

The Tobacco Use Prevention in Rutherford County project seeks to reduce the initiation of tobacco use among youth, promote cessation of tobacco products among youth and adults, and decrease exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.



*Students from Rutherford County high schools develop youth-led programs in tobacco use prevention (including “Puff, the dragon” shown here). At right is chairholder Dr. Jo Edwards.*

## ADAMS CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE SERVICES

The faculty and students make a wealth of quiet contributions toward better health care, more effective crime prevention, and promotion of physical and mental health standards.

by Martha Jo Edwards

The late Dr. Carl Adams and Mrs. Jenny Mae Adams clearly understood that the delivery of healthcare and human services poses complex challenges. Throughout their extensive careers providing healthcare to middle Tennessee residents, they knew that these challenges might begin with the individual but ultimately affect public policy and the social structure of the entire community. Dr. Adams's concern for the quality and quantity of healthcare professionals to address these concerns led him to establish the Adams Chair of Excellence in HealthCare Services in 1988. This chair was created to provide a platform for MTSU to engage an interdisciplinary group of scholars in partnership with the community to forge solutions to these challenges.

Dr. Adams raised the question of how the University could maximize the opportunities for continued growth and development in the health and human service professions and provided the funds to establish the chair as his response. Mrs. Adams and the Adams Family Foundation continue to honor his concern for the healthcare of the citizens in middle Tennessee.

Martha Jo Edwards, Ed.D., was selected as chairholder of the Adams Chair of Excellence in 1992. Edwards is an accomplished educator and researcher. She sits on national and international journal review boards and was recently tapped by the research review panel to allocate research dollars for higher education in the United Kingdom, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. As associate dean she assisted Kuwait and Bahrain in program development for their universities to enhance the health workforce, living in Kuwait for two years to accomplish these tasks.

Through her leadership and the guidance of an advisory group, the Tennessee Board of Regents formally approved the Center for Health and Human Services for MTSU in 1993. The Adams Chair directs the center to enhance the health and human services educational programs at MTSU through the efforts of an interdisciplinary community of scholars and to stimulate interactive research within the academic and broader community. The goal is to encourage quality education, research, and service programs to meet the needs of middle Tennessee's medical, health, and human services community.

Departments and programs affiliated with the center consist of those that prepare graduates in health and/or human services. The programs are a coalition of academic units that vary in focus but share the common goal of preparing the health and human services workforce in Tennessee. These programs have been an integral part of the University for many years and include

- Aging Studies Program
- Communication Disorders Program
- Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Safety
- Department of Human Sciences
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Social Work
- Graduate Studies in Gerontology and HealthCare Management
- Preprofessional Medical Programs
- School of Nursing

Edwards has focused on developing both internal and external partnerships with the University. The center collaborates with MTSU faculty, public agencies, and private not-for-profit organizations to develop and implement programs designed to improve the health of the middle and greater Tennessee community. The following are among the center's recent projects:

- *Death Scene Investigation Project.* This initiative partners the center, MTSU's Audio-Visual Services, and Continuing Studies with the Tennessee Medical Examiner and the Departments of Health and Children's Services to produce a statewide training program for investigating sudden, unexpected infant death. The program trains first responders such as EMTs, law enforcement, and firefighters. Edwards is the principal investigator.
- *Smart Mothers Are Resisting Tobacco (S.M.A.R.T. Moms).* This program promotes smoking cessation in pregnant women throughout the state of Tennessee. The program provides training for and stresses the importance of the healthcare provider in encouraging smoking cessation at an important decision point in a woman's life. Funded by the March of Dimes at the national level, this program is cosponsored by the center and the Tennessee Chapter of the March of Dimes in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) offices throughout the state. Edwards is the principal investigator.
- *Tobacco Use Prevention in Rutherford County.* This project seeks to reduce the initiation of tobacco use among youth, promote cessation of tobacco products among youth and adults, and decrease exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. Funded by the Tennessee Department of Health, this project teams MTSU and center staff with Rutherford County youth, schools, and

**Dr. Adams raised the question of how the University could maximize opportunities for continued growth and development in the human service and health professions and provided the funds to establish the chair as his response.**

continued on page 16

**This three-year initiative developed a sustainable environmental management program of informal settlements and a health outreach program in HIV/AIDS prevention in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.**



*In the South Africa Squatter Settlement Research project, one of the crucial subjects entrusted to peer educators is the importance of simple hygiene, including washing hands in clean water.*

*continued from page 15*

youth-based and health-related volunteer organizations. Edwards is the principal investigator.

