From the HA Alumni President -

Texas State has been under a Provost based organization structure for more than an year now, which places academic affairs at the center of the University's mission. Dr. Perry Moore, a native Texas and former Provost at Wright State University, assumed the combined positions of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in July, 2004.

For those of us accustomed to Healthcare Administration, think of the Provost as the Chief Operating Officer of a complex system. And perhaps the faculty can be likened to the medical staff. Obviously, Dr. Moore has a big job, and his helping to put academic affairs as the focal point for University priorities means Texas State will continue to move forward as a leading University in Texas and in the nation.

In that regard, Texas State has seen enrollment inch beyond the 27,000 figure first achieved in 2004, and 30,000 is now the magic number being discussed. Obviously, some of that growth comes about through the opening of the Round Rock campus this Fall, but the growing enrollment will be a managed growth. As it relates to the Department of Health Administration, Dr. Renick says that we will see a cap on the number of new graduate students admitted each year, and most likely will see the minimum GPA for undergraduates increased in the future.

The Graduate Certificate Program, first offered last fall, will likely be the initial Health Administration program to be offered in Round Rock.

We now have nine students who have completed their Certificate, with continuing interest being shown by others. For those not in a position to complete graduate school, this is an excellent alternative, and one which should work very well at the Round Rock Campus.

You are aware that both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Health Administration are externally accredited, which is worth boasting about, but given that "no good deed goes unpunished", the Department also was required to complete an Academic Program Review Self-Study last year. A Program Review Team will visit the Department in November, after having reviewed the 375 page Self-Study submitted by Dr. Renick and faculty. Dr. Renick believes that the Review Team will be able to make some meaningful recommendations for improvement.

Another major activity for the Department this Fall will be the consideration of seeking School status for Health Administration. This means lots more paperwork to be done, plus numerous meetings, I suspect, but what an accomplishment that would be! Add that to the external accreditations, and the already excellent reputation of the Department will just continue to grow. That would be something of which all students and alumni would be proud.

HA Conference and Awards Banquet to Change Focus

This year's HA Conference (our tenth!) and Awards Banquet (our ninth) will change the focus to celebrate the achievements of students, faculty and alumni. The HA Conference, which will be held October 28th in the LBJ Center from 2-5 will recognize some of our own outstanding students making presentations. HA students who have won awards in the past year will be invited to present the topics that helped earn them the award. The conference will be hosted by the Student Chapter of ACHE and all proceeds after expenses will go to the Chapter's travel fund to offset expenses for students attending ACHE's national meeting in Chicago in March.

This year's Awards Banquet will begin at 6 and follow the HA Conference and networking reception. In addition to recognizing the Department's Outstanding Alumni, the banquet will recognize faculty for awards received in the last year, students for awards received in the last year, and serve as the induction ceremony for our new health administration honor society--Upsilon Phi Delta. Graduate students with a 3.5 GPA in their first 21 hours in the major and undergraduate students with a 3.25 GPA in their first 21 hours in the major will be invited to be inducted.

We hope that you will come and be part of this new event.

The 2005 Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., Award for Outstanding HA Alumni will be presented to

Rick Marek, FACHE
President & CEO
Warm Springs Rehabilitation System
San Antonio, TX

- and -

Robert Haynes,
Administrator
Guadalupe Valley Regional Medical Center
Seguin, TX

RSVP by Friday, October 21
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Finally, the addition of a doctoral program in Health Administration remains a high priority, but it is not known at this time when the University will be ready to consider the proposal.

I hope many of you will be able to attend the Health Administration Conference and Awards Banquet in San Marcos on October 28, when the ninth annual Allen G. Herkimer Award for Outstanding Alumni will be presented. It is always a great opportunity to visit with faculty, alumni, and current students.

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

From the Department Chair -

My second year as Chair of HA has come to a close. It also marks my first year as Interim Chair of Health Services Research. Taken together, my commitment to serve as a Chair for no more than five years is as good as gold. Refreshingly, I have been able to practice participatory and autocratic management styles simultaneously. I think it is called responding to your environment. Thank goodness for our Most Valuable Player and staff associate, Ms. Julie Carroll.

