

Inside The Academy

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In this issue, **Inside the Academy** profiles Dr Michael E. Young, university professor, program in health sciences at the University of Arkansas, where he has provided 24 years of service in teaching and research. Dr Young earned a PhD degree from Texas A&M University, having previously received a MEd from the University of Arkansas and a BA from Southwest Baptist College. Although a longtime "Razorback," Dr Young spent 2 early career years as a member of the Auburn University faculty.

Young is the author or coauthor of more than 275 publications, including peer-reviewed research articles, abstracts, and reviews. He is a recognized scholar in the area of adolescent health, especially sexuality education and substance abuse education. His research papers and published curricula have been cited widely by scholars and governmental agencies, including the Office of the United States Surgeon General, and the popular press. Despite carrying a full complement of undergraduate and graduate courses as a professor, Dr Young has served as coordinator of the University of Arkansas' Program in Health Sciences and is director of the health education projects office. He has secured more than \$3.3 million in extramurally funded grants and contracts.

Although the *American Academy for Health Behavior* is pleased to have Dr Young counted among those researchers who were founding members of the *Academy* and those who have attained "Fellow" status, the *AAHB* is certainly not the first organization to recognize his extensive contributions. As director of the Arkansas Family Life Education Project, he has seen this project gain special recognition on 5 separate occasions from the United States Department of Health and Human Services for outstanding work in community health promotion. He has twice been presented with the Research Award by the College of

Education at the University of Arkansas (1983 and 1987) as well as the College's teaching award (1990) and received the University's Alumni Association Award for Research and Public Service (1991). In 2003, Dr Young was given the College of Education and Health Professions Inaugural Award for Career Achievement, and, in 1994, the American School Health Association recognized Dr Young with its first ever Award for Outstanding Contributions to Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Prevention. He is the American Association for Health Education's 2004 Distinguished Scholar.

Dr Young's publication record now spans 4 decades, with topics ranging in diversity from the effects of anabolic steroids on albino rats to the relationship between self-esteem and sexual behavior among adolescents. Whereas many researchers' work addresses itself simply to other researchers, this superior publication record has gained the attention of fellow researchers, other academicians, politicians, clergy, and the general public. The numerous students whose professional lives he has touched through the years regard him as a tireless worker and an outstanding mentor. To his peers he is simply known as a motivating and inspiring colleague. In summary, through bold and sometimes controversial research, Dr Young has advanced our knowledge of health behaviors, especially those of children and youth, as well as our ability to provide responsive educational programs and teacher training initiatives. As a final note, Dr Young's experience is not restricted to academic research. He spent 3 years as a collegiate head baseball coach, directing ballplayers in the way that he has long inspired students. Despite an impressive record of research and scholarship that ranks him highly among his peers, Dr Young is first and foremost a teacher and torchbearer and keeper of the flame that ignites other health education professionals with whom he comes into contact. Dr Young has achieved a mark of excellence that is equaled by only a few, and it is with the utmost respect that we acknowledge his achievements **Inside the Academy**.

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