



# Area Health Education Center Program *Promoting Partnerships For Health*

University of South Florida

Summer 2006

## AHEC Experience Helps Public Health Student Gain Fellowship

Anne Maynard, MPH

As the nation struggles with the challenges of immigration reform, one USF public health student is determined to make her own contribution to the welfare of immigrants and the medically underserved. Dianne Frankel, who just graduated with her MPH in May, plans to use her AHEC experience and her training in global health, microbiology and infectious diseases in the James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Disease Fellowship Program this summer. Ferguson Fellows are racial and ethnic minority students who are engaged for eight weeks in a rigorous program of public health research and/or intervention. This competitive program is administered by the Minority Health Professions Foundation, a key partner of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dianne prides herself on her Haitian and Jewish heritage and feels she has an obligation to help alleviate health disparities occurring here in the United States and in countries such as Haiti. As a child, she admired health care professionals, but even then noticed striking disparities. "I noticed females and minorities weren't well represented in health care." Her father, a Commander in the United States Navy, and mother, a business development manager for an environmental engineering firm, both strongly encouraged Dianne and her younger sister, Danielle (a recent FSU graduate), to excel in education and leadership. Nurturing their daughter's love of health science, Dianne's parents urged her to participate in Pensacola High School's Health Academy. She also joined the school's Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) chapter where Paige Collier, Executive Director of West Florida AHEC, gave numerous presentations on health careers to Dianne and her classmates. It was during one of these presentations that Dianne was first introduced to AHEC. "I believe that AHEC stands true to its mission of connecting

students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health," she said.

During her first semester in graduate school in fall 2004, Dianne began working with AHEC to help coordinate a cultural exchange program with visiting health care providers from Uzbekistan. Dr. Cynthia Selleck, the AHEC Program Director was impressed with Dianne's efforts. In the summer of 2005, Dianne was selected as one of 16 AHEC

Interdisciplinary Community Health Scholars, (ICHS), and worked alongside other health professions students to develop and implement a youth risk-reduction program in Brooksville. Dianne was then tapped to assist the AHEC Program with the coordination of Partners in Prevention of Substance Abuse (PIPSA), an anti-tobacco program, and also served as a graduate assistant at the AHEC Program Office where she was involved in multiple AHEC activities.

"I've been involved with AHEC for two years," said Dianne, "and I've seen first-hand the valuable programs that AHEC implements." Dianne plans to apply to medical school and is committed to using her public health degree and AHEC experiences to improve access to health care for the medically underserved. "AHEC has provided me with the knowledge, support and experiences to help me reach my career goals." With a

promising future ahead of her, the USF AHEC Program is proud of its role in helping Dianne Frankel, MPH achieve her goals.



ACCESS



*USF Medical Students with Jose Oral, Tour Guide, at the Centro Asturiano*

## Medical Students Overcome Language Barriers Through AHEC

Alayne Unterberger, PhD and LaToya S. Gregory, MPH

If you live, work, or vacation in Florida you might one day be faced with communication blocks that are the result of language barriers. Florida's multicultural and multilingual populations are growing faster than the production of multilingual health care providers. In order to keep up with this growing trend, USF AHEC offers Medical Spanish courses for medical students and health care providers in the Tampa Bay area.

This spring the University of South Florida College of Medicine's Health Education and Training Center Program (HETC) offered its Medical Spanish elective course for fourth year medical students. Eleven students successfully completed the 92 hour course and are now better prepared to work with Spanish speaking patients.

As a part of the Medical Spanish course, students were required to interact with the Latino community through programmed patients and field trips. Over the course of four field trips, students learned about the growing numbers of new South American immigrants (Colombians, Venezuelans), Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Spaniards, and rural immigrants.

During the first field trip students went on a "treasure hunt" along Armenia Avenue and identified the Latino doctors' offices, various stores and ethnic restaurants before meeting at Univision, where the staff relayed important demographics about the growing Latino communities in Tampa Bay. While on the "hunt" students visited Sacred Heart Botanica, Town N Country Recreation Center, and Revello Medical Clinic, where a Cuban physician compared and contrasted health systems and beliefs with the class.

On another field trip students explored the world of South Hillsborough County stopping at Guadalupe Church, the Good Samaritan Mission, Beth El Mission, Catholic Charities, and La Estancia. While there, students interviewed key community leaders, visited the strawberry fields, and talked with Mexican youth at the RCMA after-school program at Beth Shields Middle School.

