

1998 HA NEWS

Vol. 1

From the HA Alumni President—

I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the HA News, published by the HA alumni, with the help of faculty, to keep alumni, students, preceptors, and friends of the Department of Health Administration better informed. For several years, Dr. George Burke has coordinated alumni efforts for the Department and we all owe George a debt of gratitude for his hard work. Last spring, Dr. Michael Nowicki offered to coordinate alumni activities for the Department and then asked me to serve as President. I graduated from the graduate program in 1978 and have continued my relationship with the Department by serving as preceptor to students during their residencies and by serving on the Advisory Committee for the graduate program. After a planning meeting in Austin last Spring, I agreed to continue my service to the Department by serving as HA Alumni Association President. During the meeting, we discussed several ideas that I'd like to share with you.

The Department, recently reorganized to include only graduate and undergraduate health administration students, has improved steadily over the last 20 years, including assembling one of the best HA faculties in the nation. All of the faculty have both the educational preparation and the real-world experience so necessary to maintain credibility with both students and employers of students. The Department boasts six faculty certified by the American College of Healthcare Executives (four at the highest level of Fellow) and one faculty member certified at the highest level of Fellow in the Healthcare Financial Management Association. Dr. Wayne Sorensen has provided continuous leadership as Department Chair for five years, and six tenured faculty, with over 100 years of teaching for the Department, ensure continuity in the curriculum.

Next, the Department offers an ACEHSA-accredited graduate curriculum and an AUPHA-approved undergraduate curriculum that is leading edge in its preparation of tomorrow's healthcare leaders. When my administrative residents go to educational seminars, they tell me that they have already learned the subject matter in class.

And last, the Department admits high-quality students, as a result of increasing admission standards, who will succeed not only in the classroom, but also in a variety of healthcare

administration careers after graduation.

When I look at the top twenty healthcare administration departments in the country, they have three things in common in addition to high-quality faculty, leadership, curriculum, and students. All of the top twenty departments are old—all were established before 1947. Not much we can do about our age, though having been established in 1974; our department is beginning to show signs of maturity. All of the top twenty departments have doctoral programs. Not much we can do about that either, though a doctorate in healthcare administration might be something for SWT to consider in the future. All of the top twenty departments have very active alumni associations. We can do something about that today!

First, we need current information on all our alums. To that end, please complete and return the alumni biographical sketch for not only yourself, but also fill out one for another HA alum who might not have received our newsletter.

Second, we always need additional field placement preceptors and sites. If you and your organization can take a student, please call Mr. Bob Mooney for undergraduate placements and Dr. George Burke for graduate placements. Along these same lines, let us know if your organization has any administrative openings. I don't think we want to be elitist, but there's certainly nothing wrong with letting SWT HA students and graduates know about job openings and letting them compete for those openings.

Third, the Department always needs money. You can give any amount in a variety of ways. Contributions can be made to any of the following funds: HA Alumni Fund; the Rappaport Fund for outstanding graduate students; the Noone Fund for outstanding undergraduate students; and the Herkimer Fund for outstanding alumni. Remember that donations can include in-kind gifts like printing and mailing the newsletter. So please, if you like the newsletter, which we plan to publish each fall, or the upcoming alumni directory, which we plan to publish

every 3 years, send in a contribution to keep things rolling.

And finally, provide support by attending HA alumni dinners at ACHE Congress in Chicago each winter and HA alumni banquets each fall. This year the dinner will be at the Holiday Inn Town Lake in Austin on Friday, October 9, and we will be recognizing this year's outstanding alum, Carol Hoke, MSHP '86, FACHE, President & CEO of Regional and Ambulatory Care for the Seton Healthcare Network. This is always a good opportunity to catch up with old classmates, see old and meet new professors, and mix with some students. Hope to see you there!

And I hope that you're as excited as I am about the SWT--HA Alumni Association—now's the time to give back something to the Department that gave you so much!

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

SWT ACHE

The SWT Student Chapter of ACHE is sponsoring the second Texas Statewide Coalition Conference entitled "Healthcare Trends and Issues for a New Millennium" at the THA headquarters in Austin on Friday, October 9, from 9-2 (agenda and registration form encloses). So make a day of it first with the Texas Statewide Coalition Conference, and then with the Alumni Dinner.

From the Department Chair—

First, I'd like to tell you how pleased I am that Dick Sweeden has agreed to serve as your HA Alumni Association President. Dick's leadership record in healthcare is impressive. He has been the Hospital Administrator at Scott & White Memorial Hospital for ten years. Dick has an equally impressive record of accomplishment with THA, currently serving as a board member. Dick is a Fellow in ACHE and a member of HFMA. He serves on the Department's Graduate Advisory Council and also serves as a residency preceptor. Dick received our first HA Outstanding Alumni Award last year at the School of Health Professions 25th Anniversary Banquet.

Next, I'd like to tell you about some faculty changes. Dr. Allen G. Herkimer, Jr., retired in 1996 after teaching in the Department for 10 years. Allen and his wife Fay have moved to Corpus Christi. If you're in his neighborhood, give him a call. Dr. Robert Hankins left the Department in 1996 to accept a teaching position at Xavier University in Cincinnati. Bob and his wife Helen are doing well and keep in touch. Mr. John Noone retired from SWT in 1997 after 20 years of service to the University including 10 years of teaching in our Department. John and his wife Alice live in San Antonio and love to hear from former students.

New faculty include Dr. Tim Brady who joined the faculty in 1996. Tim came to us from Bakersfield, California, where he taught in an executive health administration program. Tim teaches courses in undergraduate materials management and financial accounting, as well as the graduate financial analysis course. Tim and his wife Joyce live in New Braunfels. Dr. Tina Fields joins the faculty this fall. Tina came to us from Brownsville where she was Administrator of the Cameron County Health Department. Prior to working in Brownsville, Tina taught at Texas Tech University for several years. Tina will be teaching undergraduate health information management and training needs analysis and graduate state policy analysis. Tina will be living in New Braunfels.

