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CHHS March 2012 E-Newsletter

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CHHS March 2012 E-Newsletter

Educators earn speech language pathology degree at Western Kentucky University

Published December 22, 2011
Original story found at www.uft.org

It was a high point of their lives. On Nov. 29, after three intense years of study, 25 speech teachers earned their master's degrees — and celebrated that achievement — at a graduation ceremony held at UFT headquarters.

The event marked the culmination of difficult course work for these educators who had maintained full-time jobs in the schools while working toward a master's in science in communication disorders, going through a clinical fellowship and passing the Praxis exam, according to UFT Teacher Center staffer Virginia Hill. They now have the letters "SLP" at the end of their names: speech language pathologist.

"It's been an uphill climb. The view is beautiful," noted Marie Gallo of Brooklyn's PS 110.

"I can't wait to have a life again," reported graduate Eileen Noonan of IS 111 in Manhattan.

These were among the statements graduates wrote and that were read by staff members of the UFT Teacher Center Speech and Language Resource Center as each scholar went up on stage to receive a diploma.

The diploma came from Western Kentucky University, which provides a renowned, distance-learning program in speech pathology.

The school provided online coursework and access to professors while the Teacher Center provided the school-based clinical experience in "a unique collaboration between the university and the UFT," said the university's president, Dr. Gary Ransdell, in his opening remarks.

"You have not been on our main campus," Ransdell said, alluding to the school's home in Bowling Green, Ky., and the ceremony's proximity to the Manhattan subway's Bowling Green Station. "But you have been in our hearts for three years."

UFT Secretary Michael Mendel spoke about his own experiences with a speech teacher when he was a middle school student, and Teacher Center Assistant Director Rita Danis spoke of the rigorous learning in the program and the sacrifices made by graduates and their loved ones.

Kimberly Baker of PS 182 in the Bronx won the Lorian Hill Clinical Excellence Award. Winning the Academic Excellence Awards were new UFT member Jessica Krivac (not yet asigned) and Marie Nogais of PS 136 in Queens.

“For three years of ‘boot camping,’ I held onto my motivation as if gasping for air,” Nogais wrote. “Now I can proudly say that I finally accomplished the dream.”

Faculty, students participate in annual Winter Term program in Belize

*Original story from http://wkunews.wordpress.com/. Please click here to be taken to the full story on the WKU News website.

Students and faculty from four departments in WKU’s College of Health and Human Services participated in the Winter Term’s annual International Health and Human Services Learning Program, also known as the Belize Program.

The program was led by Dental Director Daniel Carter and Supervising Dental Hygienist Bonny Petty of WKU’s Institute for Rural Health Development and Research. This year’s participants included students and faculty from WKU’s Social Work, Communication Disorders, Dental Hygiene and Nursing departments.

The Belize Program extends the mission of WKU and the College of Health and Human Services by providing services that promote wellness of body, mind and environment to the underserved community of Gales Point, Belize. Participants engage in hands-on and reflective projects teaching them to be socially responsible citizen leaders of a global society.

The WKU International Health and Human Service Learning Program started during the summer of 2007. Since then, WKU students, faculty and staff have visited the remote and underserved village of Gales Point each year.

While the program consists mostly of College of Health and Human Services faculty, staff and students, the program has spread in the recent years to include other WKU colleges and majors that have gone on to start new programs in Belize.

Students participating in this year's program received hands on clinical experience ranging from dental restorations and cleanings, to extensive women's health screenings and exams, to classroom health education in Belizean schools. In addition, the students worked collaboratively with the Belizean Ministry of Health to provide many services to the citizens of Belize City and Gales Point.

Students participating in the 2012 Winter Term course included: **Alicia Azimipour**, a senior Dental Hygiene major from Bowling Green; **Katie Bittel**, a Social Work graduate student from Madisonville; **Sarah Crabtree**, a Social Work graduate student from Owensboro; **Lucas Hall**, a Social Work graduate student from Bowling Green; **Jill Howe**, a Social Work graduate student from Owensboro; **Brenda Lewis**, a Social Work graduate student from Leitchfield; **Jessica May**, a junior Nursing major from Madisonville; **Jennifer McDivitt**, a Nursing graduate student from Evansville, Ind.; **Jerri McMillan**, a junior Social Work student from Vine Grove; **Erin Miller**, a senior Nursing student from Evansville, Ind.; **Alyssa Nantz**, a senior Dental Hygiene student from Nashville; **Devan Russell**, a senior Dental Hygiene student from Franklin, Tenn.; and **Kasey Sears**, a senior Social Work major from Russellville.

Faculty and staff involved in the Belize Service Learning program were **Daniel Carter** and **Bonny Petty** of the Institute for Rural Health Development and Research; **Eve Main** of Nursing; **Trish Desrosiers** of Social Work; **Jan Sandidge** of Communication Disorders; and **Joseph Evans** of Allied Health.

