

## **CHHS September 2010 Newsletter**

### **CEC Family Resource Program Visits Vanderbilt**

Jessica Fultz

The Family Resource Program (FRP), a part of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex (CEC) at Western Kentucky University, visited the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital on Thursday, April 15.

The FRP staff includes Director, Dr. Sandra Starks LCSW, Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work; Coordinator, Vella Mae Travis, MSW, CSW; Graduate Assistant, Dennis Makokha; and Social Work Student Interns, Rebecca Redd, Emily Martin, and Jessica Fultz. The FRP staff traveled to Vanderbilt for the purposes of comparing and contrasting programs, obtaining information about available regional resources, clarifying the social worker's role in service programs, and establishing collaborations between programs. Information was provided about the programs within the CEC to strengthen collaborations and referrals.

The Director of Communications and Dissemination at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, Dr. Jan Rosemergy, began the day with an overview of the Center, which provides services to persons with disabilities, families, educators, and service providers, as well as conducts interdisciplinary research to make breakthroughs in prevention and treatment for persons with disabilities.

The day continued with an informative session about the Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, an internet and phone service database on current disability services in Tennessee provided in English, as well as Spanish. Staff from the Vanderbilt Autism Clinic, a helpline for families and professionals to find information about clinical, research, and outreach services for autism, discussed their roles in the Center.

The group explored the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, and engaged in a discussion with staff at the Jr. League of Nashville Family Resource Center. The Program provides information to help families understand a child's

medical condition, as well as information about community agencies and support programs.



*Top Row L to R : Vella Mae Travis, MSW, CSW (Coordinator); Dr. Saundra Starks, LCSW (Director); Dennis Makokha (Graduate Assistant); and Jessica Fultz (MSW Student Intern). Bottom Row L to R: Emily Martin (BSW Student Intern); and Rebecca Redd (MSW Student Intern).*



### **Communication Disorders UFT Attend Alumni Event**

Dr. John Bonaguro met with the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) alumni on August 13 in New York City. Since its establishment in 2002, there have been more than 120 UFT speech teachers graduate from the UFT Cohort in New York City. The UFT is supported by the Department of Communication Disorders.

For more information on the Communication Disorders UFT Cohort, please click [here](#).



## **Congratulations**

Dr. Gary Villereal, Associate Professor of Social Work, recently published: *Education Unplugged: Teaching in a Positive Learning Environment*. This book is co-authored with Sharon Simmons. The book discusses how the model of a positive learning environment for the classroom engages students to take ownership for their learning and to learn in a style that is most advantageous for them rather than in a way the teacher determines. The book provides a step by step process of student learning and helps readers move toward a comprehensive environment to promote better learning.

Dr. Villereal's article, "A Research /Scholarly Paper Outline" was also published. This paper provides a specific outline that is used to create, implement, and write a research/scholarly paper. The content of the paper is applicable for all levels of academic research. The article was published in the book *It Works For Me: Becoming A Publishing Scholarly/Researcher*.

## **CHHS Graduate installed as President of the AADE**

Deborah Filliman, a WKU graduate, has been appointed as the President of the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE). Filliman earned both her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Master of Science in Institutional Home Environment from WKU. She is currently the Public Health Director for the Green River District Health Department in Owensboro. To find more information about Deborah Fillman & the AADE, please click [here](#).



### **CHHS Nursing Instructor offers comments on childhood immunizations**

The WKU Public Radio recently aired a story regarding childhood immunizations. School of Nursing instructor, Deanna Hanson, offered comments that were featured in the story. Hanson, who teaches Pediatric Nursing courses for WKU, described in the clip the negative consequences of delaying or forgoing vaccinations. “Anyone who’s around a child with the disease is a potential victim of that disease also. It could be contagious and spread to other children.”

To listen to the clip in its entirety, please click [here](#).