

From the HA Alumni President—

It is a pleasure to introduce the latest edition of the HA NEWS. I hope that you and your families had an opportunity for a restful vacation this summer. Let's hope and pray for rain and cool Fall temperatures.

I want to use my space in this newsletter to talk about our alumni survey results. We have surveyed the HA alumni that graduated between 1976 and 1997. Alumni that graduated in 1998 and 1999 were surveyed approximately one year after graduation (alumni that graduated in 2000 are being surveyed this summer). All of the results to date look very good—I want to focus on the responses from the 1998 and 1999 cohorts. 45% of the BHA graduates and 78% of the MHA graduates are presently employed in management positions in healthcare. For those who didn't already have a job in healthcare, it took the BHA graduates 2.16 months after graduation to find a job and the MHA graduates 2.0 months. Starting salaries for this group were \$27,950 for the BHA graduates and \$36,500 for the MHA graduates. 80% of the BHA graduates reported that the HA Department prepared them "very well" for their positions and 100 percent of the MHA graduates reported that the HA Department prepared them "very well". This group identified faculty competence as one of the most important attributes of a program (4.73 from the BHA graduates and 4.80 from the MHA graduates (out of 5)) and reported the actual faculty competence at 3.85 from the BHA graduates and 4.65 from the MHA graduates. Another important attribute this group identified was networking opportunities with alumni/professionals (3.97 from the BHA graduates and 4.58 from the MHA graduates) and reported actual opportunities at a low 2.67 from the BHA graduates and 2.55 from the MHA graduates. While the faculty is looking for ways to improve networking opportunities, let me remind you that we don't always take advantage of the networking opportunities that already exist. ACHE has local chapters in both Austin and San Antonio as well as a student chapter at SWT. HFMA's South Texas Chapter has six meetings a year and has discounted registration fees significantly for students. Your faculty are active members of both associations and are always willing to introduce you to the members at meetings. And don't forget about our annual HA

YOU'RE INVITED!!!

SWT HA
Faculty & Staff
and the
Student Chapter of ACHE

cordially invite alumni, students and friends to the

Sixth Annual
HA Conference

Friday, October 19, from 2-5
in the LBJ Student Center Ballroom

AND

Fifth Annual
HA Alumni Banquet

Friday, October 19, from 5-8
in the LBJ Student Center Ballroom

to award the
2001 Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., Award
for Outstanding HA Alumni

to
Mr. Ernie Sadau, MSHP '85, CHE
President & Chief Executive Officer
Midwest Region
Adventist Health System
Hinsdale, Illinois

RSVP by October 12
(form enclosed)

to network! Jon Hilsabeck, past-ACHE Regent for Central Texas, reminds us that “the time to borrow a cup of sugar from your neighbor is not when you need it”—meaning that the time to network is not just when you’re looking for a job. Networking can give you with valuable education and information, but only if you provide the network with information yourself!

Congratulations to alumni Carol Hoke, MSHP ’85 and Jeff Turner, MSHP ’75 for their election to the Texas Hospital Association Board of Trustees. And finally, congratulations to this year’s HA Outstanding Alumnus—Ernie Sadau. Please join me in celebrating with Ernie on October 19th.

Dick Sweeden, MSHP ’78, FACHE
Executive Director
Scott & White Memorial Hospital

HA Conference

The sixth annual HA Conference will be held Friday, October 19 from 2-5 in the new LBJ Student Center Ballroom. Featured speakers include

2--Diane Peterson, FACHE
National Chairman, ACHE
President of D. Peterson & Associates
Healthcare Heroes of Mine

3--Larry Mathis, FACHE
Leadership Consultant
D. Peterson & Associates
Mathis Maxims

4--Ernie Sadua, MS ’85, CHE
President & Chief Executive Officer
Midwest Region
Adventist Health System

Blind Auction—

When Yvonne Khouri retired, she left her copy of MacEachern’s Hospital Organization and Management with the HA Alumni Association to auction off. If you would like to bid on the book, please let Dr. Sorensen know the amount of your bid by October 19.

From the Chair—

I have acquired some bragging rights in my role as Department Chair. And, this past year offers me opportunities galore to pop my buttons, big time! Indeed, there are too many to cover in detail, so let us look over some highlights.

Several years ago, Dr. Allen Herkimer retired from the ranks of our faculty. Allen’s ties to the department were strong then and have continued over the years in many ways, but especially via his financial and moral support of the annual Outstanding Alumni Award. Past recipients read like a “Who’s Who” of healthcare administration. The selected alumni for 2000 was no exception, except that TWO alumni were recognized: the husband and wife team of Nancy Van Slyke, MSHP, ’76; and, Robert Van Slyke, MSHP, ’77. The Van Slykes have held a variety of distinguished positions in healthcare, most recently in Florida and Alabama: Nancy as Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, University of South Alabama; and, Bob as President of the Baptist Health Affiliates. Shortly after the Herkimer Award was made, Bob announced his retirement. Congratulations on the award and on Bob’s new career!

Also recognized this year as the Outstanding Graduate Student, was Monica Cobb, who received the Bernard Rappaport Award. Monica was recognized for her scholarship, community service, and participation in health administration professional activities. She has been an outstanding student in the graduate program since joining us in 1999; she received her shiny new Master of Healthcare Administration in commencement ceremonies in August 2001. Great work, Monica!