The College of Health and Human Services Belize Program is offered every year during the Winter Term through the Institute for Rural Health Development and Research.

More: Photos from the trip are available on the WKU Facebook page.

Contact: Stacey Forsythe, (270) 745-6948.

Faculty and students from four departments in WKU's College of Health and Human Services participated in the Belize Program during Winter Term 2012. More photos from the trip are available on the WKU Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WKUNews

First Doctor of Nursing Practice Class Introduced at WKU Men's Basketball Game

The first Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) class was recognized on February 4 at the WKU Men's Basketball game during halftime. The first DNP class of 17 students began in August of 2011 and they are scheduled to graduate in May 2014.

Pictured left to right are: Dr. Bonaguro, Eve Main, Beverly Mortimer, Missy Travelsted, Tammy Ray, Betty Alexander, Donna Embry, Jodie Dunkleberger, Maire Blankenship

For more information on the DNP program, please email Dr. Eve Main or visit the CHHS DNP page.

Congratulations to South Central AHEC

The **South Central Area Health Education Center (AHEC)** was recognized in December by the WKU Office of Research for the largest dollar amount in a single award for FY 11 in CHHS. This was the third year in a row AHEC was recognized for this achievement.

Bowling Green Pediatrician Receives Community Faculty Preceptor Award

University of Kentucky College of Medicine and UK Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Community Faculty Program presented Dr. Rick Voakes, a Bowling Green Pediatrician, with the Community Faculty Preceptor Award. The award, presented annually, is given for their outstanding contribution to teaching and for their contributions to the Community Faculty Program. This award represents appreciation from the University of Kentucky for the time, effort and energy they give to the future healthcare providers in this state and region. Without their commitment, the quality of clinical care students are exposed to would suffer tremendously. This award is one way the university can recognize outstanding community based faculty and thank them for their service.

All healthcare professions students at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville are required to do some of their clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas. These rotations are referred to as their AHEC rotation because the regional AHECs coordinate these rotations.

Veronica Drake is the Clinical Education Coordinator for the **South Central AHEC** located in the College of Health and Human Services at WKU. She coordinated 172 clinical rotations in FY 2010-2011 for students from UK and UofL in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, physician assistants, pharmacy, dietetics, clinical lab science, and dental hygiene. These students spent 819 weeks with community faculty in the 22 county region served by the South Central AHEC.

Community faculty are required to submit an application and be approved by each university before they are allowed to teach students. Students gain real world experience through these clinical rotations and the community has an opportunity to recruit them to return for their practice. It is a win – win situation.

According to Ms. Drake, Dr. Voakes has been a member of the community based gratis faculty for both the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville for 25 years. He is approved to teach medical, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner students. Students enjoy their clinical rotations with Dr. Voakes and they say he is an excellent preceptor. Many students say he practices what he preaches. Dr. Voakes has been an advocate for prevention his entire career. When he talks to his patients about the importance of healthy lifestyle choices including exercise he can point to his involvement in Disc Golf and his 4x Grandmaster World Championships and his induction in the Hall of Fame in 1995. He created a web site (www.health-bytes.com) before web sites became popular and he keeps it updated with current information. The menu currently contains 66 different health topics as well as a health quiz and News From Chestnut Place, his pediatric office. In addition to his career in medicine and his sport of choice, Disc Golf, Dr. Voakes is also a musician and an artist.

The old sayings, “experience is the greatest teacher” and “there is no substitute for experience”, are applicable to the role of the gratis faculty preceptor for all health professions students. It is important for students to be able to combine the knowledge from the classroom with the real world experience in the clinic setting. Community based faculty like Dr. Voakes do not get paid to teach students. They do it because students challenge them to think about what they do and why they do it and they love to teach. They also do it because it is the right thing to do. It is an honor for health professionals to be asked to give back to their profession in the form of teaching.

Recent Faculty Publications

Dr. Mary Bennett, Dr M. Laurie Branstetter, Dr Melinda Joyce and Dr Cherie Howk published an article in the February 2012 Journal for Nurse Practitioners. The article, titled Nurse Practitioner and Pharmacist Interactions: Implications for Effectiveness of Interdisciplinary Health Care Teams, can be viewed on TopScholar at http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/nurs_fac_pub/47/

Spotlight on CHHS Alumni

Dr. Jagdish Khubchandani, MPH graduate, has issued a call for papers for a special Health Promotion Practice (HPP) issue on Global Health that will be coming out in May 2012. Health Promotion Practice is the practice journal for Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE).

Dr. Khubchandani graduated from the MPH program in 2007 and is now an Assistant Professor of Community Health in the Department of Physiology and Health Science at Ball State University. He is also the Associate Editor for HPP and a Faculty Fellow for Global Health Institute.

For more information on HPP, Global Health Institute, or to submit an article, please contact Dr. Khubchandani at jkhubchandan@bsu.edu.