

# Welcome!

Welcome New Members to the Board of Directors

As the Chairman of the Board, I would like to welcome the new members to our Board of Directors. To the returning members, I also extend my thanks for your enthusiasm and willingness to serve taking time out of your private and business life to do so.

This is going to be an exciting year as we continue to grow Three Rivers AHEC. Our Center Director, Kathy Ellis, has been doing a very fine job of managing it, and we are looking forward to observing the positive impact that the programs and services Three Rivers AHEC provides will have on the citizens of our region and state. We are facing a very exciting year.

Again, I welcome all new Board members as they bring new enthusiasm and perspective.

Donald F. Corr, P.A.  
Chairman, Board of Directors



## From the Director...

I join with Donald Corr, Chair of the Three Rivers AHEC Board of Directors, in welcoming our newly inducted members of the Board of Directors:

Dr. Michael L. Brackett, District Health Director, District 4 Health Service  
Robert W. Patrick, Superintendent of Talbot County School System  
Susan C. Schlader, President, Talbot Chamber of Commerce  
Cassandra H. Williams, Healthcare Recruiter; Medical Center of Central Georgia

Over the next few years I look forward to working with each of them along with our seasoned Board members and staff in an effort to advance our mission and organization. I am eager to see the results from the expertise each one brings to the Board of Directors and Three Rivers AHEC.

Kathy Ellis  
Center Director



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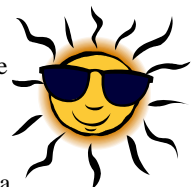
## What are your teens doing this summer?

The **MED VAC Camp**, May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. We are partnering with the state's Independent Living Program again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year to provide teens in the foster care system as opportunity to learn about opportunities in the Health Professions.

The **MED VAC Camp** in Bibb Co, June 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>. We are partnering with Medical Center of Central Georgia for our 4<sup>th</sup> year and will be offering unique experiences to teenagers in Bibb County and surrounding areas in the Health Care arena. Students interested in attending should call Cassandra Williams at 478-633-7610.

The **Chart the Course Camp** in Muscogee Co, June 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>. We are partnering with Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College, and Columbus Regional Health Care System and will be offering some new and challenging opportunities to students in Muscogee and surrounding counties. Students interested in attending should call Brent Lindley at 706-660-2735.

Remember, rising seniors that attend the Chart a Course Camp are given priority in being selected for the Chart a Course Academy. Academy members may qualify for a post-secondary scholarship of \$250.00 at the end of their senior year.



## Be in the Know

The Healthcare Georgia Foundation reports that people with low health literacy, which is the inability to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services, make up one third of the adult population. The HGF said that people with low health literacy report poor health problems, make more medication errors, are less likely to understand insurance benefits, are less likely to comply with treatments, and are less likely to obtain preventative services or manage their own health care effectively.

How can you help? Encourage the people you know to ask 3 important questions when talking with a doctor, nurse or pharmacist: 1. What is my main problem? 2. What do I need to do? and 3. Why is it important for me to do this? (Healthcare Georgia Foundation, Health Voices Issue 2, 2007)

## Meet our New Intern

Melissa Lugo is our current intern here at Three Rivers. She is bilingual and has done some translations for us including our brochure. She will be graduating from Columbus State University in May 2007 with a Bachelor in Health Science degree and plans to become a Certified Health Education Specialist. After graduation, she hopes to work as a Health Educator, study to become a Registered Nurse, and later obtain a Masters Degree in Public Health or Health Administration. Three Rivers, she states, "has given me the great opportunity to experience what it takes to reach out to the community and change lives through healthcare promotion. I am grateful to work with such wonderful staff here at AHEC." If you are interested in receiving a brochure en español, please call 706-660-2499.



