would be at 2 p.m.

So I checked on my office....still a work in progress....and ran into Esther. We were to meet the Dean at 10:30 but she had traveled to Lagos and was just returning. We saw her at 12:30. There is a different sense of time here [Enugu] and in Jos, but things do get done.
Welcome: Majka Woods

Majka Woods, Ph.D., joined the Office of Educational Development (OED) as an Assistant Professor in November 2005. She came from Baylor University where she had been a director for an evaluation and research center. Her current responsibilities are primarily focused on research in graduate medical education in the College of Medicine at UAMS. Her background in research, statistics, evaluation, and adult learning is integral to her current work.

Mark Your Calendar

April 21 – Submission deadline for the 10th Annual Meeting of the International Association of Medical Science Educators
http://www.iamse.org/abstract_upload.htm

April 27 – Sheila Chauvin, Ph.D., will be giving a Teaching Scholars lecture. Dr. Chauvin is Director of the Office of Medical Education Research and Development, School of Medicine, Director of the Academy for the Advancement of Educational Scholarship, and Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine and School of Public Health at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

May 25 – Debra A. DaRosa, Ph.D., will be giving a Teaching Scholars lecture. Dr. DaRosa is Professor and Vice-Chair of Education, Department of Surgery, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL. She has been a medical education specialist since 1980, with primary research interests in clinical teaching, faculty development, and performance evaluation.

May 4-6 – AAMC Southern Group on Educational Affairs (SGEA) conference, in Galveston, TX. Information is available at http://www.aamc.org/members/gea/regions/southern.htm

Call for Proposals Due May 12. The 26th conference of The Generalists in Medical Education will be held October 28 and 29, 2006 at Seattle, WA. Call for proposals available at http://www.thegeneralists.org/conference.html.


THIS WEEK on March 30…

Deborah E. Simpson, Ph.D., a Visiting Teaching Scholar, will speak on “Are Educators at the Top or the Bottom of the Expertise Pyramid?” This session will focus on what teachers know and how they can enhance their teaching as members of an educational community that takes teaching (and learning) seriously. Dr. Simpson is Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Associate Dean for Educational Support and Evaluation at Medical College of Wisconsin.

For more information about the Teaching Scholars Program, you may click here or contact Anna Moses at 526-4848.

Publications and Manuscripts – Congratulations to all!


Carol Kamin, Kevin Souza, Diane Heestand, Anna Moses, and Patricia O’Sullivan, “Educational Technology Infrastructure and Services to Support the Medical Education Continuum,” accepted for publication in Academic Medicine (in press).

Patricia O’Sullivan, Jeanne Heard, and Michael Petty (2005), “EASE: Development Program for Residency Program Directors and Coordinators,” accepted for publication in MedEdPORTAL. Available from:

Congratulations to…

The following groups on the presentation of their posters at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) conference in Kissimmee, FL, in March 2006:

- Ann Norwood, Elizabeth Hicks, Carol Thrush, James Clardy, and Majka Woods, “A Graduate Medical Education Initiative to Promote Professional Excellence among Residency Program Coordinators.”


- Brian Hyatt, Terry Mackey, Ben Guise, Majka Woods, Carol Thrush, Robert Jarvis, Marcia Goodrich, and James Clardy, “Evidence of Self-Reflection in Resident Portfolio Cover Letters.”

- Dana Barber Gonzales and Teresa Kulie, “Portfolios: Design and Use in Family Medicine Residency Programs.”

The following groups on the presentation of their research at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Annual Meeting in November 2005 at Washington, D.C.:

- Carol Thrush, Patricia O’Sullivan, J. Gary Wheeler, Darrell Nesmith, Richard Blaszak, and Carol Kamin, “Using Video Problem Based Learning to Improve Student Attitudes and Beliefs about Pediatric Obesity,” at the Research in Medical Education (AAMC-RIME) conference.


The following groups on the presentation of their research to the upcoming Association of American Medical Colleges’ Southern Group on Educational Affairs (SGEA) Conference in May 2006 at Galveston, TX:

- Muhammad Jaffar, Roberta Monson, James Clardy, Gary Gaddis, Anna Moses, and Carol Thrush, small group discussion, “Medical Education and Patient Outcomes: Where Are We Going?”


- Carol Thrush, poster presentation, “A Content Analysis of Trends among Research Integrity Articles from 1996 to 2005: Implications for Medical Education.”

Teresa Kulie of the University of Wisconsin and Dana Gonzales of the UAMS Dept. of Family and Preventative Medicine with their poster at the 2006 ACGME conference.
Congratulations continued…

James Clardy and Eugene Smith have been accepted to participate in the prestigious Harvard Macy 2006 Leaders in Healthcare Education program, sponsored by Harvard Medical School, Harvard Business School, and Harvard Medical International. During the week-long program in June, they will focus on the development of an action plan for leading and managing educational change in graduate medical education at UAMS.

