

2000 HA NEWS

Vol. 3

Southwest Texas State University HEALTH ADMINISTRATION Preparing Tomorrow's Healthcare Leaders

From the HA Alumni President—

It is a pleasure to introduce the latest edition of the HA NEWS. I hope that you and your families had an opportunity for a restful vacation this summer. Let's hope and pray for rain and cool Fall temperatures.

As members of the HA Alumni Association, we can all look back to the opportunities we had at SWT to further our education. But, we also realize that our world is rapidly changing, and for those of us who graduated in the early days of the program, many things have changed.

We are in an exciting and rewarding profession, but we must continue learning in order to be effective healthcare leaders. Whether we are members of ACHE, HFMA, MGMA, or some other professional society, continuing education is vital. We are constantly bombarded with new information through journals, e-mail, newsletters, and every other medium. Our professional societies can help us sort through all the information and focus where we need to be.

Continuing education also includes networking with other professionals. Again, our professional societies are a good source for networking. Networking with other professionals offers a rich resource of new ideas, affirmation of current thoughts and practices, and encouragement in these challenging times. Like most of you, I can point to several individuals in my career who helped me learn and grow as a professional. Networking with a mentor, both inside and outside my organization, has been invaluable. I consider it a honor today when given the opportunity to serve as a mentor to any of the bright and eager young people who have chosen our profession. Perhaps it is a way of saying thanks to all those who have helped me over the years.

We have all received a good start (or perhaps jump-start!) in our careers by our graduation from the HA program at SWT. Let's continue to build on that education through continuous learning, networking, and mentoring to those who will follow us.

Finally, I wish you and your families a successful year ahead and congratulations to our 2000 Outstanding Alumnae—the Van Slykes!

*Dick Sweeden, MSHP '78, FACHE
Executive Director
Scott & White Memorial Hospital*

You're Invited!

SWT HA
Faculty & Staff
and the
Student Chapter of ACHE

cordially invite alumni, students and
friends to the

Fifth Annual
HA Conference

Friday, October 27, from 1-5
in the LBJ Student Center Ballroom

and

Fourth Annual
HA Alumni Banquet

Friday, October 27, from 6-9
in the LBJ Student Center Ballroom

to award the
2000 Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., Award
for Outstanding HA Alumni
to

Dr. Nancy Van Slyke, MS '76
Associate Professor and Academic Clinical
Coordinator of Occupational Therapy,
University of South Alabama
and

Mr. Robert Van Slyke, MS '77
President,
Baptist Health Affiliates,
Pensacola, Florida

RSVP by October 20
(form enclosed)

Printed and distributed by the generosity of Scott & White Memorial Hospital

HA Conference

The fifth annual HA Conference will be held Friday, October 27 from 1-5 in the new LBJ Student Center Ballroom. Featured speakers include

1--Mike Waters, FACHE
National Chairman, ACHE
President of Hendrick Medical Center
ACHE and Its Environment

2--Robert Van Slyke, MS '77, FACHE
President, Baptist Health Affiliates

Nancy Van Slyke, MS '76, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of Occupational
Therapy, University of South Alabama
Perspectives on Customer Service

3--Jeff Turner, MS '75
President, University Health System
*Some Personal Advice to CEO
Wannabe's*

4--Alfred D. Gilchrist, MSHP '84
Director of Public Affairs,
Texas Medical Association
*Meltdown versus Showdown:
Where Does Healthcare Policy Fit
Between the Presidential Election
and Legislative Redistricting*

2000 HA Alumni Directory--

The 2000 edition of the SWT HA Alumni Directory goes on sale at the HA Alumni Banquet and will be free for alumni donating \$25 or more to any one of the following tax-deductible funds. Alumni, students, and friends of the Department can purchase the Directory for \$15.

Herkimer Fund for Outstanding Alumni

Noone Fund for Outstanding Undergraduate Students

Rappaport Fund for Outstanding Graduate Students

Winfield Scholarship Fund

SWT--HA Alumni Fund

From the Chair--

Another productive year has passed for the Department of Health Administration. Terrific events have occurred since the 1999 HA NEWS was published, too many to recognize everyone and everything here, but permit me to highlight a few of them.

Our Outstanding Alumni Award, the Herkimer Award, was most recently awarded to Jeff Turner, MSHP '75, President and CEO of the University Health System in San Antonio, at the 1999 Alumni Banquet in San Antonio last October. We are proud of Jeff, not only for achievements in leading one of the most prestigious medical centers in the United States, but also as a distinguished alumnus who represents our graduate program so well. Congratulations Jeff!

Kimberly M. Hrehor, MHA '00, was awarded the Bernard Rappaport Award as this year's Outstanding Graduate Student. As you know, the Rappaport Award is made to the individual who best represents the ideals of scholarship, community service, and participation in health administration professional activities. Certainly Kim met those criteria, for which we are very pleased for her, but she also became a Mom while holding down a full-time job and working towards a degree! Kim, you are terrific!