Next, the curriculum. After years of trying, we finally received approval to change our degrees. Beginning with our summer graduation last August, we awarded Masters of Healthcare Administration and Bachelors of Healthcare Administration degrees. The MHA and BHA degrees are consistent with other universities with similar curriculums. We have added a course in healthcare ethics in the undergraduate curriculum and a course in managed care in the graduate curriculum. We have also added an undergraduate comprehensive exam. While now routine, the graduate program was re-accredited last year and the undergraduate program was re-approved (accreditation-equivalent for undergraduate programs in health administration) the year before.

Regarding students, all of our students are important to us, but three stand out for special recognition. Wendy Chan was the recipient of the first Mitte Scholarship ever awarded to one of our students. Wendy also was the faculty's selection to represent the Department in the Hill-Rom Essay Competition. Carl Dolezal received the 1998 Bernard Rappaport Scholarship for the Outstanding Graduate Student and Claire Day received the 1998 John B. Noone Award for the Outstanding Undergraduate Student. Wendy, Carl and Claire were recognized last Spring at the School of Health Professions Awards Night, along with several graduate students who had maintained a 3.80 GPA or higher and several undergraduate students who had maintained a 3.50 GPA or higher.

We're looking forward to another great year and we look forward to seeing you at the alumni banquet on October 9.

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

From the HA faculty—

Consistent with SWT's initiative to enhance the university's image beyond Texas, the HA faculty have seemingly answered with "How much?" and "How far?"

Regarding international activities, Dr. Burke presented an ACHE seminar to hospital executives in Okinawa. Dr. Herkimer and Dr. Nowicki presented a two-week financial management workshop to Indonesian hospital administrators at the University of Massachusetts. Several faculty have presented AUPHA-sponsored workshops in the Former Soviet Union: Dr. Nowicki twice in Moscow (once to the Russian Ministry of Health) and once in Estonia; Dr. Sorensen twice in Georgia, once in Uzbekistan, once in Ukraine, and once in Kazakhstan; Dr. Welborn twice in Kazakhstan, and once in Georgia, and Mr. Mooney once in Estonia and once in Uzbekistan. Dr. Brady presented a paper on financial management and accounting for clinical managers at a nursing conference in Finland last year. Ms. Kouri continues here international activities with a recent meeting in Mexico City.

On the domestic front, the faculty are making an impressive national prominence in several organizations. Dr. Burke and Johnny Johnson presented a paper on the last 25 years in healthcare administration at the 1998 ACHE Congress on Healthcare Management last March and later published the paper in the Journal of Healthcare Management this summer. Dr. Nowicki will present a paper on healthcare financial management for the non-financial manager at the 1999 ACHE Congress on Healthcare Management. Dr. Nowick and Maneesh Chaku will publish their timely article "Duty to Admit Mistakes" in the October issue of Healthcare Financial Management. Dr. Brady co-authored a series of articles with Dr. Hankins on financial management

and accounting for nurses in the Journal of Nursing Management.

Dr. Sorensen replaced Dr. Nowicki on the AUPHA Undergraduate Coordinating Committee (the Committee writes the standards and approves undergraduate programs based on a panel review process). Dr. Nowicki is beginning his second three-year term on the HFMA Board of Examiners, which oversees HFMA's certification process. Dr. Nowicki also serves on the editorial board of ACHE's Frontiers of Health Services Management.

Dr. Welborn received a three-year, \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) in 1995, which was recently renewed through 2001. The purpose of the grant is to recruit academically and/or educationally disadvantaged students interested in the target health careers of clinical lab science, health information management, and respiratory care. The students come from area community/junior colleges and spend time during the summer on the SWT campus participating in an academic enrichment program prior to enrollment in their health career choice.

Dr. Renick received the University's first Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant last year to fund his program: **Faith in Action: A Mutual Adoption Pact**. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and healthcare. The **Mutual Adoption Pact** is a collaborative effort designed to deliver high quality services to the elderly and disabled through volunteers provided by local churches, SWT, San Marcos High School, healthcare providers, and other community organizations. Volunteers are given specific tasks, like **Meals on Wheels**, that support the seniors' maintenance of independence and autonomy. In turn, the seniors support the volunteers as mentors and role models.

Both Dr. Brady and Dr. Nowicki are working on textbooks. Dr. Brady and Dr. Herkimer are publishing a new edition of Understanding Healthcare Accounting.

Dr. Nowicki is publishing a book that will replace the classic The Financial Management of Hospitals by Berman, Weeks, and Kukla—a best seller for over 25 years that has seen nine editions. Dr. Nowicki's book, The Financial Management of Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations, along with a problem/casebook is due to be published in November by Health Administration Press, a subsidiary of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Dr. Nowicki has also contributed to self-study texts for certification published by both ACHE and HFMA.

Regarding local news, we are proud to announce that Dr. Sorensen was tenured last May. Dr. Sorensen, who has been directing faculty as Department Chair for the past five years, also recently received the ACHE Lone Star Chapter's Senior Executive Award from Regent Jon Hilsabeck. Way to go, Wayne.

SWT HA Alumni
& Student Chapter of ACHE
cordially invite you to
the

Second Annual
HA Alumni Banquet

Friday, October 9, from 7
-9
Holiday Inn at Town Lake

To award the
1998 Herkimer Award
for Outstanding HA Alumni
to

Carol A. Hoke, FACHE
President & CEO
Regional and Ambulatory
Care
Seton Healthcare Network

RSVP by September 28