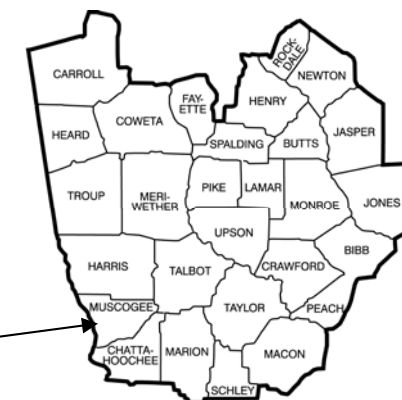
## The Current

Spring 2007



### Calendar of Events

- 03/22/07: **14th Annual Teleconference Living with Grief** - Hughston Foundation Conference Center; Columbus, GA For more information: [www.threeriversahec.org/calendar/](http://www.threeriversahec.org/calendar/)
- 04/26/07: **HealthTecDL Video/Web Conference - Healthcare Practice Management: From Start-up to Fix-up** More information later.
- 04/27/07: **Evidence Based Clinical Teaching in Nursing** - Cunningham Center; Columbus, GA For more information: [www.threeriversahec.org/calendar/](http://www.threeriversahec.org/calendar/)



Three Rivers AHEC

### AHEC Community News

#### Over 100 years of service at MCCC

Medical Center Central Georgia, Macon; I heard that the hospital will be celebrating 112 years of service to Macon as of March 17, 2007. MCCC has evolved into a 603-bed, full-service, acute care hospital that now serves an estimated population of 750,000 residents and is now the second largest hospital in the state of Georgia. As reported on [www.mccc.org](http://www.mccc.org)

#### Newnan Hospital is bought out by Piedmont

Piedmont Healthcare said that it has completed its purchase of Newnan Hospital and will move ahead with plans for a new state-of-the-art complex. The Coweta County Medical Center will now be known at Piedmont Newnan Hospital. As reported by *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*

## How we can serve you...

**Phone:** 706-660-2499  
**Fax:** 706-660-2737  
[www.threeriversahec.org](http://www.threeriversahec.org)

- Kathy Ellis, BBA  
 Director  
[kellis@threeriversahec.org](mailto:kellis@threeriversahec.org)  
 > Presentations to community and civic organizations, overall organization operations and Management
- Peggy LaMee, CPAM  
 Practice Management Specialist  
[plamee@threeriversahec.org](mailto:plamee@threeriversahec.org)  
 > Assistance for physician practices in financial and office management, practice management workshops and training
- Mary Fielder, MLS, AHIP  
 Manager of Educational Services/  
 Outreach Librarian  
[mfielder@threeriversahec.org](mailto:mfielder@threeriversahec.org)  
 > Medical Literature Alerts, Writing Grants, OVID
- Kari Dyer  
 Placement Services Coordinator  
[kdyer@threeriversahec.org](mailto:kdyer@threeriversahec.org)  
 > Recruiting medical facilities w/ medical providers.
- Yvette Cummings  
 Education Coordinator  
[ycummings@threeriversahec.org](mailto:ycummings@threeriversahec.org)  
 > Coordinate CE conferences with co-sponsors, ongoing support of distance learning project
- Steve Scott, MBA, MS  
 Preceptor Coordinator  
[sscott@threeriversahec.org](mailto:sscott@threeriversahec.org)  
 > Establish clinical training sites, coordinate training
- Cynthia Waldon  
 Database Administrative Assistant  
 > Data entry, maintain database, receptionist
- Brent Lindley  
 Health Careers Coordinator  
[blindley@threeriversahec.org](mailto:blindley@threeriversahec.org)  
 > Health Careers Presentations in Schools, Career Fairs & Camps
- Jennifer Camp, BS  
 Executive Assistant/ Marketing Coordinator and Health Careers Coordinator  
[jcamp@threeriversahec.org](mailto:jcamp@threeriversahec.org)  
 > Newsletter, contact for information  
 > Health Careers Presentations in Schools, Career Fairs and Camps.

