

# 2004 HA NEWS

Vol 7

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

## *From the HA Alumni President—*

It is hard to believe that we have made it through another summer, and for those of us in Texas, the heat never really got too difficult to manage. I hope that each of you had the chance for some rest and relaxation, and are ready to tackle the last few months of 2004. Let's hope and pray for a terror-free and error-free presidential election.

For the last 18 months, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of the Texas State University Development Foundation. Our semi-annual meetings are always an opportunity to learn more about the many activities at Texas State, and to hear from President Trauth about the great future of the University. There are a number of good great programs throughout the University, but I want to focus on three important ones that are taking place within the College of Health Professions at this time.

You are all most likely aware of the excellent Respiratory Therapy Department that has existed for a number of years, but you may not know that Dr. Gregg Marshall, the new chair and 1981 HA alum, and his staff are establishing a polysomnography (sleep) lab at Texas State. There is not another lab of this type in Texas, and the closest well-established polysomnography labs are in Georgia and California. Our polysomnography lab, with a functional sleep center in-house, will not only provide for the training of healthcare professionals and numerous research opportunities, it will also provide an important community service through the provision of diagnostic and therapeutic treatments for individuals with sleep disorders.

Another new program within the College of Health Professions is the Physical Therapy Department's Telehealth Program. Using a telephone line to transmit both voice and ECG data, Dr. Donald Shaw and his staff and students are able to monitor patients during exercise to insure they are receiving safe and convenient rehabilitation. Special consideration is given to low-income patients and those patients living in rural areas, for whom travel to a rehabilitation center is not always easy.

The third and final program is actually not a program as such, but rather an opportunity to have a major impact on the health of students, staff, faculty, and visitors on the campus. Dr. Kitty-Sue Schlink, Development Officer for the College of Health Professions, has begun an effort to place

## YOU'RE INVITED!!!

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

Ninth Annual  
HA Conference

Friday, October 29, from 2-5  
at the Holiday Inn Town Lake  
in Austin

## AND

Eighth Annual  
HA Alumni Banquet

Friday, October 29, from 5-8  
at the Holiday Inn Town Lake  
in Austin

to award the  
2004 Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., Award  
for Outstanding HA Alumni

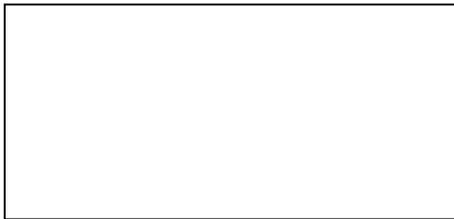
to  
Robert W. Ratliff, MSHP '81, PhD,  
FACHE

Deputy Director (SES III),  
Central Texas Veterans Health Care  
System

Temple, Texas

RSVP by October 22 (form enclosed)





*From the Department Chair—*

My first year as Chair of HA has been rewarding because of the way we have worked together for the benefit of the Department. Diverse opinions and perspectives remain, but they are secondary to our corporate culture to work together effectively. Working with a group of academics has not been, as some contend, like herding cats. With the support of our Most Valuable Player and staff associate, Ms. Julie Carroll, things seem to be coming together. As she would say, “so far, so good.”

As we prepare this newsletter, I have been named Interim Chair of the Health Services Research Department. Since one hat is never enough, only time will tell how this one will fit. However, a possible outcome will be to move both departments in the direction of becoming a School of Health Administration and Research. With apologies to Robert Frost and English majors everywhere, two roads have converged, and they may lead us I know not where! The trip will be rewarding in learning what is in the

interest of our College of Health Professions and seeing it to conclusion..

A doctoral proposal for health administration has been prepared by the faculty. The next significant step in this process is an external review. Because higher education funding issues associated with doctoral proposals, the proposal is currently in a holding pattern. The timeline for proceeding has not been established, but the proposal is a high priority for our College.

A previously approved Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Administration has been implemented. A cohort of students will be taking the third of five required courses this Fall. The certificate program is designed to be delivered off-campus for working managers who may not have the time to attend on MHA program on-campus.

