



# The Current

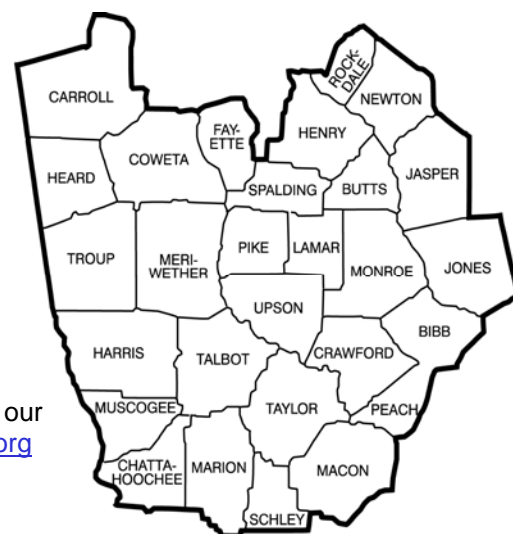
Winter 2006



## Calendar of Events

- “Getting to the Heart of Medical Surgical Nursing”  
Columbus, GA  
February 17, 2006
- “Health Promotion through the Life Span”  
Columbus, GA  
February 18, 2006
  - Re-Certification classes on BCLS/Laceration Techniques
- Aligning Faith & Health Annual Conf.  
May 23, 2006  
LaGrange College
- Health Careers Summer Camp  
Columbus, GA  
July 17—21, 2006

For more upcoming events go to our website: [www.threeriversahec.org](http://www.threeriversahec.org)



## Three Rivers AHEC Staff



Top Row L-R: Steve Scott, Mary Fielder, Brent Lindley  
Middle L-R: Lisha Johnson, Yvette Cummings, Kathy Ellis  
Bottom L-R: Kari Dyer, Cassandra Ellsberry, Peggy LaMee

### How we can serve you...

**Phone:** 706-660-2499

**Fax:** 706-660-2737

- Kathy Ellis, BBA  
Director  
kellis@threeiversahec.org  
> Presentations to community and civic organizations, overall organization operations and management
- Kari Dyer  
Executive Asst./Marketing Coordinator  
kdyer@threeiversahec.org  
> Newsletters, Contact for information
- Mary Fielder, MLS, AHIP  
Outreach Librarian  
mfielder@threeiversahec.org  
> Medical Literature Alerts, Writing Grants, OVID
- Lisha Johnson, AAS, BS  
CE Assistant  
ljohnson@threeiversahec.org  
> Registration for CE classes, certificates for CE credits
- Peggy LaMee, CPAM  
Practice Management Specialist  
plamee@threeiversahec.org  
> Assistance for physician practices in financial and office management, practice management workshops and training
- Steve Scott, MBA, MS  
Preceptor Coordinator  
sscott@threeiversahec.org  
> Establish clinical training sites, coordinate training
- Brent Lindley  
Health Careers Coordinator  
blindley@threeiversahec.org  
> Health Careers Presentations in Schools, Health Career Fairs & Camps

### Serving the following counties:

Carroll	Heard	Schley
Chattahoochee	Marion	Spalding
Coweta	Meriwether	Talbot
Fayette	Muscogee	Troup
Harris	Pike	

- Cassandra Ellsberry, MT, Med  
Health Careers Coordinator  
Ellsberry.cassandra@mccg.org  
478-633-7610  
> Health Careers Presentations in Schools, Career Fairs and Camps  
Serving the following counties:

Bibb	Jones	Peach
Butts	Lamar	Rockdale
Crawford	Macon	Taylor
Henry	Monroe	Upson
Jasper	Newton	

### Welcome!!

- Yvette Cummings  
Education Coordinator  
> Coordinate CE conferences with co-sponsors; Ongoing support of distance learning project.

### Board of Directors

- Honorable Debbie Buckner; State Representative House District 130; Director – Community Relations and Marketing; 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
- Rhonda K. Hollis, Ph.D.; Professor; Department of Nursing; Columbus State University; Columbus, 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
- Barbara McKnight, RN; Executive Director – Care Continuum Services; Columbus Regional Healthcare System, Inc.; Columbus, GA
- Margaret Park; Executive Director; Georgia Public Health Association; Lithersville, GA
- Kevin Sass, FACHE; Vice President; Columbus Regional Healthcare System, Inc.; Columbus, 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



**To the outstanding people in our region...**

### Emory Community Preceptor of the Year

The Physician Assistant program at the Emory School of Medicine in Atlanta has announced the recipient of the “2005 Community Preceptor of the Year Award.” This year’s honor was awarded to Dr. William Roundtree, a Columbus family practice physician. Preceptors are practicing health professionals who volunteer to serve in the capacity of community-based faculty for medical schools and other health education programs such as nursing programs, physical therapy, dental schools, etc. The coveted award was presented at the Emory Physician Assistant Program Annual Awards Banquet held Friday evening December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Century Center in Atlanta. Dr. Roundtree was selected from several hundred physicians across the state who host Emory students for community-based clinical training.