## Mrs. Roslyn Carter at our CE Program!



Three Rivers AHEC partnered with the Roslyn Carter Institute For Caregiving to host the annual CARE-NET...the caregivers' network Conference on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006. This year's conference was entitled, Caregiver Assessment: "Building National Consensus, Learning from Practice". The guest speaker for the morning session was Kathleen Kelly, Executive Director, National Center on Caregiving, Family Caregiver Alliance in San Francisco, CA. The afternoon session consisted of a panel of local experts and Ms Kelly. Mrs. Carter was also present and welcomed everyone attending. At total of 76 area caregivers and/or professional healthcare workers attended the program held at the Cunningham Center in Columbus, GA. Please check out our calendar at [www.threeriversahec.org](http://www.threeriversahec.org)



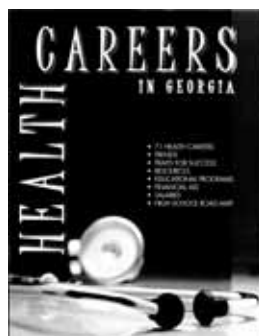
The **5th Annual Explore your Choices Health Career Exploration and Career Fair** was a great success this year. We had 19 Vendors to sign up and over 50 guests to visit. Thank you to our sponsors and all that participated to make this year a success!



Dr. T. Aaron Buice is a shining example of a person's desire to make a difference in the community where he grew up – Barnesville, GA. As a youngster he knew he wanted to become a physician and practice in his home town. His first steps towards that dream included attending Gordon College and then the University of Georgia. While waiting to get into Medical School, he taught biology at Lamar County High School. He was accepted into Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, GA and graduated in 1999. He then completed his residency in Family Medicine at the Anderson Area Medical Center in Anderson, SC.

While in medical school, the AHEC assisted him with his clinical training rotations which included working with another Barnesville physician, Dr. Lee T. Woodall. He and Dr. Woodall are proponents of educating their patients about their health issues and encouraging them to make healthy lifestyle choices. Dr. Buice worked his first two years in practice at the Community Medical Center in Barnesville. Then in 2004, he opened up his own practice with no staff, using a robust electronic record, scheduling, and billing system to automate much of the office workflow. However, the frustrations of dealing with insurance regulations have forced him to modify his "Norman Rockwell" approach toward office management to a more conventional model. He continues to advocate for his patients to receive the care they need and deserve. As an Associate Professor of the Mercer University School of Medicine, he now educates new physicians and instills in them his philosophy of patient care – and he still finds time to work two days a week in the Wound Healing Center in Thomaston, GA. Dr. Buice is the perfect result of the AHEC's mission to create a pipeline that will recruit, train, and retain health care professionals thus improving the access to quality health care in our communities.

By: Peggy LaMee



The 2007-2009 Health Careers in Georgia Books are here!!!

We have a limited supply of these books and we have started giving them out to our HSTE teachers and school counselors for use in their classrooms and career centers. For more information on how you can get a copy of the newest Health Careers in Georgia book, please call our office at 706-660-2499.

## What's New in Health Careers??

Tiffany Rumph, Tri-county High School Senior from Marion County summed up one of the latest "Chart A Course" Academy meetings held at Hughston [Sports Medicine] Foundation's Surgical Training Center.

*"Going to the Hughston Clinic gave us a wonderful experience that most young people our age don't have the chance to take. Not only did it advance our education a little more, but the speaker directing us let us feel like we were in control as well, he gave us the opportunity to see what it would be like if we were actually in his profession. It was very interesting to be able to put ourselves in his shoes for just those few minutes we were there, we had a great time learning about just one of the many careers in the medical field and actually being taught to do the things that they have to do everyday. It was very neat being able to actually see not only how a leg functions, but what's inside of a leg as well, by him showing us how to use a camera by letting us do it ourselves."*

On January 22nd, the Academy students participated in microsurgery of a cadaver knee at The Hughston [Sport Medicine] Foundation's training center hosted by Dr. Kevin Collins and Cholly Minton. Dr. Collins gave them a testimony of his career, told them why he loves it, and led them into the laboratory where the students actually cut and sutured an actual knee cadaver! The students were carefully instructed on how to make incisions on the cadaver, as well as how to maneuver a surgical camera inside of it. One of our students became so interested in this demonstration that she has asked to be allowed to participate in other training procedures. Dr. Collins has volunteered to become her mentor for the next few months.

