

2003 HA NEWS

Texas State University--San Marcos HEALTH ADMINISTRATION Preparing Tomorrow's Healthcare Leaders

From the HA Alumni President—

As I reflect on the past year, I can tell you that retirement still agrees with me. To be honest, I haven't stayed completely retired, as I have done some consulting and have begun searching about for the opportunity to do more. Still, it has been more on my own schedule, leaving time for family and friends, volunteering in the community, and other enjoyable activities that allow me to stay in touch with peers. I am grateful for all of that.

When we met at the alumni banquet last year, who among us anticipated that the name of our University would change before we met again? Certainly the idea had been brought up from time to time, but I didn't think it would happen. And, again being honest, I was not one of the happy ones when I heard that the bill had passed and would be signed by the Governor. Texas State University--San Marcos, or simply Texas State [but not TSU], is not a bad name, all in all, but I didn't see the need for the change, and was therefore disappointed. However, it isn't the first time our University has changed its name, and may not be the last time.

I have come to accept that the change will occur, and at the same time, the aspects of our University that keep us involved will remain the same. Not only is the Department of Health Administration continuing to grow and to improve, and to graduate students who are well prepared for careers in health care, the same is true for our University in general. We can be proud of the superb academic programs at Texas State. I was privileged to join the Board of the University's Development Foundation this year, and at our last meeting, we were addressed by President Trauth regarding the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead for our University. Additionally, the deans of the various schools and colleges reported on the academic and research activities that are going on throughout the campus, and it is no wonder that enrollment continues to grow [Fall enrollment is projected to be 27,000], that alumni continue to be recognized professionally across the county, and that faculty continue to bring national recognition to our University. So, if you were in favor of the name change, you have already figured this out. If, like me, you preferred the old SWT, rest assured that the name may have changed, but Texas State is still one of the best educational opportunities in the land, and the new name will not detract from that. It will, in fact, enhance those opportunities.

YOU'RE INVITED!!!

HA Alumni Foundation
cordially invites alumni,
students and friends to the

Eighth Annual
HA Conference

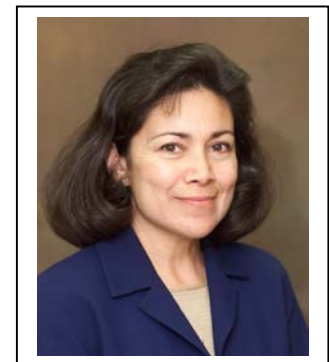
Friday, October 17, from 2-5
at the Holiday Inn Town Lake
in Austin

AND

Seventh Annual
HA Alumni Banquet

Friday, October 17, from 5-8
at the Holiday Inn Town Lake
in Austin

to award the
2003 Allen G. Herkimer, Jr.,
Award
for Outstanding HA Alumni
to
Mary Faria, MSHP '86, PhD,
FACHE
Vice President of Operations,
South Division
Seton Healthcare Network
Austin, Texas
RSVP by October 10 (form enclosed)



Continued from page 1

On another note, please take time to thank Dr. Wayne Sorensen for a job well done as your Department Chair over the last ten years. Wayne has done a great job ensuring our national prominence in ACEHSA and AUPHA. Wayne will continue in the Department as a respected teacher and researcher. Thanks, Wayne. Congratulations to Dr. Oren Renick as he assumes the role of Department Chair. Oren has been a respected member of the faculty since 1990, and has recently chaired the University's Faculty Senate and served on the Search Committee that brought President Trauth to the University. Please wish him well and offer assistance as he takes on this important role for us.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the HA Conference and Alumni Banquet on October 17, when we recognize Mary Faria as recipient of the Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., Award for Outstanding Alumni. Congratulations, Mary, and thanks for all your contributions to healthcare, and for representing Texas State and the Department of Health Administration so very well.

Dick Sweeden, MSHP '78, FACHE
HA Alumni Foundation President

Did You Know

- that copies of the **HA News** can be found on our website at www.health.swt/ha/HAnews?
- that the 2003 edition of the **HA Alumni Directory** includes a complete history of the Department of Health Administration?
- that the HA Alumni Foundation is a non-profit corporation and relies solely on proceeds from Directory sales and Conference registrations, as well as your donations, to exist?
- that you and/or your organization can sponsor the newsletter or a speaker at the HA Conference?

From the Department Chair(s)—

As the former Department Chair, I look back at the past ten years from the perspective of one who has received a rare and worthy gift: the opportunity to work closely with a group of talented, hardworking, dedicated faculty and staff. Together we have worked very hard to bring about the best possible healthcare administration educational experience to the people of Texas. I believe that success has occurred often in that regard. I am also very pleased to have worked with some of the finest and most dedicated healthcare professionals I have ever known: our alumni!

The future will bring continued success, I have no doubt. Professor Oren Renick moves into the Department Chair role as a distinguished leader, mentor, and intellectual. In his hands, your Department and your programs are secure and will prosper.

I again want to thank you and all who read these words for the support and good will I have received over the past decade. It has been wonderful, but I look forward to what I believe will be the best decade in our Department's history.