Our latest recipient of the John B. Noone Award for the Outstanding Undergraduate Student is Paul Crews. Paul, a U.S. Navy veteran, not only excelled with high academic achievement, he also served as President of the SWT Student Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Paul wants to be an Aggie; he is pursuing a graduate degree at Texas A&M.

Speaking of the ACHE Student Chapter, the turnout of chapter members at the 2000 ACHE Congress on Healthcare Management in Chicago was superb. Over a dozen undergraduate students represented themselves, the program, and SWT, very well indeed, in their roles as program assistants and Congress attendees. During the Congress

chapter members attended the SWT HA Alumni Dinner at the Alumni Club, downtown Chicago, where they met SWT HA interns and residents, faculty, and alumni including Mr. and Mrs. Dick Sweeden, our Alumni President. We hope to have at least as many participate in 2001!

Our doctoral program proposal is picking up speed. The formal proposal should be going to University President Jerry Supple by the end of this year. He has been one of our strongest supporters at SWT, so we expect that the proposal will go on to the Board of Regents, and the Texas Coordinating Board by mid-Spring 2001. If all goes well, we can look forward to recruiting our first group of doctoral students in 2002!

I have some not so pleasant news to share for those of us who thought that Associate Professor Yvonne Khouri would continue to serve our programs so well, forever. Ms. Khouri's 22 years of dedicated, unselfish, and excellent service to our programs, our students, and to the university, will change with her retirement at the end of the Fall Semester, 2000. Ms. Khouri will be missed as one who has touched and blessed the hearts of thousands of students. All of us wish her well in her retirement.

And just when I thought we could look forward to all of our faculty returning for the Fall Semester for the third straight year, some more unpleasant news broke. In June, two of our newest faculty announced that they would not return: Dr. Tina Fields moved to an AHEC director's job in Colorado, and Dr. Tim Brady accepted a position with the Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in San Francisco. Both Tina and Tim assured us that their moves had nothing to do with the workload here at SWT or the relationships they enjoyed with the students and faculty (including me), but rather had more to do with better opportunities. We wish them well. Their departure leaves big holes to fill; they are among the "good guys" who we can never replace. I send them my

best wishes.

I am always impressed with the superior skills and attitudes of the HA student body and the excellence of our program faculty. Together, they work toward a bright future for everyone they touch. I am proud to be part of this group of high achievers, whether on campus or anyone in the world our alumni are located.

Please take a look at your calendar and block out the 27th. I hope to see you at the HA Conference and Alumni Banquet.

*Wayne B. Sorensen, PhD, FACHE
Chair of Health Administration*

From the HA Faculty--

Oren Renick received continued funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant for the Mutual Adoption Pact (MAP). MAP, an intergenerational service-learning program, was selected for the Presidential Seminar at SWT in April 2000. Oren presented a paper on baseball and intergenerational alliances at the Baseball Hall of Fame in June 2000. The paper will be published in a book next Spring. Oren was recently elected to the Board of the Interfaith Caregivers Alliance based in Kansas City. And Oren continues to serve SWT's College of Health Professions as a Faculty Senator, representing faculty interests in the University.

Dr. Burke and Dr. Summers, along with graduate assistant Tara Tompson, set out to understand the meaning of quality among direct patient care workers in long-term care settings. The trio visited several long-term care facilities and conducted focus groups using structured questionnaires while encouraging open-ended dialogue. They will present their research results September 28 in Dallas.

Dr. Summers' research on the use of matrices as a tool in assessment of how well the curriculum is meeting its goals is currently under review by one of the leading educational administration journals.

Dr. Nowicki is working on the second edition of his best-selling book The Financial Management of Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations, due out in the Fall of 2001. Dr. Nowicki and Steven Burger have recently signed a contract with Kendall/Hunt to publish Seawell's Introduction to Healthcare Accounting which will be distributed by HFMA. Dr. Nowicki and Paul Crews are working on a reputational study of baccalaureate programs in HA that they hope to publish in the Spring. Dr. Nowicki continues to serve on the national board of HFMA and has recently been appointed Chairman of the Chapter Services Council, which is comprised of 11 regional vice presidents representing 70 local HFMA chapters. Dr. Nowicki continues his work on HFMA's Board of Examiners, which is responsible for the certification process, and was recently appointed group leader for the core exam and Vice Chair of the Board. Dr. Nowicki gave presentations at the national meetings of both ACHE and HFMA and introduced comedian Gabe Kaplan at HFMA's Certification Luncheon during ANI in Orlando. Dr. Nowicki also continues to serve as expert witness in medical malpractice cases across the nation.



Undergraduate students Shawn Lyssy, Paul Crews, Trevor McCarthy, Fernando Rodriquez, and Sharon Yarbrough enjoy the break during the ACHE/HFMA joint meeting held at Trinity University in January..