The last field trip related to Tampa's roots, Ybor City. Students started out at the Centro Asturiano, a mutual aid society founded in 1905 which is still in existence. The host, Jose Oral, introduced the students to the unique history of the Centro and provided a brief tour. Later in the afternoon students visited the Ybor City State Museum and tried some wonderful Cuban coffee with the Centro Asturiano members.

The field trips provided students with an opportunity to practice the Spanish language they learned in class and to become familiar with various Latino cultures in our area. Students completed the course with a working knowledge of Medical Spanish, including the skills and competence to interview and understand Spanish speaking patients and their differing worldviews and perspectives on health, healing, folk, biomedical and alternative medicine practices. "It was amazing how fast these students learned Spanish, and it was clear that people in the different communities appreciated their language skills. These students will be wonderful - and culturally competent - physicians, thanks to AHEC," said Dr. Unterberger, Medical Spanish instructor.

To find out more about AHEC Medical Spanish courses contact LaToya Gregory, Coordinator, Diversity Initiatives, at (813)974-5973, [lgregory@health.usf.edu](mailto:lgregory@health.usf.edu) or visit the AHEC website at <http://health.usf.edu/ahec>.

## The "Real" Doc Hollywood Brings Laughter and a Message to the Tampa Bay Area

Craig Bobik, MPH

"OUCH!" yells the shaggy-haired, bow-tied doctor with a top hat who hops after getting a shot in the rump. The 200 Lakewood Elementary school students roar with laughter as one of their peers performs a mock injection on this funny man. "Today, kids will give doctors and nurses shots instead of the other way around!" he exclaims.

And so began the three day tour of Neil Shulman, MD, produced by Gulfcoast North AHEC, Inc. (GNAHEC.) Dr. Shulman, a physician and professor at Emory University School of Medicine, is also writer and co-producer of the movie Doc Hollywood starring Michael J. Fox. GNAHEC and the USF College of Medicine sponsored January's Dean's Lecture Series bringing Dr. Shulman to the Tampa area for his presentation "The Real Doc Hollywood Salutes USF: Humor is Great Medicine".

While in town, Dr. Shulman visited Lakewood Elementary in St. Petersburg and the pediatric patients at All Children's Hospital (ACH) and Tampa General Hospital (TGH), doing his best to make the kids laugh. He also met with the ACH medical explorers about becoming health professionals. In addition, he presented to nurses, faculty and staff at TGH and the USF College of Nursing about the importance of incorporating humor into health care.

He rounded out his visit by presenting to more than 70 retirees at the University Village retirement home, bringing smiles to their faces. "Life is just a dash between two tombstones," he says, "you should enjoy your dash!"

## Welcome New Team Member...

Marsha Cohen, a native New Yorker, joins our team at Gulfcoast North AHEC as Coordinator, Student Enrichment and Recruitment after living in Albuquerque, NM for two years. In Albuquerque she had the opportunity to learn first hand about the tragedy of being underserved with little or no access to quality health care. She has extensive experience in health care issues, having worked for over 12 years at the Weill/Cornell Medical College in New York City, and at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine.

Marsha graduated from Hofstra University and earned her MA in Counseling and Human Services from Montclair State University in NJ. Besides being passionate about her grandson and the New York Yankees, she looks forward to the day when there will be access to quality health care for all people.



Marsha Cohen, MA, Coordinator Student Enrichment & Recruitment

## Mark Your Calendars...

Gulfcoast North AHEC will host its second annual **Belles & Boots Bash, November 18, 2006 at the beautiful Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa.** The Saturday evening event will benefit our Student Health Career Recruitment Camps program serving



underrepresented youth interested in health careers. As the only fundraising event for GNAHEC, **Belles & Boots** proceeds provide scholarships to deserving high school students entering into health careers, and supports important student programming.

## Promoting Health is more than an Academic Field Experience with Gulfcoast North AHEC

Maureen Guthke, MPH

In January 2006, Courtney Delmar and Lindsey King, graduate students from the University of South Florida, College of Public Health (COPH), began to develop and implement a culturally appropriate Nutrition and Health Education program as part of their academic field experience with Gulfcoast North AHEC, Inc. Maureen Guthke, Coordinator of Community Health Education at GNAHEC and a graduate from USF COPH worked closely with the students to ensure that their expectations of the field experience were met.

