

# 1999 HA NEWS

Vol. 2

Preparing Tomorrow's Healthcare Leaders

## *From the HA Alumni President—*

I am pleased once again to have the opportunity to address our alumni through this annual newsletter. I hope you find the HA NEWS to be informative and useful.

Hopefully, you are seeing the billboards and other publicity that SWT is receiving these days—recognizing the University as a center for academic excellence. Certainly one of the areas in which the University is excelling is the Department of Health Administration. With the undergraduate degree AUPHA-approved and the graduate degree ACEHSA-accredited, and a nationally recognized faculty, we can all be proud of our Department that has grown and developed over the years.

If you haven't had a chance to check out our web page yet, please take time to browse [www.health.swt.edu/HA](http://www.health.swt.edu/HA). While it is still in the early stages of development, you will find timely and positive information about our Department.

That brings me to an important point. The Department of Health Administration is our Department, and it needs our continued support. We can all look back to the experiences we had in the Department, Dr. Nowicki's finance case or Dr. Summers' computer work in planning, or the comprehensive exams, for instance, and then identify ways these experiences have helped us in our careers. I encourage you to look for opportunities to support the Department, whether it is by encouraging students to major in Health Administration, or by taking an intern or resident, or by donating to one of the Department's endowment funds, or by attending the upcoming alumni dinner.

I had the opportunity, and pleasure, of speaking to Dr. Burke's graduate capstone class last Spring, and I can tell you that today's students are bright, talented, and eager to learn and contribute. If you can find the time to interact with our students, either individually or collectively, I encourage you to do so.

Finally, I hope each of you had a good summer, and I wish you and your families a good year ahead. And CONGRATULATIONS to the 1999 HA Outstanding Alumni --Jeff Turner!

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

## You're Invited!

SWT HA  
Faculty & Staff  
and the  
Student Chapter of ACHE

cordially invite alumni and students to the

Third Annual  
HA Alumni Banquet

Friday, October 22, from 6 until 9  
at the Omni San Antonio

to award the  
1999 Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., Award  
for Outstanding HA Alumni  
to

Jeff Turner, MSHP '75  
Sr. Executive Vice President & COO  
University Health System  
San Antonio

RSVP by October 15  
(form enclosed)

The SWT Student Chapter of ACHE is planning their fourth annual Statewide Healthcare Conference entitled *Healthcare Administration: Today and Beyond* at the University of Texas Health Science Center Main Auditorium from 9 to 4 on Friday, October 22. Featured speakers include Joe DaSilva, Jon Hilsabeck, Dr. Geourgoulakis, and Donal Bonacci. Cost is \$15, which includes lunch. For additional information, see the ACHE Student Chapter webpage at [www.health.swt.edu/ACHE](http://www.health.swt.edu/ACHE) or call Tori Pitts, Conference Coordinator at 512-899-9524.

### *Friends we will miss--*

Mike Jones, MSHP '90, was killed in a tragic car accident on October 18, 1998. We'll always remember Mike's positive attitude and sense of humor. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Patty.

Darwin Winfield, retired associate professor of health administration, passed away on August 9, 1999, after a brief illness. Darwin was the HA's first chair beginning in 1972. Darwin continued to teach in the Department until his retirement in 1993. Darwin's wife, Dee Dee Winfield, MSHP '80, has established the Darwin E. Winfield Scholarship Fund in Darwin's memory. We encourage you to honor Darwin's memory by making a donation through the Department.

### **Alumni Directory--**

After years of patiently waiting, your HA Alumni Directory is finally here! Dr. Nowicki and Julie Carroll, with the assistance of SWT Development, have completed an alumni database for the Department. After adding updates provided by alumni completing the survey enclosed in this newsletter, the database will be printed as an alumni directory, with generous financial assistance from Carol Hoke, MSHP '85. The Directory will be introduced 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 also 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—**

Congratulations to our Alumni President Dick Sweeden, MSHP '78, who was recently elected to a three-year term as ACHE Regent for East Texas. Dick joins Carol Hoke, MSHP '85, who continues her term through 2002 as ACHE Regent-at-Large for District 6.

Congratulations also go Carl Dolezal, who received the 1999 School of Health Professions Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Carl is completing his administrative residency at UT Medical Branch at Galveston and plans to graduate this December. Lisa Fitzpatrick received the 1999 Rappaport Award for the Department's Outstanding Graduate Student. Lisa graduated in August, received a Navy commission, and is on duty in Rhode Island. Judith Shutt received the 1999 Noone Award for the Outstanding Undergraduate Student. Judith graduated in August and was selected as SWT's student commencement speaker. As Dick has already pointed out, the Department recently introduced its webpage at [www.health.swt.edu/HA](http://www.health.swt.edu/HA). Tim Marlow, our ACHE Student Chapter President, created the webpage with assistance from Paul Crews, ACHE Student Chapter Vice President. Paul is responsible for creating webpages for the rest of the departments in the School of Health Professions. Dr. Nowicki will serve as webmaster for the HA webpage if you have any suggestions.

