



UAMS MHA

Student Association Newsletter

UAMS MHA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2015 - ISSUE 1

The Masters of Health Administration program is excited to present the first edition of the program news letter. Our student association believes that connecting students, faculty, alumni and friends is essential for our sustained success. Each semester students participate in many events designed to help us grow professionally and academically. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the events we participated in this year. - Chris Meyer "MHA Student Association President"

Philanthropy

Our philanthropy committee undertook a number of charitable endeavors this year. Toys were donated to underprivileged children during the holidays through Toys for Tots, \$600 was raised for the American Heart Association, and the first annual 12th Street Charity Golf Tournament was held, raising \$7,000 for the student-run clinic. All are welcome to sponsor or play in the 2016 tournament!

Professional Development

Students attended a number of professional development events throughout the year. In the fall, students attended the AHA Conference in Little Rock and an information session hosted by AHEF about the ICD10 rollout. Many students pursue extracurricular opportunities to better prepare themselves for their careers. These range from building professional relationships to attending leadership development courses and the like.

STUDENT NEWS

Lunch with the Administrator

This year the MHA Student Association was fortunate to have seven of Arkansas's leading health administrators host lunches for the students. These working lunches consisted of advice, tales from the industry, current event discussions, and Q&A sessions. The featured leaders included:

- ◆ *UAMS*: CEO Dr. Roxane Townsend and Leadership Team
- ◆ *St. Bernard's Healthcare*: CEO Chris

Barber

- ◆ *Arkansas Children's Hospital*: CEO Marcy Doeder, CNO Lee Ann Eudy, COO David Berry, Vice President Ancillary Services Mark Winslow
- ◆ *Baptist Health*: Troy Wells, Lee Gentry, Doug Weeks, Mike Perkins, Brian Cherry, Harrison Reed
- ◆ *Southern Administration*: CEO John Pontife and Carol Compass
- ◆ *CHI St. Vincent*: CEO Dr. Polly Davenport

Alumni Luncheon

The MHA department held a successful alumni luncheon on UAMS campus this year. This was an excellent opportunity for past and present students to interact and network, with an impressive turnout of 75. Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Dr. Rhonda Scott of Grady Health in Atlanta was the featured speaker, leaving all with plenty to contemplate regarding inspirational leadership.



Dr. Rhonda Scott at UAMS Alumni Luncheon

Case Competitions

Current students competed in a number of national MHA case competitions this year. Three second year students competed in the annual University of Alabama at Birmingham MHA Case Competition. Accompanying them were three first year students, observing as preparation for next year's competition. The UAMS MHA team at UAB improves every year, competing against the top programs in the country. The entire first year class also competed in the national Cleveland Clinic Annual Case Competition through their Advanced Healthcare Financial Management class. These presentations were prepared in just 3 days and submitted to The Cleveland Clinic for consideration.



(Back Row: Dr. Stephen Bowman, Kevin Keen, Stewart Clark, Dr. Michael Morris, Aaron Pilkington; Front Row: Jeanne Rabalais, Jennifer Rable, Melissa Yandell.)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TROY WELLS, BAPTIST HEALTH

Troy Wells, originally from Hot Springs, Arkansas, graduated from the UAMS MHA program in 1997. He has been employed at Baptist Health since 2006 and is currently serving as the CEO. A good friend of the program, Troy graciously answered a few interview questions for this Alumni Spotlight.



What advice do you have for new graduates?

There are always a few things I recommend when speaking with students or new graduates. First, when looking for job opportunities, individuals should spend some time reflecting and really understand what makes them unique and interesting. Everyone coming out of graduate programs is really smart, typically hard working, and ambitious; these descriptors sound nice but don't differentiate you! Being able to articulate what makes you truly unique can be a real differentiator.

What are some future challenges you see for health care in Arkansas?

There are plenty of challenges out there for us. Clearly, we need to be concerned about the number of available clinical care givers and physicians that will support the aging population, chronically ill, and rising risk population in our state. Rural states like ours also need to be concerned with providing adequate health care access in rural areas. Between provider shortages and financial realities of health care, we will be challenged to provide everything that communities want locally in a sustainable way.

What is the role of the MHA program for health care in the State?

Having an MHA program in a state like Arkansas is vitally important. We are blessed to have a source for training health care leaders right here in our State. It provides great career opportunities for Arkansans and creates a ready source of candidates to service in health care positions throughout our State. I am proud of the progress that our UAMS MHA program continues to make and that we continue to raise the standards for the program and the students.

Congratulations MHA Graduates!

The MHA Student Association is thrilled to congratulate the graduating class of 2015! We thank you for leading the way and wish you the best of luck on future endeavors.

2015 Graduates:

Stewart Clark
Matthew Hazel
Benjamin Jackson
Derek Jones
Ashley Martin
Aaron Pilkington
Paul Rebsamen
Jacob Robinson
Melissa Yandell
Kyle McWilliams

Mentorship Program

In partnership with ACHE, the MHA department has begun a mentorship program to provide students with a professional mentor. Over a dozen prestigious healthcare leaders in Arkansas volunteered their time and knowledge to become mentors to the students. Mentors and students have agreed to meet quarterly at the mentor's convenience to build these mutually beneficial relationships. Pairings were made based on interests and experience. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for incoming students in 2015 please contact the MHA program.

Upcoming – Get Involved!

During the 2014-2015 academic year our program experienced growth and change. Numerically we are as large as ever and academically we are constantly striving to provide students with the tools they need to be the health care leaders of tomorrow. This summer our first year students will complete administrative residencies around the state and in August we will begin a new academic year with student orientation. The fall semester will present many new

Faculty Update

We are completing our self-study for CAHME reaccreditation, with a formal CAHME site visit scheduled for September 23-25. A new competency model will be in effect beginning August 2015, along with some curricular changes. Students will now complete a two-semester operations management sequence that will prepare them for a green belt certification in Lean Six Sigma. Students will be required to take Advanced Applications in Healthcare Management and Health Policy and Politics—both were previously electives. With these changes, the program will have 100% required courses.

opportunities for you to get involved ranging from hosting a lunch with the administrators to volunteering as mentor and we are always looking for ways to engage our alumni and friends. Thank you for reading our first newsletter and we look forward to updating you next semester. If you have any questions about the program or newsletter please contact one of the students or faculty listed below and follow us on social media.

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