The Nutrition and Health Education program was designed to benefit second and third graders at Sulphur Springs Elementary School in Tampa. The elementary students belong to an after school program called Parents and Children Advance Together (PCAT) led by Mrs. Christene Worley of University

Community Ministries. The PCAT program provides an opportunity for selected students and their parents to learn valuable skills that enable them to lead healthier lifestyles despite the everyday hardships they face. Tutors from the community also volunteer their time with PCAT students to help with various activities.

Courtney and Lindsey developed the program to cover three topics over a three month period. Topics included fruits and vegetables, the new food guide pyramid, and physical activity.



As a result of this experience, the graduate students learned how to communicate with the students, incorporate various teaching methods, work with partnering agencies, and research existing resources in the community.

More than an academic field experience, Courtney and Lindsey learned how rewarding it can be to reach a community that has so many unmet needs. In

April, they had an opportunity to share their experience with colleagues at the COPH. Hopefully they have encouraged other graduate students and staff to seek opportunities to educate medically underserved communities as a means to reduce health disparities.

## Florida Aims to Stop Bullying

Christina Mathis, MBA

Last year Florida public schools recorded 6,596 incidents of threats and intimidation that resulted in disciplinary action. Also reported were 2,245 incidents of sexual harassment and 10,551 batteries. Numbers like these, along with the increase in violent behavior in response to being bullied, has prompted the state to take action.

Gulfcoast North AHEC along with the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Student Assistance Office of Safe and Healthy Schools, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, and the Florida Institute of Education at The University of North Florida worked together to offer Florida's First Annual Bullying Prevention Conference. The conference was held April 27th

- 28th at the Florida Mall Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. Experts from around the country gave presentations and provided strategies on creative ways to stop bullying. Over 680 educators, police officers, counselors and parents attended workshops on the various topics including creating effective bullying prevention programs, cyber bullying, addressing school changes needed to stop bullying, bullying and Florida law and adolescent brain development and bullying.

Participants at the conference deemed it a huge success and hope to implement what they have learned in communities throughout Florida.

## Gulfcoast South AHEC Receives Susan G. Komen Award

Kathryn Scallon, BA & Ansley Mora, BA

A very successful program at Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center, Inc. (GSAHEC) and one that truly represents our mission is the Community Health Worker Training Program facilitated by Ansley Mora, Community Education Coordinator.

GSAHEC has worked hard to develop and fine tune this program since 2002, and has many community partners involved in the cause. The goal of GSAHEC's Community Health Worker program is to train trusted and respected individuals who have a passion for helping others in their community. These trained Community Health Workers conduct presentations and facilitate events to disseminate information about breast health and other topics to their families, friends, co-workers, congregation members and neighbors.

GSAHEC submitted a grant application to the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and, in September of 2005, we received our first mini-grant to implement a program in partnership with Sarasota Memorial Hospital's Newtown Wellness Program (NWP). The NWP is a grassroots "Closing the Gap" initiative

that focuses on improving the health and promoting the adoption of healthy living habits among African Americans in North Sarasota County.

The ultimate goal of this program, entitled *Newtown Breast Cancer Awareness Program*, is to increase awareness among African American women and their families of the necessity for early detection and the possibility of cure when breast cancer is diagnosed and treated early. The objectives identified in this grant were accomplished using strategies designed by Community Health Workers affiliated with the NWP.

Based on this success we reapplied to the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and were awarded \$11,000 in February 2006 to continue the *Newtown Breast Cancer Awareness Program*. We would like to acknowledge and thank the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for their tremendous support, as well as the Newtown Wellness Program and the Community Health Workers for their passion to help reduce breast cancer in their community.



**The Newtown Wellness Program**



**The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation**  
Florida Suncoast Affiliate

## Gulfcoast South AHEC Honors Community Partners

Edna Apostol, MPH, Executive Director

On Thursday April 27, 2006 GSAHEC formally recognized two of our community partners for their contribution to our efforts in the areas of continuing education and youth recruitment.

Marie Chirico, Teacher at Lincoln Memorial Middle School in Palmetto, Florida was recognized for her dedication to the Health Occupations Students of America Program and her leadership in offering opportunities to their students to explore health careers.