Regarding curriculum changes, we have been working on a proposal for a doctoral program in healthcare administration, policy and research. Consultants from health administration doctoral programs have made visits to the campus and have provided us with much insight to our strengths and weaknesses. While a doctoral program would require several approvals and is years in the future, we are following Yogi Berra's advice and taking the fork in the road.

You might have noticed yet another alumni survey enclosed with this newsletter. While the graduate school surveys graduate alumni and the university surveys undergraduates, and

our results have been quite good, we feel our own survey is needed for a variety of reasons. First, the demographic information will be used to update our database one last time before we publish the alumni directory in October. We especially need to update titles and e-mail addresses.

Second, we are asking salary information for the cohort of students who graduated in 1998. This information will be confidential and will only be used in the aggregate to give our students more realistic salary expectations. And third, the survey asks some outcome information that will help us keep our curriculum current and meaningful. I hope you take time to complete the survey and return it to us at your earliest convenience.

Regarding faculty, I'm pleased to report that we're starting this school year with the entire faculty back from last year. While new faculty are exciting, there's something to be said for experience, and we have plenty of it! While our research has been noteworthy, let me highlight your primary interest in the faculty—their teaching. Dr. George Burke received this year's coveted Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, which is presented each year to the University's best teacher! This is the second time a member of our faculty has received the award—Dr. Michael Nowicki received the award in 1990. Dr. Jim Summers and Dr. Oren Renick have each received the School of Health Professions Teacher-of-the-Year Awards. I hope you're as proud of these outstanding teachers as I am.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and continue to support the Department and HA Alumni Association through your participation and donations.

Please keep in touch and join us for dinner on Friday (October 22) at the Omni San Antonio!

*Wayne Sorensen, Ph.D., FACHE  
Chair of Health Administration*

## HA Faculty at UTHSC

Many of the HA faculty, in conjunction with the UT Health Science School of Nursing, will present Intrapreneurism and Entrepreneurism for Health Care Professionals on September 17. Attendees will learn how to create an atmosphere which encourages new ideas; how to convert new ideas into business plans and budgets; how to cope with the legal issues associated with new ideas; and how to develop pricing strategies and evaluate the success of new ideas. Dr. Brady organized the one-day conference.

## From the HA faculty—

Oren Renick has published a book on intergenerational programs entitled The Ties That Bind as a result of his Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant. Oren, Carl Dolezal, and Tim Marlow presented the results of the programs at the ACHE Congress on Healthcare Management. Oren and Jim Summers facilitated the work of Brian Schade, and HA graduate student, in a contract with the Health and Human Services Commission Office of Investigation and Enforcement. The group developed a model compliance plan for HMO's.

Tina Fields assisted the Texas Valley Network by writing a grant proposal to enhance the infrastructure of a five county region. Tina continues to serve as the Director of the American School Health Association. Tina also co-authored an article with Ruth Welborn regarding community health centers transitioning into the new millennium. The article will appear in the Journal of Health Administration Education.

Ruth B. Welborn continues her grant activities with a three-year renewal of the Health Careers Opportunity Program funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ruth has also served on federal grant review panels as well as university committees for the Centennial Campaign and university accreditation.

Michael Nowicki's new book is a best seller for Health Administration Press and is in its second printing after selling out of its first printing in only nine months. Michael finished his one-year elected term as HFMA Chapter Liaison Representative for the five-state Region 9; he continues to serve on the HFMA Board of Examiners; and he was recently elected to a three-year-term on HFMA's national board of directors. Michael also presented papers on financial management at ACHE's annual Congress on Healthcare Management as well as the annual meeting of the Texas Medical Association. Michael presented papers on the importance of professional certification at meetings of the Arkansas Chapter of HFMA, Mississippi Chapter of HFMA, and Oklahoma Chapter of HFMA.

George Burke received the Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence, which is awarded each year to the University's best teacher.



Department Chair Wayne Sorensen with 1999 student award recipients: Carl Dolezal for the School of Health Professions Award for Outstanding Graduate Student; Judith Shutt for the Noone Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student; and Lisa Fitzpatrick for the Rappaport Award for Outstanding Graduate Student.