*Steve Scott*

**GA Public Health Association** awarded the following for an outstanding job well done at the GPHA 76th Annual Meeting.

- \* Maggie Kline Nursing Award - Z.Patrice McKissick-Finney, R.N., BSN  
Bibb Co. Health Department, Macon
- \* Al Dohany Award for Community Service - Joy Maltese, R.N.  
District IV Health Services, LaGrange
- \* Jules S. Terry Memorial Award - Ecleamus L. Ricks, MPH, Administrator,  
Bibb County Health Services, Macon
- \* Rosemarie B. Newman Nutrition Extra Mile Award  
Blanche DeLoach, BS, RD, LD  
District IV Health Services, LaGrange

**GAPHC/GRHA** awarded the following at the 2005 Joint Annual Conference.

- \* Representative Jeff Brown received the Legislative Appreciation award.
- \* Diana Reyes Robles from Valley Healthcare received the Community Health Center Employee of the Year.
- \* Dr. Fred Gatton from Crawford Family Medicine in Roberta, received the Rural Health Practitioner of the Year award as well as the Outstanding Volunteer award.
- \* Dr. Patton Smith and Dr. J. Ray Grant, Jr. from Forsyth Family Practice received the Outstanding Rural Health Practice award.

### **The National AHEC Bulletin**

We are proud to announce that the article “Thrill of the Drill” co-authored by Kathy Ellis and Cassandra Ellsberry was published in the Autumn/Winter 2005 edition. The article described the disaster response drill conducted at the Bibb County summer camp.

## Continuing Education

The Stamey Lectureship Series was hosted by the Columbus Regional Medical Foundation on November 21, 2005 at the Columbus Regional Conference Center at The Medical Center, Columbus, GA. The guest speaker this year was Kenneth D. Hatch, M.D., a prominent doctor in the field of Gynecologic Oncology from the University of Arizona. Dr. Hatch is board certified in Gynecologic Oncology, as well as Obstetrics and Gynecology and specializes in the treatment of women with gynecologic cancer.

According to Dr. Hatch's presentation an estimated 11,000 cases of cervical cancer per year are reported in the United States, with 4,000 associated deaths. Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer in women, world wide.

Dr. Hatch provided an extraordinarily instructive presentation to 95 healthcare professionals. Three Rivers Area Health Education Center awarded 49 clinical employees with Continuing Education Credits. Twenty-five physicians were present for Dr. Hatch's presentation and received CME hours from the Columbus Regional Healthcare System.

Visit our website for future conference information.

Lisha Johnson

## Health Careers

November has been interesting as well as fun. I was able to do some coordinating in Schley County High School and Chattahoochee County Middle-High School. These are both new schools! Going into uncharted AHEC territory always feels like an adventure. I spoke with middle school kids for the first time in Chattahoochee County. I enjoyed planting the "initial seed of choice" for health careers into their minds. Both schools were very nice inside and out and I am sure they will help us produce more future health care professionals.

I have done a bit of exhibiting at the career fairs at some of our community's most prominent companies. I set up shop at Pratt & Whitney, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and Hughston Sports Clinic. These dates provided a fantastic opportunity to teach large groups of people about our AHEC and the services we provide.

Call me for your classroom presentations and career fairs!

Brent Lindley



## Health Careers

Three Rivers AHEC and MCCG-Medical Center of Central Georgia provided pertinent information for students selecting careers in the "real world" of healthcare. Students from Huntington Middle School were surveyed to discover their interests about jobs in the healthcare field and their future goals.

The students asked questions about doctor's salaries, becoming a dental hygienist, and discovering what jobs in the healthcare profession would be best to pursue. Dr. Gwendolyn Taylor, Huntington Middle School principle, became involved in the process as she stopped in to witness students "soaring to new heights".

The students utilized math skills to calculate the cost of living, lifestyle desires and what types of health careers would help them to meet their goals. A desire for science and caring for people are very important. Good reasoning and communications skills will help them to find jobs, complete applications, and then ultimately maintain a job.

Call me for your classroom presentations and career fairs!

