

2002 HA NEWS

Vol. 5

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

From the HA Alumni President—

Change is inevitable, in healthcare and in the world. Certainly the world has changed dramatically over the last year, and who among us has not been impacted by the events of 9/11? Thankfully, there have been some good things to happen. As I write this column, folks in Pennsylvania, and indeed all over the country, are celebrating the rescue of the nine men trapped underground for days. What a great ending! And those of us in Texas are again celebrating the tremendous efforts of Lance Armstrong as he takes home victory #4! As healthcare professionals, we especially marvel at his ability to do all this after overcoming cancer.

Allow me to speak about change from a personal standpoint. On June 28th, I had the pleasure of celebrating 30 years in healthcare, and retiring from Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple. At age 40, I had set a goal of changing careers in my mid-fifties, thinking I would tire of hospital operations by then. I turned 55 on June 16th, and with 27 years of service at S&W, was able to realize that goal. And yes, I had grown tired of what I was doing. But, I can look back on those years and be thankful for the many opportunities I was given, and the many great people with whom I worked. Now I am taking some time off before I launch off into whatever new adventure is out there.

I have reflected on the role that Southwest Texas State University has had on my career and my life, and can honestly say that the education I received allowed me to do much more than I had ever anticipated. My move to Temple and S&W in 1975 was partially due to the opportunity to start my graduate work in the new health administration program at SWT. Classes were offered in Temple, so I was able to start a new job, and attend classes in the evenings. After graduating, I was later able to move into an assistant administrator role, and then other growth opportunities throughout my career at S&W. Had I not had the opportunity to obtain a graduate degree, I would not have been able to enjoy those opportunities, so I am grateful to Darwin Winfield [department chair at the time] and the other HA faculty who traveled each week to Temple to hold classes.

There is another aspect of the HA program that has impacted my career, and that is the opportunity to work with graduate students who chose to complete their residency at S&W. I can

YOU'RE INVITED!!!

SWT HA
Faculty & Staff
and the
Student Chapter of ACHE

cordially invite alumni, students and friends to the

Seventh Annual
HA Conference

Friday, October 4, from 2-5
at the Omni San Antonio

AND

Sixth Annual
HA Alumni Banquet

Friday, October 4, from 5-8
at the Omni in San Antonio

to award the
2002 Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., Award
for Outstanding HA Alumni
to
Charles "Greg" Rufe, MSHP '75
Hospital Administrator
University Hospital
San Antonio, Texas

RSVP by September 27th
(form enclosed)

look back over 27 years and list many opportunities which I enjoyed, but few can equal the pleasure of working with students who had chosen a career in healthcare administration, and with whom I was able to work as they moved from classroom to the conference room. I maintain contact with many of them today, and count them as close friends. What a gift that has been!

Finally, I have also had the pleasure of working with the HA faculty as a member of the HA Advisory Board, and through my involvement with the HA Alumni Foundation. We are fortunate to have an outstanding faculty, with national and international recognition, and especially for those of us who graduated in the early days of the program, it is gratifying to see the way the program has grown and continues to grow. We can all be proud of our program.

As I wrap up another column, I ask you to think about the impact our program has had on your career and your life, and encourage you to consider ways to support the program. If you have a chance to mentor a student or young administrator, that is one of the most important contributions you can make. Supporting the HA Alumni Foundation is another way. We need your involvement, and we need your financial support. There are several tax-deductible funds to which you can donate. Consider honoring a friend or family member, or a faculty member, or giving a memorial contribution in honor of someone important to you.

Congratulations to this year's recipient of the Allen G. Herkimer Award for Outstanding Alumni Greg Rufe, Hospital Administrator at University Hospital in San Antonio. Gregg will be recognized at the annual alumni banquet in San Antonio on October 4. We hope to see many of you there!

Best wishes and God's blessings to each of you.

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

From the Chair—

This will be my final column as Chair of the Department of Health Administration. After ten years I will move on to full-time teaching beginning in the Fall of 2003. Ten years is long enough and the Department can benefit from a change in management.

In the meantime, I can share some great news about the Department and the faculty. As you my know, SWT is one of only seven universities in the United States with both an AUPHA-approved undergraduate program and an ACEHSA-accredited graduate program in health administration. This summer AUPHA recognized our undergraduate program as one of the very best in the country during the program's panel review. Our graduate program will undergo a site visit next year and we expect the same results!

Our SWT Chapter of the ACHE received the 2001 ACHE Regent's Award for the best student chapter in the region. And the Texas State Higher Education Coordinating Board approved our request to offer a graduate certificate in health administration to students who complete a fifteen-hour curriculum. Our target population will be working professionals in Central Texas who do not have the time for our 50+ hour masters. We can offer the certificate program in San Marcos, or take it off campus in either traditional classroom formats or via the Internet.

Our faculty continued to bring honors and distinction to the department.

George Burke received the Alpha Chi Favorite Professor and the NTSO Teacher-of-the-Year Awards. He also published articles with Jim Summers in the Texas Journal of Rural Health and the Annals of Long-Term Care.