Robin Keene, from the Manatee County Health Department was recognized for her commitment to ensure continuing education opportunities for "her nurses" and her efforts towards the development of a "hands-on" training program for the nurses called to serve at "special needs" shelters in partnership with GSAHEC.

Congratulations to Marie and Robin!



Pictured from left to right:  
Edna Apostol, Marie Chirico, and Johnnie Bernhard



Pictured from left to right:  
Charlene Chirillo, Robin Keene, and Edna Apostol

## If it's Summer, it is time for the Gulfcoast South AHEC Health Careers Camps!!!

Johnnie Bernhard, Recruitment & Youth Programs Coordinator

Gulfcoast South AHEC has awarded six community partners with grants to support health careers camps in our four-county service area during summer 2006. As a result, middle school and high school students in DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte counties will be exposed to health career information and postsecondary planning in their individual communities.

Targeted to disadvantaged, minority youth in rural, underserved communities, the grant-sponsored summer camps are focused upon early mentoring and recruitment of students into the health care professions. "Our camps are a direct attempt to address the critical shortage of health care providers in our nation," says Edna Apostol, MPH, GSAHEC Executive Director. In addition, studies indicate that students from minority and low income backgrounds are 2 - 5 times more

willing to provide care to poor, minority, and underserved populations, once they become health professionals.

The summer camps will also provide information on financial aid opportunities, First Aid and CPR training, job shadowing opportunities, in addition to other health related materials.

Approximately 148 students in four counties will benefit from the partnership GSAHEC has established with the Jewish Family & Children's Service of Sarasota-Manatee, Inc., PACE Center for Girls of Manatee County, South County Family YMCA (Englewood-Venice), Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc. of Manatee County, and the Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County (with camps in Port Charlotte and Arcadia).

## Celebrating Community Health Workers: A day of learning, networking and pampering for the great souls who help hard-to-reach populations in our communities

Ansley Mora, Community Education Coordinator, Gulfcoast South AHEC

Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center, Inc. (GSAHEC) held its 2nd Annual Community Health Worker Conference on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at DaySpring Conference Center. As part of our Community Health Partnership Project, GSAHEC sponsored a conference to recognize Community Health Workers (CHWs) who work hard to educate other members of their community on cardiovascular health, breast/cervical health, diabetes prevention, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, prenatal care, and the benefits of breastfeeding. These dedicated CHWs provide countless hours of support and connect those in need to health and human services in DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

The conference was planned in part by our Key Community Partners' Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County and Sarasota Memorial Hospital's Newtown Wellness Program. Our goal was met: to provide a forum for CHWs to network, learn, sharpen skills, and celebrate their hard work. CHWs are "lay" people that are trained to teach members of their communities, who oftentimes lack access to care, to learn about and act upon important health issues. GSAHEC brought this national model to our area in 2002.

For more information about GSAHEC's Community Health Partnership Project, please contact Ansley Mora, Community Education Coordinator, (941)361-6602 or email amora@health.usf.edu.



*Gulfcoast South AHEC holds the 2nd Annual Community Health Worker Conference, as part of its Community Health Partnership Project.*



## AHEC Celebrates our 10th Anniversary!

Edna Apostol, MPH, Executive Director

It seems like only yesterday that the initial planning for Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center, Inc. (GSAHEC) took place at the Sudakoff Center on the campus of the University of South Florida in Sarasota. An affiliate of the University of South Florida AHEC Program, GSAHEC was established with the goal to develop community and academic partnerships to address access to health care for medically underserved populations in our service area of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto counties. This was an exciting opportunity to make a significant difference in people's lives and we have!

GSAHEC's first executive director and staff were hired in December 2005 and our Board of Directors over the years has been chaired by a group of wonderfully dedicated people (Gene Stracener, Gary Moore, Marco Alberts, Ruth Adams, Stan Gerding and Sali Perry). Edna Apostol was hired in September 1996 as the second executive director and has served in that capacity ever since. Over the years, our partnerships with the County Health Departments, Community Health Center (Manatee County Rural Health Services, Inc. [MCRHS]), Rural Hospital (DeSoto Memorial), Healthy Start Coalitions, Senior Friendship Centers, Newtown Wellness Project and others, have grown stronger and very productive.