Cassandra Ellsberry



Huntington Middle School



## Practice Management

At the request of the State Medical Education Board, during September 2005, Three Rivers AHEC, in conjunction with the Statewide AHEC Office and the SOWEGA AHEC, Practice Management team had the opportunity to present the "*Practice Management Tool Kit: Practical Resources and Tools for Physicians and Physicians' Office Staff.*" More than 100 new physicians, dentists, medical interns, and physicians interested in practicing medicine in Georgia attended the

State Medical Education 2005 Med Fair to learn about practice opportunities in communities throughout Georgia. Each participant received a CD of the tool kit containing many forms and policies to assist new providers with medical office financial matters. The primary responsibility of Three Rivers AHEC's practice management initiative is to provide consultations with technical assistance to medical providers to enhance financial viability of the medical provider resulting in the recruitment and retention of medical providers in Georgia.

The "Practice Management Tool Kit" can be purchased by calling Three Rivers AHEC at 706-660-2499.

Peggy Lamee

## Did You Know....

**MedlinePlus** will direct you to information to help answer all of your health questions. MedlinePlus has extensive information about drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, interactive patient tutorials, and the latest health news. This is a free, comprehensive, authoritative, up-to-date web site for all of your needs from drugs and diseases to fitness and wellness. Visit [www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov) for all of your health questions today.

## Rate Change

United States Postal Service has announced a rate change effective January 8, 2006. The USPS will institute a 5.4% increase on all Domestic and International rates. The first class stamp is now \$.39.



## Top 10 New Year's Resolutions

1. Spend more time with friends and family
2. Exercise - Regularly
3. Lose those inches
4. Quit Smoking
5. Enjoy Life More
6. Quit Drinking
7. Get out of Debt
8. Learn Something New
9. Help Others
10. Get Organized

What are your resolutions?

Start the new year with a better, healthier you!

## ENewsletter!

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please contact Kari Dyer at [kdyer@threeriversahec.org](mailto:kdyer@threeriversahec.org) or 706-660-2847.

## A Message from the Director...

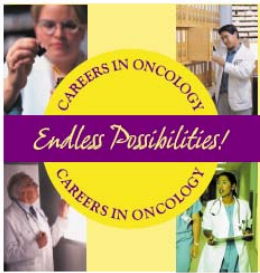
Included with the Winter 2006 issue of *The Current* is our 2004-2005 annual report. We are very proud of our accomplishments – we met the challenges we faced head on and were successful. Of course, our success is a result of the staff's hard work and our invaluable partnerships developed over the years – thank you!! Partnerships and collaborations build a strong network to help keep Georgia healthy – here are our recent developments in this area:

- a grant from the Columbus, Georgia Beloco Foundation to provide support for our *Chart the Course* health career academy and summer camp for high school students from Muscogee County and other area high schools;
- a grant from Healthcare Georgia Foundation to provide support to participate in a beta test of a statewide distance learning network program serving nonprofit health organizations in west central Georgia;
- a contract to administer the registration process for the 2006 Faith and Health Conference to be held May 23, 2006, at LaGrange College; and
- Co-host and member of the task force for the 4th annual 2006 Columbus Healthcare Summit

We look forward to adding to our network in 2006.

Happy New Year!!

Kathy Ellis



### Endless Possibilities!

Recognizing the growing need for skilled and dedicated health professionals in these fields, it is our hope that the information within this CD-Rom will attract quality individuals into these needed professions. Together we can work towards preventing, detecting, and treating cancer in the state of Georgia. Each high school in the state of Georgia has been provided with a copy free of charge.

For ordering information, visit our website:

[www.threeriversahec.org](http://www.threeriversahec.org)

## Check it out...



### Men's and Women's Health & Fitness Expo

Saturday, January 14, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Columbus Trade Center

Start the new year off healthy by taking advantage of free health screenings for cholesterol, blood sugar, cancer and many other screenings during this annual **Men's and Women's Health & Fitness Expo**. You can also get information and find out if you are at risk for a heart attack, stroke, kidney failure or osteoporosis. The free screenings will be conducted by health care professionals. The expo is sponsored by the Muscogee County Physicians Foundation, Muscogee County Medical Society and Alliance in conjunction with ALFAC, CB&T, Columbus Regional Healthcare System, Doctors Hospital, Hughston Orthopedic Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, the Columbus Department of Public Health, W.C. Bradley Co. and West Central Health District and presented by WTVM News Leader 9 with a special grant from Anesthesia Associates. Call (706) 322-6833 for more information.

## Quarterly Question:

Fact or Myth:

Does muscle weigh more than fat?

Refer to our website for the answer:

[www.threeriversahec.org](http://www.threeriversahec.org)