

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

News from the Health Information Management Programs

November 2001

South Dakota Health Information Management Association's Wall of Fame At Dakota State

Joyce Havlik, DSU faculty member and past president of the South Dakota Health Information Management Association, said the wall of fame has been in the works for about a year. She got the idea last year when she was president of the association and the Board of Directors started talking about what to do with awards that have been received by the association and/or its members. SDHIMA does not have a central office and therefore, the group has no specific place to display the plaques, certificates and other awards. A number of national-level awards have been received by DSU alumni and supporters because of their experiences and relationships with DSU - including the *New Frontier Award* (recognizes gifted HIM students who willingly challenge tradition, take risks, think critically, and lead others in these processes) and *Motivator Award*

(applauds those individuals who support the AHIMA Independent Study Program or a formal health information administration or technology program.) Since the state's only HIM educational programs are at DSU and there are very strong ties between the association and the HIM faculty and students, DSU worked with SDHIMA to make plans to have the "HIM Hall of Fame" located on our campus. Members of the Health Information Management Club are assisting SDHIMA on this project. The wall currently has a plaque listing the past presidents of the association and eventually it will also include recognition of the current board and president, scholarship awards and other honors. The members of the SDHIMA Board of Directors were meeting in Madison on November 9th and were present for the debut of the HIM Wall of Fame. DSU President Jerry Tunheim and Dean Rick Christoph were on hand to give a

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.

HIM Website Honored with President's Select Site Award

Recently the Health Information Management (HIM) Programs at Dakota State University (DSU) had an unique opportunity to upgrade and enhance its Internet website utilizing the services of a student technology fellow. The technology fellows are outstanding DSU students with special skills and expertise in computer science, information systems and web development. Designer of the website, Chris Thames, is majoring in Information Systems and E-Commerce and is a member of the Center of Excellence in Computer Information Systems at DSU. Chris is the Vice President for the Student Senate Association. He plans to work for an information systems or e-commerce department of



a company. The project for the HIM Programs, designed to improve navigation, usability and

interactivity of the website at www.departments.dsu.edu/him had wonderful results and was honored with the DSU's President's Select Site Award for May 1-June 30, 2001. Multimedia components were incorporated with the use of video clips and an active introductory page. The format of the website has "tabs" as in medical records for navigating from page to page, and a form allowing viewers to request more information on-line was added. Work will continue on the website with more photos and video clips planned, as well as

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SDHIMA members Joyce Havlik, Dorine Bennett and Val Royal with DSU President Dr. Tunheim

HIM Faculty Prepare for Program Reaccreditation

The Health Information Management Programs are due for an accreditation review during the 2001-2002 academic year. In preparation for this important assessment, the faculty and staff of the HIM Programs are utilizing several valuable resources. In the Spring of 2001, Bob Garrie, of the American Health Information Management Association made a visit to campus and his recommendations were very useful. In addition, AHIMA has presented two audioconferences during the Fall of 2001 that will serve to guide the work done in preparation of the Report of Current Status for accreditation review. The first audioconference, *Step-By-Step Through the Report of Current Status*, gave instructions and

suggestions for proper documentation to ensure an effective review. The second audioconference, *Developing an Effective Program Evaluation Plan*, provided information that the HIM Programs will find useful in performing self-evaluation.

The HIM Programs have been continuously accredited since their beginnings in 1975, and are currently accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Allied Health Education Programs in conjunction with the American Health Information Management Association.

Health Information Management Faculty and Students Attend Annual Convention

On September 19-21, 2001 a number of the DSU Health Information Management faculty and students attended the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations annual convention. There were over 900 attendees representing professional groups ranging from healthcare quality managers, nursing executives, long term care and hospital administrators, dieticians, laboratory technicians, and others, including the South Dakota Health Information Management Association (SDHIMA). Speakers presented motivational and informational sessions on stress management and dealing with change, as well as providing updates on healthcare legislative and regulatory issues.

Enrollments Show Good Numbers in HIM Programs for 2001-2002

The Fall enrollment figures for the Health Information Management Programs indicate that there are 20 students in the Associate of Science Health Information Technology major and 23 students in the Bachelor of Science in Health Information Administration major.

HIM National Certification Examinations Go Online!

Graduates of AHIMA-approved HIM educational programs are eligible for the national certification examinations to become registered health information administrators (RHIA) or registered health information technicians (RHIT). These credentials are recognized nationally to identify qualified HIM professionals. Increased flexibility in and accessibility to AHIMA's certification process has been a goal of the Council on Certification for quite some time. The Council is pleased to an-

nounce that AHIMA has signed a contract with Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP) to provide computerized testing for the RHIA and RHIT exams, beginning July 2, 2001. The transition to computerized testing is a huge step into the future, and AHIMA is excited about the opportunities presented.

Computerized testing is a state-of-the-art testing methodology, and offers a number of advantages over pencil-and-paper administration, including flexibility, accessibility, immediate feedback and easier retesting.

HIM Club Sponsors Successful Blood Drive

On Tuesday, November 6th, the Sioux Falls Regional Blood Bank's bloodmobile visited DSU for the annual Fall Blood Drive sponsored by the Health Information Management Club. According to Rita Nelson of the regional blood bank, 51 pints of blood were collected from DSU volunteers, which means that at least 153 seriously ill patients will be helped.

The blood drive was one of the activities celebrating national Health Information and Technology Week

on November 4-10. Other events included hot chocolate and donuts on Monday morning, nachos and a movie on Thursday evening, and debut of the HIM Wall of Fame in East Hall on Friday morning. In addition, a "Question of the Day" was posted daily in the Spectrum Lounge of the Trojan Center. A winner was selected from the correct responses each day and prizes were awarded.

Scholarships Awarded

During the Summer of 2001 decisions regarding the South Dakota Health Information Management Association's scholarships for the 2001-2002 academic year were made. Congratulations to award recipients Lynn Breiter and Angela Powell. Lynn is a junior health information administration student and Angi is starting her 2nd year in the health information technology program.