

## {SHM}



### SHM faculty attend national health conference

Full-time faculty of the Master's in Public Health Program attended the National Rural Health Association's 16th Annual Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference, "Health: Wellness and Equity," in December in Tucson.

From left to right are Assistant Professor **David L. Denali, Ph.D.;**

Assistant Professor **Mary-Katherine Sanchez Smith, Dr.P.H.;** Professor and Chair **Michael E. Samuels, Dr.P.H.;** Assistant Professor **Susan B. Randers, Ph.D.;** and Professor **V. James Guillory, D.O., M.P.H.**

Drs. Denali, Sanchez Smith, and Randers comprised the research panel "Rural Border Emergency Preparedness: Organization, culture competence, and practical application." Dr. Samuels served as moderator.

## {ATSU}

### Aging Project gets new leadership

**Janet Head, Ed.D.,** is now director of the ATSU Aging Project for the Kirksville Campus, and **Elton Bordenave, M.Ed.,** assumes the same position on the Mesa campus.

Drs. Head and Bordenave are responsible for coordinating outreach programs and activities linking students with community elders and establishing links to community agencies that serve older populations in their respective communities.

The new directors are also responsible for interdisciplinary training for team approaches to elderly healthcare, as well as coordinating the campuses' annual Lecture on Aging. Both will report

to Michael Creedon, D.S.W., ATSU chairman for Aging Programs.

The ATSU Board of Trustees established a Geriatrics Initiative several years ago to foster activities and training in the realm of elderly care, in response to the aging American population. These positions will provide additional leadership to continue to grow the program.

"It is my pleasure to appoint Drs. Head and Bordenave as directors of the ATSU Aging Project," said ATSU President Jack Magruder. "Much has been achieved over the years, but a stronger leadership capability is needed as we continue to develop our programs in this field. The appointment of these directors signals our commitment."

## {ASDOH}

### Blue Spruce honored with national volunteer award

**George Blue Spruce Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.,** assistant dean for American Indian affairs and ASDOH assistant professor, is the recipient of the 2010 Oral Health America Marvin Goldstein Outstanding Volunteer Award. Dr. Blue Spruce was presented with the award in September in Washington, D.C., at the Capitol Visitor's Center. The award ceremony was part of an event held on Capitol Hill in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the Surgeon General's *Report on Oral Health in America*.

Dr. Blue Spruce was selected for the award for his dedicated volunteer leadership in improving the oral health of the American Indian people and for inspiring American Indians to enter and become leaders in the dental and allied health professions. He is the first recognized

American Indian dentist, the first American Indian to hold the position of Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, and also the founder of the Society of American Indian Dentists.

"I am humbled and honored to be recognized by such an esteemed organization as Oral Health America," said Dr. Blue Spruce. "As the first recognized American Indian dentist, and looking back to see how very few natives there were following in my footsteps, it became my challenge and passion to serve as a role model and leader, letting American Indian people know that there is an opportunity and a pathway to ultimate success as a leader in dental healthcare for American Indian people."

In addition to presenting the Marvin Goldstein Award, Oral Health America will place a brick in Dr. Blue Spruce's honor in the courtyard of the Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore, Md.

## {KCOM}

### Snider named Researcher of the Year

**Karen Snider, D.O.,** OMM chair, is a co-recipient of the 2011 Sigma Xi Researcher of the Year award, selected on the basis of outstanding accomplishments in scientific research.

### Faculty present at national conference

At the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine held in Houston in January, several faculty members made presentations, including **Margaret Wilson, D.O.;** **Patricia Sexton, D.H.Ed.;** **Jeffrey Suze-wits, D.O.;** **Michelle Colen, M.D.;** and **John George, Ph.D.**

Topics included humanities in medicine, improving students' performance with remedial intervention, training standard patients in physical exam skills, making the most out of preceptorships, the impact of the undergraduate medical education curriculum on student professional development, making difficult patients and difficult topics easier, completing whole person healthcare by increasing oral health education for medical students, and examining clinical reasoning through authentic assessment.

## {ASHS}



### Gunder named PA of the year

The Association of Family Practice Physician Assistants (AF-

PPA) and *ADVANCE* magazine has named **Laura Gunder, D.H.Sc., MHE, PA-C,** the Family Practice PA of the year.

Dr. Gunder received her award in Colorado at AFPPA's 12th Annual Fall CME Conference and Exhibition. While she is grateful for this honor, she hopes to turn attention toward the needs of rural residents in need of good medical care.

Dr. Gunder is director of research and faculty development for the Physician Assistant program at the Medical College of Georgia and serves on adjunct faculty in ATSU-ASHS' Doctor of Health Sciences Program while practicing rural medicine in Ridge Spring, S.C.