- *Tobacco Use Prevention among Minority Youth.* This project focuses on preventing the initiation of tobacco use among minority youth by promoting youth advocacy and empowerment and through public awareness campaigns. The center has partnered with the MTSU College of Mass Communication and the Rutherford County faith-based community through a grant with the Tennessee Department of Health. Teresa Mastin, Ph.D., journalism, is the principal investigator.
- *Community Diabetes Control Program.* This program, developed in 2001 by the Primary Care and Hope Clinic (PCHC) in Murfreesboro, focused its first efforts on reaching the Hispanic community in Rutherford County. The center, in partnership with the PCHC, the Rutherford County Wellness Council, the faith-based community, and the Kleervu Lunchroom restaurant continued the program for 2002-03 by developing a diabetes educational program for the African American community at high risk for diabetes. The Tennessee Department of Health funds this project. Principal investigator is Dianne A. R. Bartley, Ph.D, health, physical education, recreation, and safety.
- *Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.* The Tennessee Department of Health, through a grant with the Centers for Disease Control, contracts with the center to evaluate the statewide Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and to develop special programs for communities at risk in upper East Tennessee. Principal investigators are Drs. Norman L. Weatherby and Peggy O'Hara-Murdock, health, physical education, recreation, and safety.
- *Allied Health Report.* The center produces a report entitled "Allied Health in Tennessee: A Supply and Demand Study," which examines the supply and demand for various health care personnel in the state. The first report was published in 1993; a second edition was produced in 2000. The center is currently working on the third edition, to be published in the fall of 2003. The report is funded by the Tennessee Hospital Association Center for Health Workforce Development in Tennessee.
- *Health Sciences Teacher Preparation.* Edwards serves on the Tennessee Department of Education Advisory Board for Health Sciences and Technology, which helps students in high and middle schools explore health career options.
- *Center for Health Resource Development.* Center staff partnered with the Tennessee Hospital Association and the Tennessee Hospital Education and Research Foundation to launch the Center for Health Workforce Development (CHWD), designed to increase recruitment and retention of health-care professionals and help ease the workforce shortage in the state. The CHWD is

funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- *Work Force Data Collaborative Project.* Edwards serves on this project to design a national database for allied health information, identify existing and planned data collection efforts, and develop needed study instruments. The project is administered by the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions and funded by the Bureau of Health Professions in the U.S. Public Health Service.
- *Coordinated School Health Partnership.* An outgrowth of MTSU's Academic Master Plan, this is an interdisciplinary response to preparing graduates to address health issues in a coordinated fashion in the school setting. Faculty in elementary and special education, health, physical education, nutrition, communication disorders, social work, and school psychology have worked closely with the Tennessee Department of Education and Centers for Disease Control to direct a Health and Physical Activity Institute and hold statewide and local conferences.

The center's international projects include the following:

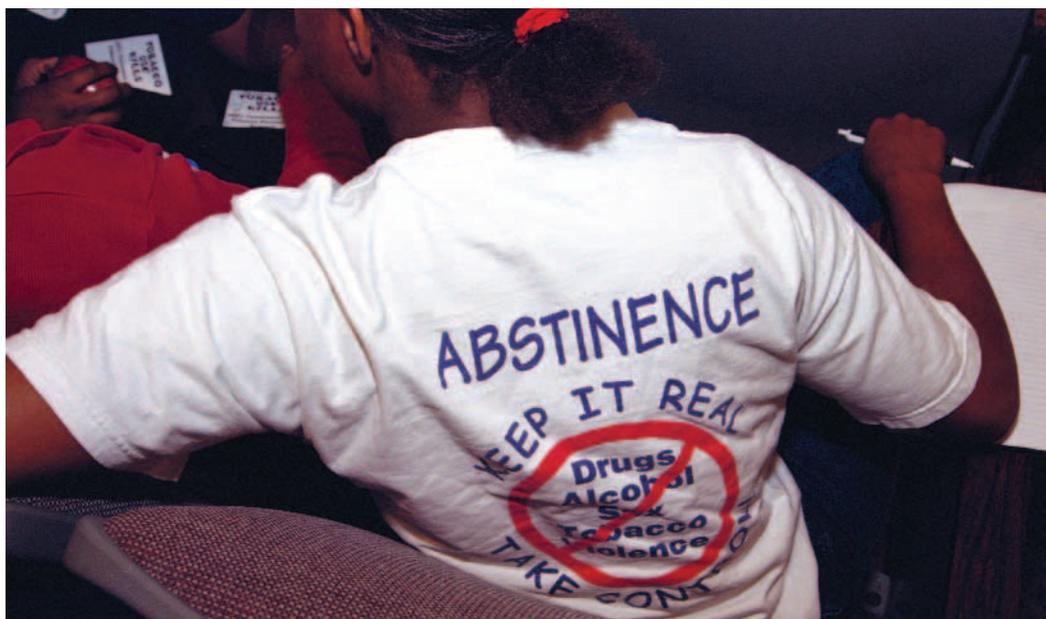
- *Nationalizing the Health Workforce in the Middle East.* Edwards worked with the College of Allied Health Science and Nursing at Kuwait University to develop programming in the allied health sciences, nursing, and medicine. This initiative attempts to help Kuwait prepare its citizens to work in the health workforce, reducing its reliance on expatriate professionals.

- *South Africa Squatter Settlement Research.* This project, administered through the MTSU Geosciences Department, includes geosciences, health, nursing, and industrial studies faculty as well as Dr. Edwards. Conducted by MTSU in partnership with the University of Durban-Westville, South Africa, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, this three-year initiative developed a sustainable environmental management program of informal settlements and a health outreach program in HIV/AIDS prevention in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The Liaison Office for University Cooperation and Development, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the White House Education for Development and Democracy Initiative funded this research. Principal investigator was Hari P. Garbharran, Ph.D., geosciences.

The programs affiliated with the Center for Health and Human Services at MTSU are dedicated to being important regional, national, and international resources. Faculty members affiliated with the center are experienced and published educators who have already established careers in the fields in which they teach. They and the center, directed by the Adams Chair of Excellence in HealthCare Services, are committed to excellence in all that they undertake: educating exceptional students in health and human services and improving the health, welfare, and quality of life of the citizens of Tennessee and beyond. ■

*Martha Jo Edwards holds the Adams Chair of Excellence in HealthCare Services.*

**Edwards has worked with the College of Allied Health Science and Nursing at Kuwait University to develop programming in the allied health sciences, nursing, and medicine.**



*The chair sponsors an HIV prevention program.*