We are ecstatic that Dr. Eileen E. Morrison has joined our faculty as an Associate Professor. A master teacher, Dr. Morrison is currently completing a book on ethics. She returns to Texas from the University of Southern Indiana where she was a tenured associate professor. Initially, Dr. Morrison will teach several key undergraduate courses, complete her book, and work on an internal review of our Department for the University.

While there are accolades elsewhere in **HA News** about faculty, Chair/Department faculty excellence nominations for 2003 were as follows:

- √ Teaching—Dr. Robert Galloway;
- √ Service—Mr. Robert Mooney;
- √ Research—Dr. Michael Nowicki

I am proud to announce that Dr. Michael Nowicki received the Research Excellence Award for the College and will be nominated for the University award.

It has also been an outstanding year for HA students. Graduate student Amanda Estrada received the \$3,500 Albert W. Dent Scholarship from ACHE and graduate students Teresa Prigmore and Nancy

*Did You Know*

- that copies of the **HA News** can be found on our website at [www.health.swt/ha/HAnews?](http://www.health.swt/ha/HAnews?)
- that the 2004 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 and lapel pin 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?

Hamid placed first and second respectively in the San Antonio Medical Group Management Association essay competition. Terese received a \$1,500 scholarship and Nancy received a \$1,000 scholarship.



**About the 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 and HA alumni Joseph Hale, MHA '03 and Maricela Arias-Cantu, MHA '03, published *Diabetes in Texas: Policy Implications* in the **Texas Journal of Rural Health**. Dr. Burke and Dr. Galloway presented *Trustee Burnout* at the **Texas State College of Health Professions Research Forum**.

Mr. Mooney presented *Are Comprehensive Exit Exams Worthwhile?* at the **AUPHA Excellence in Undergraduate Health Administration Education Workshop** in Nashville and *Employee Retention* at the **San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Small Business Council**.

Dr. Nowicki presented *Advanced Healthcare Financial Management* with Mr. Steven Berger at the **ACHE Congress on Healthcare Management** in Chicago; *Key Indicators in Hospital Financial Statements* at the **AHA Annual Meeting** in Washington, D.C.; *Turning Basic Financial Information into Strategy* at the **VHA Annual Meeting** in San Diego; *Care Management: Balancing Costs and Quality* at the **American Data Net-**

**Work Annual Meeting** in Glen Rose; *Using Financial Management Tools to Improve Department Operations* for **VHA/ACHE's Summer Satellite Series** in Dallas; and *Fiscal Fitness: Developing and Maintaining Strategic Financial Plans* at the **Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals Annual Meeting** in Dallas. Dr. Nowicki and Mr. Berger presented *Turning Basic Financial Information into Strategy* at the following **ACHE Clusters**: Albuquerque, Phoenix, and Key West. Dr. Nowicki also published the third edition of *The Financial Management of Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations* along with a new *Practice Problem/Case Book*.

Dr. Summers and Dr. Nowicki published *System Failures and Ethical Issues for Rehabilitation Nurses* in **Rehabilitation Nursing** in addition to their five management columns for **hfm**: *Whistle Blowing: Does Anyone Want to Hear?*; *Benevolent Autocrat: Is It the Right Fit for the Times?*; *Diversity: How Does It Help?*; *Reducing Your Credentialing Liability*; and *Due Diligence and Leadership*. Dr. Summers collaborated with Dr. Galloway and HA Alumnus Joseph Hale, MHA '03, on *Diabetes in Rural Texas* presented to the **Texas State College of Health Professions Research Forum**.



Russ Coile, noted author and futurist who presented at last year's HA Conference, died a few weeks after his presentation of complications related to brain cancer. Russ is missed by all who knew him.

**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](mailto: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. Also consider buying an **HA Alumni Directory** every few years. Also consider buying the new HA lapel pin (see page 2). You can get both the pin and directory for \$25. And finally, consider attending the annual HA Conference and Alumni Banquet. This year's event, scheduled for October 29 in Austin, will feature talks about exciting innovations in the VA System and will honor Dr. Robert Ratliff, MSHP '81, FACHE.

Another way alumni can help the Department is to donate regularly to their favorite endowment 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  
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