Inspiring and nurturing young people's interest in a future health career has been a community effort. The Recruitment and Educational Assistance for Careers in Health (REACH) program, internships, summer health career camps and health career presentations are the product of a collaboration model that includes our public schools, community-based youth serving organizations (YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, Educational Consultants Consortium, and others) and GSAHEC. To ensure that we continue to have a well qualified and diverse health care workforce, we have developed programs to educate young people about the opportunities that exist in the health care field and over 1,500 youth have participated in these activities. In addition 2,625 students from middle schools have been educated on tobacco prevention by 65 health profession students through the Partners in Prevention of Substance Abuse Program. Vegas Brown, MD, a high school student who participated in one the first GSAHEC summer health career camps (held in 1997), later worked

with GSAHEC as a Community Health Scholar in Sarasota County and recently graduated at the top of his class from the University of South Florida College of Medicine!

Since 1996, 64 health professions students have provided over 13,880 hours of service working with our partners on needed projects. The community youth risk assessment in Sarasota County in 1998; a survey of women at high risk for poor pregnancy outcomes in Sarasota in 2000; a study in DeSoto County in 2001 to project future medical needs in the County are all examples of the projects undertaken by these students, who also educated adults and youth on the risks of obesity, cardiovascular health, diabetes prevention and asthma.



*Gulfcoast South AHEC's staff and Executive Director Edna Apostol*

As GSAHEC developed community-based training opportunities for health professions students, MCRHS, DeSoto Memorial Hospital, Charlotte County Health Department and Senior Friendship Centers have offered excellent training grounds to these future health care providers. The students come from the University of South Florida and Florida State University Colleges of Medicine; USF School of Social Work; University of Florida College of Dentistry and Physician Assistant Program; Florida A&M College of Pharmacy; Nursing Programs at USF, Florida Gulf Coast University and Edison and Manatee Community Colleges; the Dental Hygiene Program at Manatee Community College; and the Dental Assistant Program at Manatee Technical Institute.



*Pictured from left to right: Edna Apostol, Executive Director, Gulfcoast South AHEC, John Wills, Executive Director, Gulfcoast North AHEC, and Cynthia S. Selleck, USF AHEC Program Director*

A wealth of student clinical training has taken place within the medically underserved areas of our 4-county service area. Since 1996, 177 dental students have completed 12,284 hours; 104 PA students have completed 18,240 hours; 1,104 nursing students have completed 29,253 hours; 203 ARNP students have completed 39,799 hours; 166 medical students have completed 10,996 hours; 9 medical residents have completed 1,472 hours; 26 social work students have completed 10,504 hours; 41 pharmacy students have completed 7,672 hours; 124 dental assistant students have completed 1,973 hours and 67 dental hygiene students have completed 1,716 hours of community-based training as a direct result of GSAHEC (2,021 students/residents, 133,909 hours in total!). Some of those who trained in our service area have returned to work at their former training facilities: Xavier Sevilla, MD (Chief of Pediatrics at MCRHS); George Malone, PharmD (Pharmacist at MCRHS)

*continued on page 8*



*Gulfcoast South AHEC celebrates 10th Anniversary  
with their community partners.*

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and Lenore Montgomery, RN, MS (Charlotte County Health Department).

In the last 10 years GSAHEC has offered over 550 continuing professional education programs to more than 10,206 health professionals. From required trainings to the topic-of-the-day (SARS, disaster preparedness, health literacy, complimentary medicine, cultural competency, obesity, and more). Some of these professionals have improved their Spanish language skills through our 15 Medical Spanish courses offered since 1998. Many others have participated in our 12 preceptor development workshops, thus improving their skills to educate the next generation of health care providers. In addition, through a partnership with the Florida Department of Health Osteoporosis Prevention and Education Program, we have been actively involved in educating the community. Since 2000, GSAHEC has educated more than 1,075 adults and 8,803 young students in our service area about osteoporosis.

GSAHEC's Community Health Worker (CHW) Initiative, started in 2002, has allowed us to strengthen our community health promotion efforts in partnership with community-based organizations in the areas of cardiovascular health, breastfeeding and breast/cervical awareness. This successful model trains lay-members of a community to educate other members of the community on different topics. Recognized as an effective strategy to reach those in greatest need, GSAHEC's CHW training program is blossoming. Over 146 CHWs have been trained and they have conducted 331 presentations to more than 1,686 members of their communities.