We are ecstatic to have Dr. Philippa Streitlich join us as an Assistant Professor and begin her teaching duties. She received her Masters in Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin (Health Policy concentration) and her doctorate in Medical Anthropology from the Joint Program in Medical Anthropology at the Universities of California, Berkeley and San Francisco. Dr. Streitlich also has a Joint Appointment, the first at Texas State, with the Department of Anthropology.

Her current research explores the impact of the hospitalist system on the care of the uninsured and ethnic minorities in two Central Texas hospitals. She will be initially teaching our managed care courses. Dr. Streitlich is interested in research collaborations with both students and faculty.

Faculty accolades appear elsewhere in HA News, but Chair/Department faculty excellence nominations for 2004 were as follows:

Teaching - Dr. Jim Summers Service- Prof. Robert Mooney Research-Dr. Michael Nowicki

It has also been an outstanding year for HA students. Teresa Prigmore received our outstanding graduate student award. Lacy Johnson claimed the same distinction as our Department's outstanding undergraduate student.

From the Alumni Coordinator -

For the first five years or so, the newsletter had 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 second year that no such gift was received. Unless a major gift is received soon, we will distribute the newsletter electronically next year. In anticipation of this move, please send us your personal email address as soon as possible to hagradinfo@txstate.edu.

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. Plan to buy an HA Alumni Directory every few years. The HA lapel pin is also available. You can get both the pin and directory for $25. And finally, consider attending the annual HA Conference and Awards Banquet.

This year's event, scheduled for October 28 in San Marcos, will feature talks by some of our current outstanding students. Alumni honors will be presented to Rick Marek and Robert Haynes.

Another way alumni can help the Department is to donate regularly to their favorite endowed fund (see enclosure for a list of funds). While the Winfield Fund was established to provide travel expenses for students attending ACHE Congress in Chicago, we cannot use the interest until the fund reaches a minimum balance; therefore, we have added the Texas State Student Chapter of ACHE to the list—donations to the student chapter will be used for student travel.

Michael Nowicki
HA Alumni Coordinator

Oren Renick
HA Professor

Texas State University-San Marcos is a member of the Texas State University System.
Faculty continue to publish and present papers at state and national meetings which helps the Department improve its reputation and national exposure.

Dr. George Burke is collaborating with Dr. Eileen Morrison on the subject of meaning in health care occupations. Dr. Burke is also working on a paper with MHA alumnus Joseph Hale that compares modern warfare with the challenges of epidemiology and community health.

Dr. Robert Galloway is continuing his extensive work as Vice Chairman of the Board of the Guadalupe Valley Regional Medical Center in Seguin.

Prof. Robert Mooney and Ms. Jean Mooney have recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary (June 24, 1955). We proudly display their pictures in this issue. Prof. Mooney is continuing as Director of Undergraduate Studies. He was recently appointed to the AUPHA Undergraduate Program Committee.

Dr. Morrison spent her summer finishing final edits, a power point series, and teachers' manual for her new book, Ethics in Health Administration: A Practical Approach for Decision Makers. The book is published by Jones and Bartlett. She was also a presenter at the International Congress of Logotherapy held in Dallas. Dr. Morrison has also been appointed to the Board of Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital in Luling.

Dr. Michael Nowicki was nominated to the Medicare Payment Advisory Council by the American and Texas Hospital Associations. He was also the College's nominee for the President's Award for Outstanding Research. He recently published in HealthLeaders, HFM, and the Journal of Healthcare Management Education. Dr. Nowicki continues to make frequent presentations for organizations like the American College of Health care Executives. He is also the HFMA representative to the Healthcare Leadership Alliance.

Dr. Oren Renick continues to lead a University initiative on service-learning and civic engagement. He presented a paper on his research and work in this area at a humanities conference at Cambridge University this past summer. Dr. Renick published a related article in a recent issue of the Journal of Health Administration Education.

Dr. Wayne Sorensen recently received a third year grant award from the Department of Health and Human Services – Health Administration Traineeships. He was also recently named to the Standards Council of CAHME. He has participated in several accreditation site visits of HA departments for CAHME. Dr. Sorensen also serves our College as the Faculty Senator.

Dr. Jim Summers continues to write a column on leadership for the Healthcare Financial Management Journal. He had the lead article in a recent issue of the Journal of Practice Management addressing referrals and patient confusion and potential conflict with office staffs. Dr. Summers continues his summer quest to bike down the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico. He completed another leg (not broke another leg) of his journey this past summer.