*I had an amazing time learning about our cadaver knee. It was a great learning experience!" ~ Danielle Mummert, Harris County High School Senior*

The following Academy event was on February 20<sup>th</sup> at Columbus Regional. Fort Valley State University sent two instructors from their veterinarian science and biology programs along with a variety of interesting creatures to dissect. The students were able to dissect a shark, pig, cat, grasshopper, and the ever classic frog! These teachers compared animal anatomy with human anatomy and gave the students some encouraging insight into the opportunities in a veterinarian career.

*"I had the opportunity to dissect a dog shark. Let me tell you, that's the closest I have ever been to one, inside and out! I learned so much about the anatomy of a dog shark. Sharks in general are captivating creatures, but who knew their brains could be so little, especially with all the damage they are capable of doing!" ~ Angela Bradley, Harris County High School Senior*

By: Brent Lindley



Academy Students at The Hughston Foundation



Academy Students with Ft. Valley Veterinarian



### CHART A COURSE SUMMER CAMP



Don't miss Camp Chart A Course...A fun, health careers camp for high school students in Muscogee, Harris, Talbot, Marion and Chattahoochee counties. If you are interested in attending our camp please contact one of our health careers coordinators!

Brent Lindley 706-660-2735; [blindley@threeriversahec.org](mailto:blindley@threeriversahec.org) or  
 Jennifer Camp 706-660-2734; [jcamp@threeriversahec.org](mailto:jcamp@threeriversahec.org)

### Three Rivers AHEC is Proudly Serving the following counties:

Bibb	Crawford	Jones	Muscogee	Spalding
Butts	Fayette	Lamar	Newton	Talbot
Carroll	Harris	Macon	Peach	Taylor
Chattahoochee	Heard	Marion	Pike	Troup
Coweta	Henry	Meriwether	Rockdale	Upson
	Jasper	Monroe	Schley	

## Board of Directors

- Michael Lee Brackett, M.D., FFAFP; District Health Director; District Four Health Services; LaGrange, GA
- Honorable Debbie Buckner; State Representative House District 130; Director of Community Relations; Doctors Hospital; Columbus, GA
- Donald Corr, PA-C; Certified Physicians Assistant; Newnan Family Medicine Associates; Newnan, GA
- James L. Dodd, Ph.D.; Retired Executive Director of Regional 14 Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse Board; LaGrange, GA
- J. Robert Jones; President; Columbus Technical College; Columbus, GA
- Sarah E. Lang, M.H.H.A.; Executive Director/CEO; Valley Healthcare; Columbus, GA
- Brian S. McCluskey, Ph.D.; President/CEO; Human Performance and Rehabilitation Center; Columbus, GA
- Margaret Park; Retired Executive Director; Georgia Public Health Association; Lithersville, GA
- Robert W. Patrick; Talbot County Board of Education; Talbotton, GA
- Kevin Sass, FACHE; Vice President; Columbus Regional Healthcare System, Inc.; Columbus, GA
- Susan C. Schlader; School Nutrition Director & Partners in Education Director for Talbot County School System; Talbotton, GA
- Honorable Maretta Taylor; Retired State Representative from Muscogee County; Columbus, GA
- Denise D. Kornegay, MSW; Ex-officio member of the Board; Program Director; Statewide AHEC Network
- Patrick Watson; Executive Director, Franciscan Woods; Columbus, GA
- Cassandra H. Williams; Healthcare Recruiter, Medical Center of Central Georgia, Macon, GA

## Congratulations to

Dr. Michael Hagues, D.O., FACEP; President of Emergency Medical Specialists of Columbus PC and Career Emergency Department Physician at St. Francis Hospital. On Tuesday March 13, 2007, Dr. Hagues was awarded Physician of the Year by the Osteopathic Institute of the South Middle GA Region for 2006. Way to go!!

### ENewsletter!

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please contact Jennifer Camp at [jcamp@threeriversahec.org](mailto:jcamp@threeriversahec.org) or 706-660-2734.