James Graham, Pediatrics, served as a leader for a workshop entitled “The Electronic Based Curriculum: The EBCs of Design, Implementation, and Surveillance,” at the annual Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics (COMSEP) meeting in March.

The Department of Pediatrics Educational Scholarship Working Group’s grant proposal, “An Assessment of Family Centered Rounds,” by James Graham, Laura Sisterhen, Hank Farrar, Chris Smith, Richard Blaszak, and Majka Woods, submitted to an educational research grant to COMSEP, is in the group of finalists. Finalists will find out in April whether their grant has been chosen for funding.

James Clardy, Aurora Bennett, Chris Cargile, and Carol Thrush presented a workshop titled, “Initiation of an AAP Plan to Promote the Careers of Clinician-Educators,” to the Association for Academic Psychiatry Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, October 2005.

Dr. Richard Zraick, CHRP, was awarded a contract grant by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Special Interest Division 3 (Voice and Voice Disorders) to lead a national study to validate the Consensus Auditory Perceptual Evaluation – Voice (CAPE-V) instrument. Carol Thrush (OED) will be consulting with Dr. Zraick on this project.

Robin Smith and Lea Mabry, OED, will present a pre-conference workshop, “Chunks and bridges: The building blocks of content revision,” at the 22nd Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning in Madison, Wisconsin in August 2006. Information about the conference is available at http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conference/.


Michael Petty, OED, has been invited to participate in the Team-Based Learning Collaborative (TBLC), a group of health professional educators dedicated to using team-based learning to further medical education. The purpose is to support faculty implementing team-based learning, to share teaching resources, and to promote evaluation and research on TBL in medical education. More information is available at: http://www.tlcollaborative.org/

Janet Whitten, OED, was selected to participate in the year-long UAMS Leadership Institute. This is the first group to meet and if successful, there will be continued groups. 25 people were accepted from UAMS into the program, and they will meet monthly over the course of the year with a presentation and graduation in December.

Becky Butler, CHRP, will attend the first meeting of USA and International Genetic Counseling Programs [http://igce.med.sc.edu/default.htm] in Manchester, UK, in May 2006. She is one of 11 United States genetics counseling program representatives who will be attending this meeting, and this is the first time for this group to convene an international meeting.

Michael Petty, OED, will give an invited 1-hour presentation at the SMA/SGEA Third Annual Conference on Graduate Medical Education during the pre-conference session, entitled: “EASE: A Professional Development Program for Program Directors and Coordinators.”

Becky Butler, CHRP, presented a 3 hour workshop at the annual conference of the National Association of Social Workers, “Arkansas Chapter on Ethical Issues in Genetic Testing: The Role of the Social Worker.” This interactive workshop gave participants the opportunity to learn more about recognizing available genetic tests across the lifespan, ethical issues associated with those tests and the role for social workers in assisting individuals and families either with or at risk for genetic disorders.

The 2006 Chancellors Teaching Awards recipients are: Susan Beland, M.D., Robert Bradsher, M.D., Arlo Kahn, M.D., Neena Grissom, R.N., Jean McSweeney, Ph.D., R.N., Courtney Riggs, R.N., Sarah Rhoads, R.N., Kevin W. Ryan, J.D., D. Keith Williams, Ph.D., MacDonald Cave, Ph.D., Lawrence Cornett, Ph.D., Richard Zraick, Ph.D., Eddie Dunn, Pharm.D., Amy Franks, Pharm.D., and Jan Hastings, Pharm.D.


“Whatever we measure, we tend to improve.”

- David L. Leach, Executive Director, ACGME
Working Groups Formed to Promote Scholarly Educational Research

Several research groups have been formed by faculty within UAMS and meet weekly to work on scholarly educational research, including workshops, presentations, and publications.

If you have an interest in the research of any of these groups, please feel free to contact Majka Woods or Carol Thrush to discuss opportunities for collaborative research.

Facilitating Educational Scholarship in the College of Medicine

- Simulation Research Group
- Clinical Skills Center Research Group
- Psychiatry, Portfolios, and Beyond Research Group
- Cutting Edge – Surgery Research Group
- Educational Scholarship Working Group in the Department of Pediatrics

Facilitating Educational Scholarship in the College of Health Related Professions

- Inspired by their Faculty Development Committee, CHRP has begun holding monthly informal research discussions at US Pizza on Friday afternoons at 3 p.m. for interested faculty members (formerly known as the ‘Monson’s Marauders’). Led by Dr. David Shelledy, and organized by Dr. Margaret Harris, the group has recently started exploring a research question pertaining to interdisciplinary education in allied health programs. For additional details about this group contact Dr. Margaret Harris (harrismargaretm@uams.edu, 686-6857).