

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

News from the Health Information Management Programs

November 2004

## National Certification Exam Results



The American Health Information Management Association recent report on student results from the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) and Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) exams provided good news regarding the DSU graduates. The list included results from all test takers in the time period from 01/01/04 through 06/30/04. Both the RHIT and RHIA exams had 100% pass rates for the DSU students!

These national certification tests are open only to graduates of health information management programs that have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Dakota State University offers South Dakota's only CAAHEP-accredited HIM programs. These credentialing exams are given online 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 after obtaining their degree.

## DSU HIM Program Hosts SDHIMA Continuing Education Seminar



SDHIMA members had the opportunity to earn professional continuing education credits in the area of technology at a seminar held at DSU on June 22, 2004. Six one-hour presentations of hands-on technologic advances aided partici-

pants to master or enhance new skills in technology. Topics ranged from Internet communities, to Microsoft Office softwares such as Excel, Project Management, advanced Word, and Powerpoint. Tablet computers were used, one for each participant in Room 111, of DSU's Technology Classroom Building in Madison, SD. DSU faculty members, Joyce Havlik and Dorine Bennett were among the presenters.

## Busy with Professional Practice Experiences

Summer of 2004 found 31 HIM students completing their internship experiences in a wide variety of facilities and locations. There were 58 experiences completed in 16 facilities in 11 towns in 4 states. The time spent in the real-life, hands-on training is a valuable part of the education process!

## Joyce Havlik Attends AOE Summer Symposium

Joyce Havlik attended the 2004 Assembly on Education in Chicago in June. She reports that it was very informative and offers very good guidance for the instructors of HIM, including a new set of domains that has been designed to direct instruction for implementation and use of the electronic health record, stressing the importance of technology education in the programs. Students and health information professionals need to be familiar with as many applicable software programs and electronic technologies as possible.

## Promoting Awareness of Personal Health Information

The HIM Program participated in two health fairs during the Fall semester. At these events, information about the importance of health information and understanding your health record was available. Visitors to the HIM booth were informed about a website called MyPHR.com. This is a public resource designed to help consumers understand the importance of creating and maintaining personal health records and becoming active partners in managing the information.

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This year marks a great milestone on the campus of Dakota State University. Thirty years ago the Health Information Management Program was started at DSU. We are planning a 30 year reunion to be held on the campus of Dakota State University on April 9, 2005. The event will be held at the Dakota Prairie Playhouse. There will be a brunch in the morning with speakers, campus tours, and plenty of visiting throughout the day. Cost to attend is \$10.00 which includes the meal. This event is being planned in conjunction with the SDHIMA Convention.

#### Schedule of Events

9:30-10:30 – Registration

10:30-11:00 – Welcome

Dr. Knowlton – DSU President

Dorine Bennett – Director of the HIM Program

Renae Spohn – President of SDHIMA

11:00 – Brunch

12:30 – Speakers

Recognition of Past Faculty

Keynote Speaker

2:00 – Tours

3:00 – Closing and gathering in the Marketplace

The HIM Club sponsored a successful blood drive on the DSU campus in November. The generosity of all donors was greatly appreciated!

#### AHIMA Fellowship Program

Dorine Bennett, Director of the Health Information Management Program at Dakota State University, has been awarded fellowship status in the American Health Information Management Association. The AHIMA Fellowship Program is a program to recognize significant and sustained contribution to advancement of the Health Information Management (HIM) discipline through meritorious service, excellence in professional practice, excellence in HIM education, and advancement of the profession through innovation and knowledge sharing. Individuals who earn fellowship may use the designation Fellow of the American Health Information Management Association (FAHIMA). The names of these individuals will be maintained in the AHIMA Registry of Fellows. In addition, Bennett was highlighted in AHIMA's President-elect Mervat Abdelhak's speech at this year's national AHIMA convention in October in Washington, DC. She is one of 12 AHIMA members selected for their contributions to the field, particularly in the area of health information management education.

A number of Health Information Management (HIM) students at Dakota State University have been selected as recipients of scholarships related to their major field of study. Congratulations should go to Candace Colley, Christi Lamb, Rhonda Moen and Andrea Olson.

Candace Colley has been chosen as a Dakota Corps Scholar for 2004-2005 for the value of \$4600 annually. This award is given to students who have had a 24 ACT and at least a 3.0 high school GPA and who will be majoring in a shortage area designated by the Department of Labor. A Dakota Corps Scholarship is a full tuition and fee award up to 16 credits each academic term, excluding summer. Recipients must maintain at least a 2.8 GPA and the award is renewable for up to 4 years depending upon their grade classification. Candace is majoring in health information technology.

The South Dakota Health Information Management Association annually awards \$1500 in scholarship money to students majoring in health information technology or health information administration at DSU. The recipients for 2004-2005 are Christi Lamb and Rhonda Moen. Both of these students are health information administration majors.

(Pictured are Christi and Rhonda with SDHIMA President Renae Spohn at the Awards Luncheon held at the SD Association of Healthcare Organizations Fall Convention).



The student selected to receive the HIM Annual Award for 2004-2005 was Andrea Olson. She is a senior majoring in health information administration.

#### SD Health Academies.

Dorine Bennett participated in the South Dakota Health Academies held in Watertown, Mitchell and Sioux Falls in June. At each of these week-long academies, a number of selected high school students from the areas were invited to attend and learn more about a variety of healthcare careers. Betty Hieb of Avera Queen of Peace in Mitchell and Kristi Osthus of Prairie Lakes in Watertown also shared information with the students and gave tours of their HIM departments.