Another outstanding student was recognized this year with the John B. Noone Award for the Outstanding Under-graduate Student. Jody Wright entered our Bachelor of Healthcare Administration program for the Spring 1998 Semester and graduated Spring 2001. Jody not only demonstrated an

exceptional level of academic achievement, she served as the President of the Student Chapter, ACHE, and she got married besides. She is to be congratulated for her superb leadership and her example for others to emulate.

And, as in years past, our students were well represented at the ACHE 2001 Congress in Chicago. Eleven students made their way to the meeting, and did so on their own. They received numerous compliments for their work as program assistants and as participants in the educational sessions. Further, I can speak from personal experience that their social skills during the Alumni Dinner at the Hofbrau House were terrific as well!

Last year, you may remember that three faculty members either left for other jobs or were about to retire. Dr. Fields, Dr. Brady, and Ms. Khouri obviously cannot be replaced, but after a year of searching I am pleased to announce that two new faculty members will be joining us. Dr. Sandra White, with expertise in information systems management, in materials management, and in health policy, will join the department faculty in the Fall Semester 2001. Dr. White comes to us from the US Army Medical Service Corps, recently retired, with years of experience and training in her disciplines. Another new faculty member is Dr. Robert Galloway, with expertise in research methodology, quantitative methods, organizational theory and design, and in epidemiology. He has held teaching and administrative positions for over twenty years and comes to us from a tenured position at The University of the Incarnate Word, in San Antonio. We welcome Dr.’s White and Galloway. Both will continue with and add to the tradition of excellence in your Department of Health Administration. To conclude this short message, may I make a plea to you. I, your faculty and staff, and you, have something to be proud of: our reputation, both personal and professional. We control our personal

From the HA Faculty—

Reputations to a high degree. However, our professional reputations are often gained through association with others. In that regard, I ask for your support to help continue our quest for excellence in our program. Please consider making a contribution of whatever you can spare to enable scholarships for our students, to assist with their professional development, and to help provide them with a state-of-the-art education. We also need funds to operate the Department's Alumni Association. We have over 1,800 HA alumni; if each alumnus gave ten dollars, we could create an endowment fund whose interest could support scholarships, professional development, and HA alumni activities. Or, if you purchased an HA Alumni Directory for \$15, the profits would help in the same way.

Finally, please make an entry in your calendar for Friday, October 19th for the annual HA Conference and Alumni Banquet to be held here at SWT. I hope to see you there.

Wishing you and yours the best in the coming year, I am

*Wayne B. Sorensen, PhD, FACHE
Chair of Health Administration*

Oren Renick was promoted to full professor this year—Congratulations Oren! Dr. Renick also continues to serve as the College of Health Professions Senator on the Faculty Senate and was recently elected to serve as Chair of the Faculty Senate in this coming year. Dr. Renick also continues to serve as Faculty Advisor to the SWT—ACHE Student Chapter, which was honored as the best student chapter in Texas at the ACHE breakfast during the Texas Hospital Association meeting in Austin. Dr. Renick continues his work with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with a Safe-at-Home Program and he currently serves as Vice Chair of the Interfaith Caregivers Alliance in Kansas City.

George Burke was awarded the College of Health Professions 2001 top award for teaching for the second time—Way to go George. Dr. Burke also was SWT's nominee for the second straight year for a national teaching award sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Burke, along with Dr. Summers and research assistant Tara Thompson, conducted research on the quality of care in nursing homes. The research was published in the Annals of Long-Term Care and presented to the Texas Health Care Association. Dr. Burke, along with Dr. Sorensen and Dr. DeMouy, published "A Visit to a Mexican Specialty Hospital: The Patient as a Leader" in Hospital Topics. Dr. Burke

was awarded a development leave during the Spring to study excellence in teaching and notes with pride that Health Administration rates high in teaching excellence with four faculty having received the top award for teaching in the College and two faculty having received the top award for teaching in the University.

Jim Summers, in addition to the long-term care research with Dr. Burke, co-authored with Dr. Nowicki the June cover story for Healthcare Financial Management entitled "Leadership: Charting the Ethical Course." Dr. Summers and Dr. Nowicki have secured a faculty research enhancement grant to study the personality characteristics of CFO's.

Michael Nowicki was awarded the College of Health Professions 2001 top award for service. Dr. Nowicki continues his service on HFMA's national board of directors and chairs this year's Board of Examiners and Council on Forums. Dr. Nowicki and the South Texas Chapter of HFMA hosted the national meeting in San Antonio in June—the best attended national HFMA meeting ever! Dr. Nowicki received an outstanding service award from the local chapter recognizing his efforts at the national level. Dr. Nowicki continues to teach a workshop on supervisory management for HFMA and has started teaching a workshop on financial management for ACHE. Dr. Nowicki has also been busy facilitating board retreats and facilitated the THA board retreat in Dallas in August. The second edition of Dr. Nowicki's financial management book is out and his accounting book should be available in the Spring.

Dr. Welborn is wrapping up her sixth, and final, year of her Health Careers Opportunity Program funded by HRSA and is looking into additional federal funding opportunities for similar projects.



Alum Mark Goldstein and students Haley Burney and Jennifer Murray listen as Dr. Nowicki makes a point (apparently at Dr. Sorensen's expense) during the Alumni Dinner at the ACHE Congress on Healthcare Management in Chicago.

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