

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

News from the Health Information Management Programs

May 2002

HIM Club Receives the COM Award

The HIM Club earned a certificate of merit (COM) award for activities and projects completed during the 2001-2002 school year. The COM program strives to recognize clubs who sponsor social, recreational, community service and educational programs throughout the academic year. There are three levels of the COM award, based upon the number of activities and the number of members in an organization. The HIM Club received the Honors Level recognition due to activities such as sponsoring a blood drive each semester, picking up litter each semester as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program, participating in the DSU Wellness Fair, celebrating Health Information and Technology Week, having a Spring Club Trip to tour healthcare facilities in Omaha, Nebraska, and completing a project for a Howard clinic. For more information on the HIM Club, visit the website at www.clubs.dsu.edu/him

National Certification Exams Have 100% Pass Rate For DSU Graduates in 2001!

Dakota State University students who took the national Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) and Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) Certification Exams from 7/1/2001 to 12/31/2001 all passed for a 100 percent pass rate in both programs. During the same time period, nationally 78 percent of the HIT test takers passed and 85 percent of the HIA test takers passed.

“We have good students and we work hard to have a quality program, said Dorine Bennett, director and associate professor of Health Information Management. “The faculty attended educational sessions to stay current in course topics and pedagogy methods, and we are very active with professional activities to also stay current.”

The certification tests are now given on-line with an open schedule, so there isn't a specified date that the students must take the exam. Test takers have freedom to select the date and time they will test. In July of 2001 the new testing format started. No tests were administered between 10/2000 and 7/2001.

“We're pleased with the results,” said Bennett.

Dakota State University's Graduation Ceremony on May 11, 2002

DSU's 2002 commencement will mark an exciting milestone for the Health Information Management Programs – the 25th anniversary of the graduation of their first class. This year's graduating HIM classes include eleven health information technology students and three health information administration students. Of the eleven HIT students that are graduating, four of them plan to return to DSU in the Fall to continue working toward the health information administration degree. Job prospects for the graduates look very good. Congratulations graduates and happy anniversary to the HIM Programs!

HIM courses will be offered in Sioux Falls at the USDSU Center starting Fall 2002!

Fall 2002 Semester:

HIM 150 Intro to Health Information Management

Spring 2003 Semester:

HIM 170 Legal Aspects of HIM

HIM 260 Fundamentals of Human Disease

For more information visit www.sfcenter.dsu.edu

SDHIMA Wall of Fame Grows

The South Dakota Health Information Management Association's Wall of Fame, located in East Hall on the DSU campus, was unveiled in the Fall of 2001. Plaques honoring the organization's leadership and awards received by SDHIMA members are included in the design. The display was started with the President's Plaque listing all past SDHIMA presidents. Photos of the current SDHIMA president and SDHIMA board were added to the Wall of Fame in May of 2002.

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Program Director On AHIMA Committee

Dakota State University Health Information Management Director, Dorine Bennett has been selected to serve on the Education Strategy Committee (ESC). The committee is designed to provide the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Board of Directors with recommendations on how to strengthen the academic foundation of the Health Information Management (HIM) profession. The committee will also advise the Board of Directors on faculty development needs and how the association might help support them.

"I think it is good for DSU to have a representative on this committee so that we are involved in the strategic initiatives for national health information management education," said Bennett. "It will help us to ensure that we are remaining on the leading edge with educational trends."

Some of the duties that Bennett will share by being on the Education Strategy Committee are:

- To identify and analyze root causes for the current state of the network of baccalaureate programs and formulate recommendations for strategic actions open to AHIMA.
- Recommend strategies to expand the pool of qualified HIT/HIA faculty
- Recommend strategies to encourage faculty to pursue advanced degrees
- Identify best practices in student recruitment
- Identify best practices in faculty development
- New Faculty and Doctoral Mentoring
- Curriculum model development and revisions
- Research activities related to faculty, students and academic programs needs
- Summer Symposium and Teacher Preparation Workshop and AOE Community of Practice Transition

"I will be providing input that will reflect the educational setting of our HIM programs as well as the health information management profession in our region," said Bennett. According to Lorraine Smalley, AHIMA Director of Volunteer Services, all AHIMA specialty groups, including the Assembly on Education (AOE) began a transition to Communities of Practice in 2001. These electronic communities no longer need an elected board and the AOE recommended that a committee be designed to assure for the continuation of AHIMA educational strategies, creating the ESC. "As the AOE had overseen several key initiatives the AHIMA Board of Directors appointed the four remaining AOE members and four others to the Education Strategy Committee," said Smalley. "The Education Strategy Committee's activities will incorporate many of the activities previously overseen by the AOE Board."

Bennett was elected to serve on the AOE Board of Directors in 2001. Her tenure on the AOE Board concludes at the end of this year.

Lynn Breiter, DSU HIA Student, is Recipient of AHIMA Scholarship

We were very pleased that one of our students, Lynn Breiter, was the recipient of the 2001 American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Rita Finnegan Memorial Scholarship. Congratulations to her!! Her selection for this national recognition is well deserved!

In 2001, 30 undergraduate scholarships from AHIMA were awarded to HIM students from across the nation. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and are awarded based on assessment of grade point average and academic achievement, volunteer and work experience, commitment to the HIM profession, suitability to the HIM profession, quality and suitability of references provided, and clarity of application.

Lynn, who is enrolled in the Health Information Administration Program, was also one of the recipients of a SDHIMA scholarship in 2001. She is from Minnesota Lakes, MN.

HIM Faculty Member to Assist with TTL-A

Rose Goeden, an instructor in the HIM Programs, will be assisting with Advanced Technology for Teaching and Learning (TTL) workshops to be held at DSU during the Summer of 2002. TTL-A will allow K-12 teachers to extend their skill with familiar applications, such as MS Office Suite (Word, Access, Excel, PowerPoint), and will also introduce new technology tools and procedures. These will include video editing, use of streaming video, recording to CD, PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) and their applications to curriculum, digital photography and editing, and advanced web design.

Rose will be assisting with the advanced web design portion of Advanced TTL during June 3 - 14.

Assessment Day Testing and Review Session

March 22nd was the Spring 2002 DSU Assessment Day. Classes were cancelled and a variety of assessment activities were held for the students. The Health Information Management Programs gave the graduating students a final exit exam, covering topics from all of the HIM courses in each program. This year the graduates took the multiple choice tests, with testing time scheduled for the morning. The HIM Club provided a free pizza lunch for all test-takers and the program staff and faculty. The tests were corrected and reviewed in the afternoon. The students did very well on the tests and found the feedback very interesting and helpful. Two of last year's graduates and successful certification exam testers joined the group to describe the AHIMA on-line exams and to share hints on studying for the tests.