

ALPHA Recognizes Outstanding Leaders in Public Health

Alabama Department of Public Health employees predominated as the Alabama Public Health Association recognized persons, groups and organizations from across the state who demonstrated exceptional merit during the past year in the field of public health. Awards Chairperson Viki Brant presented plaques to the recipients at the association's 55th Annual Meeting and Health Education Conference at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center May 13.



Ross Allen Hudson is shown with Viki Brant.

Ross Allen Hudson, social work director for Public Health Area 2, was named recipient of the Frederick S. Wolf Award, which recognizes an individual who has been active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years. This person selflessly gives back to the community and is efficient, dedicated and professional in delivering public health services.

Nominators said, "This year's award winner hit the ground running when he began working in public health in 2000. He took a virtually nonexistent Social Work Case Management program and advanced it to a solid program."

His coworkers, area and state peers, and local staff wrote support letters using

descriptive terms such as dedication, organized, understanding and problem solving with the ability to find and connect "niches" in program activities. "He is a micro and macro thinker – with visions of not only how things need to be but how they can be in the future," supporters stated. Described as a true leader, he is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and "jump in" where he is needed. His reputation is of producing work that is well thought out and carefully planned. He is viewed as a critical player in helping build successful relationships with the communities and other partners. Coworkers acknowledge that Hudson has enriched their personal and work lives and feel fortunate for the opportunity to work with him.

The D. G. Gill Award is presented to an individual who makes exceptional contributions to benefit Alabama's public health. This year's honor was given to **William Charles Graves, Ed.D.**, of the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health. A 28-year veteran of public health, Graves serves as the manager and principal contact for Alabama's participation in the National Health Service Corps Program. This program provides incentives and facilitates placement of health care workers in the nation's neediest communities.



William Charles Graves is shown with Viki Brant.

Through his leadership in this program Dr. Graves has helped locate hundreds of health care professionals to serve the underserved across the state. Dr. Graves is responsible for ensuring each facility meets the rigid requirements set by the program. He works with hospitals, clinics and private providers who critically need staff to support their work with low income and uninsured residents.

Supporters said, "Having a servant's attitude was a motivator in Dr. Gill's career, and therefore important in this award. In the beginning years of his career, he encouraged many young people as a school teacher, and he still serves his church by picking up youngsters in the community on Sunday mornings. That spirit of servant-hood and encouragement has continued and has been seen as he encourages many students to pursue careers in the health care field today."



Janis Pritchett

Janis Pritchett of the Bureau of Financial Services was named the 2011 recipient of the Virginia Kendrick Award. The Virginia Kendrick Award is presented to an individual who provides notable service to the people

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of Alabama while serving public health in a supportive role.

Ms. Pritchett has provided notable service in the complex world of finance during her 25 years of service to the State of Alabama, including more than 16 years with the department. She is currently a grant accountant. She serves as a partner, along side of program managers for 29 different grant accounts, assisting those who depend on her for successful grant management.

One program manager said, "Janis is someone who gives her all to her job and wouldn't know how to do anything less." Others described her as "very patient and kind." She enjoys her time with her husband and two daughters, of whom she is very proud. She also enjoys serving her church with her beautiful voice, singing solos and ministering in the church choir.



Teresa Fair is shown with Viki Brant.

Wellness Nutritionist **Teresa Fair** of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Division was chosen as the recipient of the Guy M. Tate Award. She has had an impact on improving the public's health across the entire spectrum of life from working with children in WIC to providing nursing home consultation.

Supporters said, "She has a very realistic approach to wellness and as a dietitian is quick to add that a healthy lifestyle is much more than the food one eats.

She looks at the big picture and tries to help individuals find what they want to change and how best to make those changes."

Embracing a culture of healthy choices as her natural way of life, Ms. Fair's letters of support continued as follows: "Whether Teresa is creating fun ways to get employees up and moving or serving as a leader in the dietetic association, she always inspires people to do their best."

A co-worker wrote, "It is a pleasure to work with a person whose only desire is to make a difference in the lives of everyone she comes in contact with."

The Guy M. Tate Award is given to a public health employee, group or agency providing outstanding service or contribution. The recipient of this award is to have 10 years experience or less in public health with service promoting and protecting public health in Alabama which goes beyond the daily job assignment.

The Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence recognizes an individual, group or organization that, through excellence in work, has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health in Alabama. Nominees are not required to have a direct affiliation with or represent any specific discipline, group or organization. Rather, they should represent excellence in effort and significant achievement toward the promotion and protection of public health.

This year's recipient is **Thomas E. Moody, M.D.**, of Birmingham, who is the only person to have received both the Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence and the University of Alabama School of Medicine's Martha Myers Role Model of the Year Award.

Supporters stated that Dr. Moody's mission is to assure that every man in Alabama is provided an avenue to be screened for prostate cancer, and he goes the extra mile to do so.



Dr. Moody is shown with Viki Brant.

Dr. Moody views what he does as his "mission work" and he freely uses his abilities and knowledge to help others. Dr. Moody is described as an amazing man whose commitment and dedication to fight prostate cancer in Alabama is unsurpassed. One of his peers said, "Dr. Moody is a testament to the statement 'one man can make a difference,' and he serves as a role model for all of us."

Dr. Moody is the recipient of numerous awards including the Mary Lou Wright Distinguished Leadership Award presented by U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions for his exceptional public service and dedication in the fight against prostate cancer. The Martha Myers Role Model of the Year award was presented to him in 2009 for his travels across the state raising awareness about prostate cancer.

The Anne M. Smith Public Health Nurse of the Year Award is presented to the nurse who exemplifies the mission of public health nursing in Alabama. **Connie Morrow**, who has been a public health nurse at the Talladega County Health Department for more than 20 years, is described as a "caring and compassionate nurse who truly believes her calling in this world is to serve and care for others."

Letters stated, "Connie uses her medical training to help those in the community who cannot help themselves. She genuinely loves her patients, and

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Connie Morrow

her love extends to the profession as well. Connie serves as a preceptor and mentor for nursing students and as a role model for the new nurses in the area. She is always ready to help and provides encouragement to her fellow nurses.”

A peer wrote, “Connie’s actions and attitudes have certainly influenced me in my nursing practice. She is the type of nurse I strive to be.”

The recipient of the Ruth O. Harrell Scholarship to the Master of Science in Nursing Program at the University of South Alabama College of Nursing was **Sandra Renee Faust** and winner of the Ira L. Myers Scholarship to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health was **Sherri L.**

Davidson, branch manager of the Analysis and Reporting Branch of the Epidemiology Division.

Inducted into the Class of 2011 of the ALPHA Hall of Fame were **Lem Burell** and **Michael Jones**.

Burell has been Public Health Area 6 Environmental Director since 1987. Letters of support stated, “Truly a man of many talents, his leadership in his community is demonstrated by the many volunteer organizations in which he is a member.” He is active in the Lakeview Baptist Church where he teaches a Sunday School class. He has been an active member of the Gideons International since 1985 and has held numerous positions of leadership



Lem Burell



Michael A. Jones

throughout his years of membership. He served as ALPHA president in 2005-2006 and was newsletter editor for many years. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.

Michael A. Jones was an employee of the department for more than 15 years and has been a staunch supporter of ALPHA. He now serves as the State Purchasing Director at the Alabama Department of Finance, yet he remains active in the association. “This continued involvement clearly demonstrates his dedication and commitment to public health and the association. He is known by fellow association members as one who worked hard to increase membership by his caring and attitude. Also, he is also known as ‘a man who gets things done.’”