Michael Nowicki was promoted to full professor and continues to bring national recognition to the department through his national seminars for both ACHE and HFMA. HFMA presented Michael with its highest service award, the Medal of Honor. Dr. Nowicki has also moderated two roundtables for HealthLeaders—the CFO roundtable was published in the June issue as well

as the HealthLeaders website and the mergers and acquisitions roundtable will be published in the November issue. Michael has published his second book entitled HFMA's Introduction to Hospital Accounting. Michael continues his consulting activities with a number of health industry leaders such as HCA and Premier

Wayne Sorensen continues to represent the department as an active member of AUPHA and ACEHSA and has served on site visits to three universities. Wayne also continues to consult with the Texas Institute for Health Policy Research and select members of the Texas State House of Representatives.

Jim Summers, in addition to his work with George previously mentioned, writes a management column with Michael Nowicki for Healthcare Financial Management.

The SWT College of Health Professions recognized Oren Renick's work with the 2002 Excellence in Research Award and the Faculty-of-the-Year Award (Oren's second!). This is the fifth time in the last 15 years that one of our faculty has received recognition as the top faculty member in the College. Oren also continues his work with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-sponsored "Faith in Action" initiative. Oren also continues as Chair of the SWT Faculty Senate and as Advisor to the ACHE Student Chapter. Oren also served on the search committee for our new university president (Denise Trauth became our new president on August 7).

Ruth Welborn will serve as Acting Dean during the next year (Rumaldo Juarez became president of Texas A&M University at Kingsville in mid-August. With Rumaldo's departure, Ruth will become the principal investigator for SWT's ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities for Education) project called CSTEP(Central/South Texas ENLACE Partnership). This project receives funds from both the Kellogg Foundation and the Houston

From the Alumni Coordinator--

Endowment for a total budget close to \$2 million.

Robert Galloway and Sandra White joined the department last year and continue to find their niche in the department's activities. Robert teaches the management courses and Sandra teaches the MIS courses.

All of this, and this is not an exhaustive list, is indicative of how much your department's faculty and staff are trying to make you proud of your SWT experience. Should you believe in reciprocity in the same way as I, would you be willing to help out our efforts with a contribution to the HA Alumni Foundation? In these tight economic times, anything you can do to help cover our costs we will appreciate. Remember, the department is not allowed to underwrite any alumni activities, so the HA News, the alumni directory, and the alumni banquet must be self-supporting. Please do your share.

Than you, all, everyone!

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



As Dick Sweeden reported to you in last year's HA News, one of the consistent alumni criticisms is that we don't provide enough networking opportunities for students. This year, in addition to ACHE and HFMA meetings in Austin and San Antonio, we made a special effort to bring more "real world" administrators to campus. The ACHE student chapter brings three speakers per semester and we bring an additional three speakers to the HA conference each Fall. Last Fall's HA conference included Ernie Sadau, Diane Peterson, and Larry Mathis. This Fall's HA conference will include Greg Rufe and Steve Enders who are both alumni, and Bill Rasco, our ACHE Regent.

Many of you have inquired about a list-serve to announce position openings to SWT students and alumni. If you would like to participate on such a list-serve, email your interest to nowicki@swt.edu, and if you have an opening, please let us know.

Last Spring SWT accounting notified the HA Alumni Association that we could no longer use university accounting for our alumni activities. Since then, we have incorporated as the HA Alumni Foundation—a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to provide networking opportunities for HA alumni and to recognize outstanding HA Alumni. As part of our networking mission, we send out an annual HA News and produce and sell an annual HA Alumni Directory.



In order to network and recognize outstanding alumni, each Fall we organize an alumni banquet. We lose money on the HA News, we make money on the HA Alumni Directory, and we break-even on the alumni banquet (part of the banquet's cost is subsidized by the Herkimer endowment fund). Since we do not charge dues, our main means of support is donations. We are also seeking a sponsor for the HA News.

There are several ways that you can give back to your Department. Let me take a moment to discuss one way--estate planning or planned giving. Planned giving allows you to provide for the HA Alumni Foundation, the HA Department, and our endowment funds by giving assets and retaining income for you or your beneficiary. Planned gifts bring you considerable tax advantages including income, gift and estate tax charitable deductions, and in most cases, avoidance of capital gains tax.

Planned gifts include the following: bequests are gifts left to us in your will and are deducted from the taxable portion of your estate; life insurance are gifts left to us by naming SWT as a beneficiary in one or more life insurance policies; and charitable gift annuities include gifts of \$10,000 or more that generate income for life and revert to the university upon your death.

In the wise words of Gaylord Nelson, "The ultimate test of a man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose word of thanks may never be heard."

Michael Nowicki
HA Alumni Coordinator

Last year's HA Conference speakers included Ernie Sadau, 2001 Herkimer Award winner, Diane Peterson, 2001 ACHE National Chair. and Larrv Mathis. 1998 ACHE National Chair.