Our community-based programs would not have been possible without our valuable community partners. Among these are

the Healthy Start Coalitions; Hispanic/Latino Coalition; Latino Community Network; Newtown Wellness Program; County Health Departments; Manatee County Rural Health Services; Senior Friendship Centers; and the Laurel Civic Association. We are proud of the leadership role we have been able to play in the development of the Healthy Start Coalitions, Hispanic/Latino Coalition in Sarasota County and Latino Community Network in Manatee County, and in the design and implementation of community need assessments in Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

Over the years several individuals have been recognized by GSAHEC for their extraordinary contributions to our mission. Among these are George Van Buren, MD; Sister Elaine Davia, NP; Ron Jones, Charlotte High School; Susan Ciccio-Coen and Christine Griffith, Sarasota County Health Department and Johnnie Bernhard, formerly from Booker High School and now a GSAHEC staff member.

Last but not least, GSAHEC has been fortunate to enjoy the support and dedication of our Board of Directors, USF AHEC Program Office and staff over these ten years. They all deserve to be recognized for their commitment and leadership. As we take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments, we offer our sincerest appreciation to all of you who have made it possible.

## **AHEC Library Resources and Services Available!**

The USF AHEC program offers many library resources and services to AHEC providers in our nine-county service area. For example, computer accounts that allow access to USF Health Science Center Library electronic resources can be obtained from the AHEC Librarian. These electronic resources include databases such as FIRSTConsult, Ovid MEDLINE and CINAHL, as well as hundreds of full-text journals including JAMA and the New England Journal of

Medicine. We also provide searches of computer databases and the Internet; interlibrary loan of articles and AHEC-owned books and other materials; reference materials for clinical sites; and computer and Internet training. To obtain a computer account, borrow or request reference materials, or for more information about AHEC library resources and services, contact Jonathan Hartmann, AHEC Librarian at (813)974-6401, or email [johartma@health.usf.edu](mailto:johartma@health.usf.edu).

## USF AHEC Sophomore/Junior Access Day

LaToya S. Gregory, MPH

USF AHEC Sophomore/Junior Access Day took place on Friday, April 7, 2006 at the USF Health Auditorium and College of Nursing Rotunda. High school students from AHEC's nine county service area participated in Access Day activities.

Students attending Access Day received information on career opportunities in the health professions such as medicine, nursing, public health, physical therapy, pharmacy, and dentistry. Students had the opportunity to visit table displays hosted by faculty and staff from USF Health, Navy, Army, and Air Force ROTC Programs, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Social Work, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Shriners' Children's Hospital, Student Health Services, Shimberg Health Sciences Library, Financial Aid Office, Undergraduate Admissions Office, Hillsborough Community College Dental Hygiene Program, and many more.



Access Day has been very successful in educating disadvantaged and underrepresented students who have no prior exposure to higher education. Since Access Day began

in the fall of 1998, over 3,000 students have participated in the program. As a result of Access Day, many students have continued their participation in AHEC programs and enrolled in USF to continue their health career pursuits. For the first time, the high school participants had an opportunity to listen and ask questions of a panel of college students who are in health professions programs here at USF Health. "Having the opportunity to get one-on-one with the college students made a world of difference in the lives and decisions these youth will make in the near future," said LaToya Gregory, MPH, Coordinator for Access Day.

The next Access Day event for high school seniors will take place in the fall of 2006. For more information or to participate in Access Day activities, contact LaToya S. Gregory, MPH at the USF AHEC Program at (813) 974-5973 or [lgregory@health.usf.edu](mailto:lgregory@health.usf.edu).

## AHEC Welcomes New Librarian

The USF AHEC Program and our two AHEC Centers, Gulfcoast North and Gulfcoast South, are pleased to welcome Jonathan Hartmann, MLS as our new AHEC Librarian. Jonathan joined us in late March, replacing Jacqueline Leskovec who returned to Chicago last fall.

Jonathan came to us from Boston where he served as a reference and instructional librarian at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He brings a wealth of knowledge about AHEC, however, having served as the AHEC Librarian for the Northwest Ohio AHEC Program for 11 years. Jonathan has extensive experience in academic medical libraries as well as in providing outreach services to physicians and other community-based health professionals. In addition, he brings web design and management

skills to the position.

