

Featured Alum: Dr. Sam Downing, Prescott Area Leadership's Man of the Year

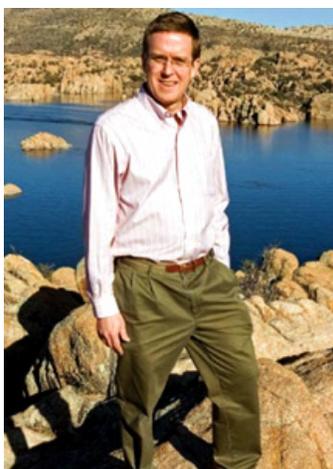
Years Attended: 1989-1998

Area of Study: Gerontology

Email: sdown103@instructor.yc.edu

MAN OF THE YEAR - Downing Praised by Peers

As written up in The Daily Courier, Monday, April 6, 2009 by T.M. Shultz. Photo: Matt Hinshaw.



Prescott Area Leadership's Man of the Year for 2009 award goes to Dr. Sam Downing, a former family practice doctor here from 1989 to 1998.

Downing also was medical director for Yavapai Regional Medical Center's Hospice and Home Care Services and for Northland Cares HIV Clinic.

This isn't his first award.

Downing received YRMC's Nate Goff award this past December. YRMC established that award to honor staff physicians who consistently demonstrate excellence in providing end-of-life care. Downing said receiving both awards has been an honor. "And I'm thrilled for the other award winners, too," he said of the Prescott Area Leadership awards.

Downing is the medical director at the Good Samaritan Society Prescott Home Health and Hospice, a staff physician at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Wellness Center for students, a part-time instructor at Yavapai College's Gerontology Department, and he also fills in for a local pediatrician.

"The variety is wonderful," Downing said.

Downing said his favorite population to work with is seniors, although "clearly college students are the most unpredictable." Downing said the two greatest health problems in the Prescott area are smoking related illnesses and dementia. "We still don't have great treatments (for dementia), and it puts immense pressure on caregivers," Downing said.

Colleagues say Downing is a consummate professional who is a pleasure to work with.

"He has a great sense of humor," said Sandy Palmer, director of the ERAU's Wellness Center. "He's great to work with, and the student's love him and respect his judgment."

Palmer said Downing is passionate about his work.

"You learn a lot from his experience, and when he's with a patient, they feel like they're the only person on earth," she added.

Paula Kneisl, executive director of the Good Samaritan Society, agreed that Downing is deserving of the Man of the Year honor. "He's very committed to his profession and his patients and to the folks he works with," Kneisl said.