

Regional Early Career Service Recognition
Nominated by Alpha Zeta Chapter

Andrew ("Andy") B. Crocker
6500 Amarillo Boulevard West
Amarillo, Texas 79106
ABCrocker@ag.tamu.edu



EDUCATION:

- 2002 M.S. (Gerontology), Baylor University, Waco, Texas
- 2001 B.A. (Biology), Baylor University, Waco, Texas

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

- 2003 Extension Program Specialist - Gerontology Health

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Professional Associations:

- Alpha Zeta Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi - 2003-present
- Amarillo VA Healthcare System – Research and Development Committee, 2003-Present
- District 01 Information and Technology Committee, 2003-present
- Family Development and Resource Management Web and Computer Committee, 2003-present
- Texas 4-H Center Advisory Committee, 2004-present
- Gerontological Society of America, 2001-present
- Texas Association of Aging Programs, 2001-present
- Sigma Phi Omega, 2001-present
- Texas Cooperative Extension Specialists Association, 2003-present

Leadership Positions:

- Alpha Zeta Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi - District 01 Chapter Director, 2005-present; Co-director 2004-2005
- Texas Cooperative Extension Specialists Association - District 01 Director, 2003-present

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Amarillo Area Breast Health Coalition (AABHC) - Due to age associated risk factors, Andy has been an active member of AABHC since he began work in 2003. According to the National Cancer Institute, women have a significantly higher chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer as they grow older. Women ages 60-79 have a 1 in 13 chance of being diagnosed; a 1 in 9 chance as women approach age 90. AABHC works in the counties of the Texas Panhandle to educate women of all ages about breast health. Andy has been almost solely responsible for obtaining grants totaling \$20,000.00 from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to further this cause. Through partnerships with Texas Cooperative Extension and other organizations, AABHC has reached nearly 2,400 women in the Texas Panhandle during the last two years.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Recent census data have stated that Texas ranks second in the nation in having grandparent-headed households. The census noted that more than 600,000 children in Texas have grandparents as caregivers. Andy represents Texas Cooperative Extension with the Austin-based Texas Kincare Taskforce. This joint venture between the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Texas Legal Services Center and the Area Agencies on Aging of Texas, works to provide information and resources to grandparents raising their grandchildren and other relative caregivers across the State of Texas. As such, Andy has developed the website for the group in order to facilitate distribution of information and to serve as a clearinghouse for educational materials. In 2004, Andy worked with El Paso County Extension and was successful in receiving a \$76,000.00 grant from the Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging

to conduct a needs assessment among grandparent caregivers in El Paso County. He has conducted workshops for grandparents across the state and is contacted frequently from other states attempting to start a kincare support program.

Living With Change - In late 2004, Andy was contacted by the North Central Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to implement a \$10,000.00 grant from the MetLife Foundation aimed at providing Alzheimer's Disease education to three rural Texas counties. Andy developed a 4-hour seminar on Alzheimer's Disease illustrating the nature of Alzheimer's Disease, the societal costs of the disease, therapies for persons with Alzheimer's Disease, resources for caregivers and best practices to facilitate life with the disease. The program was approved for continuing education credits for Registered Nurses, Licensed Social Workers and Long-term Care Administrators. The program was so successful that the Alzheimer's Association received \$5,000.00 in additional funding to host two more programs in rural counties.

Master of Memory - Andy is the author of a six-lesson series intended to help improve memory in older adults entitled "Master of Memory." This program addresses issues of learning styles, memory strategies, nutrition, medications, medical conditions and exercise. Audience members participate in hour sessions filled with information and interactive activities aimed at promoting their understanding of the subject matter. The program was piloted in 15 counties in the North Region during 2005 with the expectation that it will be available across the state in 2006. Attendees reported significant improvement in knowledge and behavior as well as intention to alter their behaviors with regard to their memory practices.

Surfing the Web - One of Andy's main interests is making older adults more comfortable accessing information on the Internet. He has developed an on-line course intended to improve knowledge and skills related to web browsing and finding reliable information on the web, especially health information. Andy has conducted "Surfing the Web 101" several times in various counties throughout the Panhandle. Attendees report having greater knowledge of web services as well as improved ability to find credible information on the web. In 2005, he was asked to develop "Surfing the Web 102" to help those who considered themselves "more advanced" learn new skills related to the Internet. That program, too, was a great success.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

Andy Crocker's knowledge of gerontological issues has provided a positive source of information and programming for agents from the panhandle to the southern border. His innovative programming for older Americans targeting health issues; grandparents raising grandchildren, and technology education have seen great success throughout Texas and is filtering into neighboring states. Andy Crocker has definitely set a high quality of achievement for an Early Career nominee.