Over the next several months, Jonathan will be contacting the community/migrant health centers, health departments, rural health clinics, and other sites within our 9-county service area. His goal will be to determine your library and learning resource needs as well as schedule regular visits to your sites to assure that your library needs are met.



*Jonathan Hartmann, MLS, USF AHEC Program Office*

On a personal note, Jonathan is an avid golfer who appreciates the fact that he can now play golf "year-round" in Florida!

Please contact Jonathan regarding your library and learning resource needs. He can be reached directly at (813) 974-6401 or via email at: [johartma@health.usf.edu](mailto:johartma@health.usf.edu).

## Health Professions Summer Academy

LaToya S. Gregory, MPH

USF AHEC, with the assistance of Gulfcoast South AHEC and Gulfcoast North AHEC, has accepted 26 high school students for its' sixth annual Health Professions Summer Academy.

The Academy is a wonderful opportunity for students who are interested in learning more about careers in the health professions. In particular, this program is ideal for disadvantaged and underrepresented students who may have limited access to information about health careers and college resources. The Academy will take place June 4 - 17, 2006 on USF Tampa campus. During this two-week, residential experience students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including; SAT preparation, college survival skills, writing

skills, scholarship/financial aid workshops, college admissions workshops, health career presentations, tours, and much more.



To have your high school or health career program added to AHEC's mailing list, please call the USF AHEC Program Office at 813-974-3507. For more information on the Health Professions Summer Academy, visit the USF AHEC website at: [www.health.usf.edu/ahec](http://www.health.usf.edu/ahec) and click on Middle & High School Student Opportunities or contact LaToya Gregory, MPH at (813) 974-5973 or via e-mail at [lgregory@health.usf.edu](mailto:lgregory@health.usf.edu).

## Students and Service!

Ellen Kent, MPH

True to AHEC's mission of fostering interdisciplinary service-learning opportunities for students, the AHEC-sponsored USF Health Service Corps offers USF Health students the unique opportunity to volunteer together in the community on meaningful health-related service projects. Throughout the year, USF Health students in medicine, nursing, public health and physical therapy participate together in a myriad of health fairs/screenings, special service events for children and the elderly, fundraising walks, collection drives, and outreach

health education presentations. Ellen Kent, MPH, Faculty Coordinator for the USF Health Service Corps, recently received Volunteer USF's Volunteer Organization of the Year Award on behalf of the USF Health Service Corps. For more information, go to <http://health.usf.edu/ahec/servicecorps.html> - and be sure to check out the Service Events Photos link for more photos of our students learning and serving together!



Lisa Moody, COM student, performs blood sugar testing at San Jose Mission Diabetes Health Fair  
photo by Ellen Kent

# AHEC ACCESS

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Pasco, Pinellas & Hillsborough counties)

Gulfcoast South AHEC  
1-800-967-0807  
(Serving Manatee, Sarasota,  
DeSoto & Charlotte counties)

# MCAT Enhancement Program (MEP)

LaToya S. Gregory, MPH

The MCAT Enhancement Program (MEP) is a joint collaboration with the USF AHEC Program and Project Thrust, a support program established to provide personal and academic support to undergraduates at USF. MEP is a two year program which prepares disadvantaged and underrepresented minority students to obtain competitive scores on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

MEP consist of two phases. The first phase consists of a 30-hour Reading and Verbal Reasoning MCAT review course as well as Learning Strategies for Academic Disciplines (REA 1605), taught by Dr. Pat Maher, Director of the LEARN Program at USF. Students who complete a combination of both courses increase their active reading, critical thinking, evaluation, and analytical skills. A cohort of 14 MEP students completed Phase I of the program this spring.

During the fall of 2006 students will move into Phase II of MEP. Phase II consists of the Biological and Physical Sciences MCAT review courses as well as Critical Reading and Writing. In these courses students increase their knowledge base and problem solving abilities while developing literal and critical reading and writing skills to help them succeed with their coursework.

If you are a USF student with a 3.0 overall/science GPA, planning to apply to medical school, and would like more information on the MCAT Enhancement Program, please contact LaToya Gregory, Coordinator, Diversity Initiatives, at (813)974-5973 or via e-mail at [lgregory@health.usf.edu](mailto:lgregory@health.usf.edu).



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