

F.Y.I. about H.I.M.

News from the Health Information Management Programs

November 2007

DSU to Acquire AHIMA Virtual Lab Software

The Dakota State HIM program will be getting cutting edge technology in the form of the American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA's) e-HIM® Virtual Lab. The AHIMA Virtual Lab will make a helpful addition to the current array of software that DSU students can utilize for developing their skills. The Virtual Lab will provide access to state-of-the-art software applications including master patient index, EDMS/document imaging, release of information, transcription, encoder, deficiency analysis, registration/ADT system, speech recognition, abstracting system, chart tracking, and natural language processing (NLP). Through the use of these applications, students will get acquainted with software that they will likely encounter in the workforce. HIM students at DSU will have an advantage over others as students are fully prepared to adapt to the working environment. To find out more about the e-HIM® Virtual Lab and its applications you can go to <http://campus.ahima.org/vlab/>.

Health Edventure

The faculty of the HIM Programs are sharing their expertise by providing suggestions and recommendations in the development of course content related to personal health records for the Health Edventure web site. Health Edventure is an entire curriculum web site intended to provide access to health education in rural areas where school nurses are not available and guidance counselors do not have the time or resources to teach such content. It is a "one-stop" wellness web site focusing on disease prevention, disease information, and healthy lifestyles. For more information, visit www.healthedventure.org.

Student and Faculty Research EHR Topics

In 2006-2007, the HIM Program faculty members participated in a year-long research project for the State of South Dakota to assess the status of electronic health records. (More information is available at www.sdehra.org) Results were presented at the SD Health Information Technology Summit and were shared with the project steering committee of the Governor's Healthcare Commission this Fall. In 2007-2008 graduate students will work on studies associated with patient identifiers in EHR's in relation to homeless patients and technology acceptance for EHR's by physicians and/or nurses. Additional past research included Joyce Havlik's master's project investigating technology acceptance by radiologic technicians at a SD hospital.

HIM Club Active

During the Fall semester, the HIM Club contributed to community service by participating in the DSU Homecoming Parade, picking up litter as part of the Adopt A Highway Program, assisting with the Fall Wellness Fair and Fall Blood Drive on the DSU campus, and helping with children's activities at the Madison Santa Day.

The Club members also attended the Fall SDHIMA convention and hosted a number of events for the members to socialize, including a pool party. They hosted a luncheon for club members and sponsored a quiz contest for the entire campus to celebrate Health Information and Technology Week.

Several informational articles, such as the benefits of membership in a student organization and the importance of personal health records, were provided to the DSU student newspaper, the Trojan Times. A holiday raffle of donated items from area businesses was held as a fundraiser for the Club.

Havlik Obtains EHR Training

Joyce Havlik, assistant professor in the HIM Programs, spent time during the Fall 2007 semester to learn more about electronic health records through an online course from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) called "Migration Path to the Electronic Health Record (EHR)". Havlik was the recipient of an AHIMA FORE Faculty Development Stipend providing financial support of this activity. The Faculty Development Stipends are awarded to credentialed HIM faculty members to facilitate excellence in effective teaching and leadership in areas related to e-HIM®.

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HIT Student Awarded HIM Scholarship

Lynn Raymond, a sophomore health information technology student, was named the recipient of a scholarship for the 2007-2008 academic year. Students in either the associate degree or baccalaureate degree HIM Programs were eligible to receive this award. Lynn is a non-traditional student from Madison, SD.

Scrubs Camps

The HIM Programs participated in health career exploration camps in Pierre, Watertown, Sioux Falls, and Mitchell. These one-day "Scrubs Camps" provided selected high school students from a number of schools to learn more about a variety of health related careers. Faculty members attended two of the camps to make presentations about the HIM field and informational literature about HIM careers and DSU's HIM Programs was provided for all of the camps. Barbara Prien, a sophomore HIM student from Stickney, SD, was invited to be a member of a student panel at the Watertown camp to talk about her decision to seek the HIM degree and her experiences in the HIM Programs.

Congratulations to HIM Faculty Member

We would like to congratulate Rose Goeden, RHIA, on her August 2007 completion of the Master in Business Administration (MBA) graduate degree from the University of South Dakota. Rose has been on the faculty at DSU since the Fall of 1987.

DSU's First Thursdays and First Tuesdays events in November were designated as HIM related to help celebrate Health Information and Technology Week!

HIM Alumni Honored

Dawn Reinicke was honored for Outstanding Professional Achievement at the DSU 2007 Homecoming celebrations. She was introduced at the alumni annual meeting on Saturday morning, then rode as a guest of honor in the Trojan Days Parade and was presented with an award plaque during half time of the football game.

A number of DSU alumni were among those recognized by the state health information management professional association for their contributions to the group. Kathy Dorale was awarded the SD Health Information Management Association (SDHIMA) Board Member of the Year Award, Karla Peter was honored with the SDHIMA Unsung Hero Award, Dorine Bennett received the SDHIMA Member of the Year Award and DeAnne Kribell was the recipient of the SDHIMA Mentor Award. Plaques were presented to the honorees during the Awards Luncheon held during the SD Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO) 2007 Fall Convention in Sioux Falls. Bennett and Kribell were also nominated for the respective awards at the national level.

Distance Course Happenings

Beginning in the Summer of 2008, DSU will be changing to a new course management tool, Desire 2 Learn (D2L) for all online courses. HIM faculty member, Joyce Havlik is a member of the implementation team for DSU. She has been learning about the program and will be a D2L Pilot Project participant approved to teach a Spring 2008 HIM course in preparation for the transition.

Joyce Havlik and Rose Goeden are peer-reviewers for distance courses in the SD Electronic University Consortium, utilizing criteria developed by the national Quality Matters online course quality assurance program. Each of them were on separate teams this fall to review courses for online teaching scheduled for the Spring 2008 semester.

HIM Professionals Assist HIM Programs

Jamie Husher, RHIA, of the Good Samaritan Society assisted with the HIA Admission Process interviews in November. Eight applicants for the baccalaureate program submitted applications and were interviewed.

Several facilities provided our students with valuable "real-life" experiences for the Supervised Professional Practice courses. The students learn so much from their time in the facilities!

The Advisory Board for the HIM Programs, with a variety of professionals in a variety of roles, serves as a very important resource, reviewing many aspects of the policies and practices of the Programs as well as providing input to assist with curriculum and course content.

Breakout Session at TechKnowlogy Summit

The South Dakota TechKnowlogy Summit was held on November 13, 2007 in Sioux Falls. This event is an annual trade show with presentations by leaders in the information technology industry. The 2007 event included a breakout session titled, "Electronic Health Records and Health Information Exchange". During that time, Dorine Bennett of DSU moderated presentations from Kevin DeWald (SD Dept. of Health), Eric McDonald (DocuTap), Mary Nelson (Sanford Health) and Dawn Reinicke (Avera McKennan). The members of the panel provided insights from their experiences and suggestions for what can be done to facilitate the progress toward electronic health records and electronic health information exchange.

Congratulations to Renae Spohn!



Renae Spohn, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ, FAHIMA, FNAHQ, was elected to the American Health Information Management Association Board of Directors! She is a 1984 graduate of DSU's Health Information Administration Program and is currently the Director of Clinical Applications for the Good Samaritan Society. Renae is active in the state HIM association and serves on the Advisory Board for DSU's HIM Programs.