Wayne Sorensen, PhD, FACHE
Outgoing HA Department Chair

There is one primary reason why one should want to serve as HA Department Chair. It is the opportunity to work with the faculty. As a group, it is a collegial, professional, competent and committed whole. To further mold this body as a united team will result in excellence that will be a model for other academic departments. Of this potential, there can be no doubt.

Obviously, other secondary reasons abound as well. The University's name change to Texas State University--San Marcos, while controversial, places us at an unparalleled crossroads of opportunity to be recognized for what we have become-- a national institution of higher education. The name change has major implications,

for our Department, and we will seek ways to exploit each of them.

However, it is the inter-relationships built with students and alumni through the years that motivate us as a faculty to strive continuously for excellence. Your commitment to our profession and continuing involvement with our Department mean more than anything else. You represent our outcomes and the measure of our effectiveness. Finding new ways to be mutually beneficial to one another over time is essential. Please let us hear from you, and often.

More will be said and done later, but we truly want to extend our appreciation to Dr. Wayne Sorensen for serving as our Chair for the last ten years. We are thankful that he will be staying on as a faculty member. Now, if he can only find a way to deal with all the "stuff" he has accumulated during his time as your Chair. His new faculty office will not hold both Wayne and his "stuff". Until further notice, all his appointments will be held in our hallway!

Finally, rest assured that becoming HA Department Chair was not motivated by a desire to work in the bureaucratic and medieval structure of higher education. Please add the new HA Department Chair to all party lists.

Oren Renick, JD, MPH, FACHE
Incoming HA Department Chair



[Dr. Renick hard at work at his computer--looks like the faculty dress-code might be relaxed!]

About the HA Faculty--

Faculty continue to publish and present papers at state and national meetings which helps the Department improve its reputation and national exposure.

Dr. Burke was honored as Alpha Chi "Favorite Professor". He also has two collaborated works under review by Hospital Topics and the Texas Journal of Rural Health.

Dr. Summers was promoted to full professor bringing the number of full professors in the Department to five! Dr. Summers and Dr. Nowicki published two refereed articles in Healthcare Financial Management and one refereed article in Clinical Leadership and Management Review. They continued to write the "Management and Leadership" column for Healthcare Financial Management.

Dr. Nowicki was a finalist in the University's Presidential Award for Research Excellence competition. In addition to his work with Dr. Summers, Dr. Nowicki moderated two roundtables published in HealthLeaders: one on "Maximizing Reimbursement" and the other on the "Relationship Between Quality and Cost". Dr. Nowicki presented papers at HFMA's CFO Exchange in San Francisco and ACHE's Congress on Healthcare Management. Dr. Nowicki also continues presenting financial management workshops for ACHE presenting workshops in the following cities during the last year: Boston, Colorado Springs, Chicago, Snowbird, Hilton Head, and Orlando. Dr. Nowicki also provided key consulting and expert witness support in HCA's win in Smallwood v. HCA.



From the Alumni Coordinator--

First, a big round of congratulations to our own Jeff Turner, MS '75, who became THA Board Chairman at the June meeting of THA in Austin. Our Department had a booth in the Exhibit Hall and took the opportunity to note Jeff's accomplishment in "banner fashion"! The banner was given to Jeff that evening at a reception held in his honor.



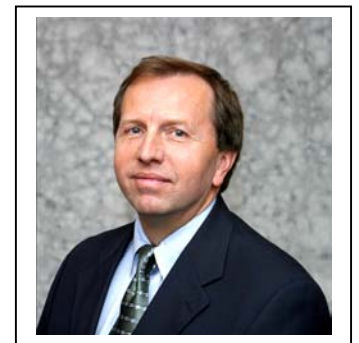
Jeff Turner and his son Matthew visit the SWT College of Health Professions booth during the THA Annual Meeting and Exhibit Show in Austin.



photo credit: Mark Greenberg

For the past five years or so, the newsletter has been printed and mailed with the financial assistance of a major gift (either in-kind services or a contribution of \$500 or more). This is the first year that no such gift was received. We would like to avoid the hassles of charging HA Alumni dues, but we can only do this if alumni support our existing revenue streams. Most of our revenue still comes from contributions to the HA Alumni Foundation. When you get the newsletter each year, please consider that as a reminder to send us a donation. We would much prefer every HA alumni donating a small amount rather than a few alumni donating large amounts. Also consider buying an HA Alumni Directory every few years. This year's edition has an exciting new cover and a complete history of the Department. And finally, consider attending the annual HA Conference and Alumni Banquet. This year's event, scheduled to be held in Austin on October 17, promises to be the best ever!

Michael Nowicki
HA Alumni Coordinator



This year's HA Conference will feature three presentations about healthcare's future. Russ Coile, nationally-recognized futurist and ranked #42 among the industry's most influential by Modern Healthcare, will present the industry perspective. Jeff Turner, President and CEO of the University Health System in San Antonio and THA's Chairman, will present the state perspective. And Preston Gee, Senior Vice President--Marketing and Business Development, for St. David's Health System in Austin, and popular author, will present the provider's perspective.