

A newsletter of the Southern KY  
Area Health Education Center

# S.KY AHEC REPORT



## It takes a team

Crystal Duckwall (left), Chris Fuson, and Allison Meding participated in the Rockcastle Interprofessional Training Track. See story, page 3.

## Inside...

- Seeing Red
- Pipeline Work
- Motivational Interviewing
- Interprofessional education

## *Dental health has wings*

### Day-time tooth fairy delivers education to schoolchildren

Some comments were "I have a loose tooth" and "my grandma has no teeth" when the tooth fairy made day-time visits to local schools for the Dental Health Month in February.

The tooth fairy reminds students of the importance of dental care. She also brings with her a toothbrush, toothpaste, and educational materials for each child to take home.

"The kids are always excited to see the real tooth fairy come visit them," said Karen Adams, one of the Southern AHEC's tooth fairies (pictured at right).

Amy Basham is also an AHEC






tooth fairy, and Josh Bray, the "tooth fairy's son," also delivers education to the region.

With support from the American Dental Association, the Southern AHEC reached 6,382 students during the quarter.

## *By the numbers*

January, February, March 2009

-  Health careers / education participants: 13,746
-  Continuing Medical Education attendees: 642
-  Community education: 869
-  Medical Library services: 199
-  Student rotations: 74
-  Academic Detailing project participants: 20

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# spring news and notes



## Community



Red was in. Hundreds of participants wore red at the annual Go Red for Women heart disease awareness events in February. The Southern AHEC hosted its annual event on February 6, 2009 with 332 participants in attendance. Speakers like Ashley Norvell pictured at right addressed issues on healthy eating habits as part of a lifestyle to help women improve their heart health.

The Southern AHEC also assisted with two other Go Red for Women events in Boyle county and Rockcastle County with a total of 502 attendees.



## Pipeline Work



- Preparing Students for Health Careers was the topic for the AHEC guidance counselor workshop held on March 13, 2009.

The workshop presenters included presentations on dentistry, nursing, medicine and pharmacy. A newly added presentation was on collage financial aid presented by Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

- An event sponsored by the UK AHEC and Kentucky Telemedicine allowed Boyle and Pulaski County high school students to view a live surgery.

Through the UK telecare system students not only got to view a live surgery but could interact with the surgeon, Dr. Scott Roth. The teleconference allowed students essentially to look over Roths shoulder as he performed laproscopic surgery.

**“Just kind of affirmed that I can be a surgeon”**

**Candace Johnson, BCHS sophomore**

“I think it’s awesome,” said Chris Broyles, a BCHS senior who works as a nurse aide and wants to become a urologist or a surgeon. He

said his study in the anatomy class enabled him to understand Roth at every step.

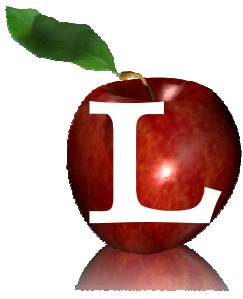
## CME



Of the 44.5 million current smokers, 70 percent say that they would like to quit. These individuals can gain guidance from their health care providers to help them quit. The Southern AHEC organized a workshop to bring smoking cessation motivational interviewing techniques to clinicians to help their patients stop smoking.

The workshop was lead by Scott M. Strayer, MD, MPH (pictured at right), one of the nation's leading experts in smoking cessation counseling. Thirteen people attended - five primary care clinicians, one surgeon and seven public health educators.





# Learning

*from each other*

Interprofessional education is the link between education and practice for students in allied health, and three students from two universities took advantage of that education in the Southern AHEC region this spring.

Students from UK's physical therapy and speech-language pathology programs and Eastern Kentucky University's occupational therapy program worked together during rotations at the Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. Students included Chris Fuson, physical therapy; Allison Meding, speech-language pathology; and Crystal Duckwall, occupational therapy.

"For most students, external rotations are their first experience in a clinical setting," said Lynn English, DPT, physical therapist and associate professor in the UK College of Health Sciences. "The Rockcastle initiative gives them the opportunity to work as a team and learn about the importance of working together in health care."

"Allied Health students typically begin working on an interprofessional team immediately upon graduation," said Dana Howell, EKU Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy. "Projects such as this one give students an opportunity to practice essential skills needed on such a team, such as the ability to articulate their own scope of practice, understand the roles of other disciplines, and communicate effectively with other healthcare professionals."

To maximize the collaboration, students were required to observe each other in practice, participate in interactive meetings, establish collaborative care plans for patients and interact with other health care providers.

"The interaction that occurred between the students was inspiring," said Linda Gregory, director of speech pathology at Rockcastle Hospital. "I enjoyed watching them as they built upon the strengths and

ideas of one another and expanded their knowledge about the role each discipline played in the rehabilitation process."

"The interprofessional aspect at the Rockcastle hospital was a wonderful experience," Fuson, a student in the physical therapy program through the Center of Excellence in Rural Health in Hazard, Kentucky, said. "I really enjoyed learning about the other professions and what their realms and responsibilities entail."

At the start of the project, students were asked to complete the Interdisciplinary Education Perception Scale (IEPS) \*Luecht et al., 1990). Students completed it again

at the end of their rotation. According to Howell, scores on the IEPS showed that while each of the three students began the experience with positive perceptions of their own discipline and the other disciplines, there was an overall increase of positive scores by the end of the experience.

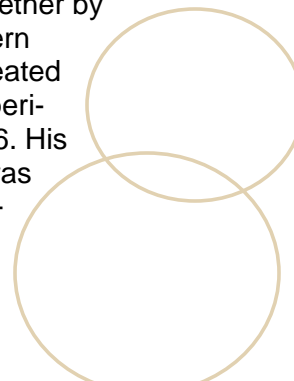
The UK College of Health Sciences hopes to use the Rockcastle program as a blueprint to expand into other areas of the state, as well as involve other health care disciplines.

The promotion of interprofessional education is part of the AHEC mission. The Southern AHEC played the role of facilitator as the two universities and Rockcastle clinicians assembled the experience.

For the Southern AHEC, the Rockcastle program builds on a previous project but together by Tom Houchens, a long-time Southern AHEC pharmacy preceptor who created an interprofessional shadowing experience for pharmacy students in 2006. His poster presentation of the project was displayed at the National AHEC Organization meeting last year in Denver.

**"The interaction that occurred between the students was inspiring,"**

- Linda Gregory, director of speech pathology at Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc.



# UP COMING

## events



**April 14, 2009**— Advisory Board Meeting, — Boone Tavern, Berea, Kentucky



**May 9, 2009** — Baby Fest — McKee, Kentucky



**June 18 & 19 2009** — AHEC Summer Conference Rural Trauma: Every Second Counts — Rockcastle High School, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky



**June 22 - 26, 2009** — Math and Science in Health-care Camp (MASH) — Mt. Vernon, Kentucky



**July 20 - 24, 2009** — Health Care Careers Camp (HC3) — Danville, Kentucky



**July 23 & 24, 2009** — Kentucky Rural Health Association Annual Meeting— Frankfort, Kentucky

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