



UAMS MHA

Student Association Newsletter

UAMS MHA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2016 - ISSUE 4

Hello friends, families, and supporters of the UAMS MHA program! The Master’s of Health Administration class of 2017 is pleased to present the fourth issue of the MHA Student Association Newsletter. We are thrilled that you are joining us as we celebrate our dedication to strengthening the program through multifaceted accomplishments. With strong faculty support, MHA students are able to utilize this newsletter in order to further connect our network of healthcare advocates. Thank you - Chase Cooper “MHA Student Association President”

STUDENT NEWS

Alumni Luncheon

The MHA department held a successful alumni luncheon on UAMS campus this year. This was an excellent opportunity for students past and present to interact and network. This year, Arkansas Surgeon General Dr. Greg Bledsoe (pictured right) was our featured speaker. He discussed the debate over Governor Asa Hutchinson’s Arkansas Works legislation that would replace the Private Option and ensure the Medi-



caid Expansion continued in the state of Arkansas. Additionally, Jyric Sims, Senior Vice President and COO of Tulane Health System, was presented with the Outstanding Alumni Award (pictured left). Sims was the first recipient to have been nominated and chosen by previous winners of the award. The award was presented by program director Richard Ault and MHA Alumni Association President Mike Perkins.

Philanthropy



On March 4th, 2016 MHA students volunteered as phone volunteers at the Champion for

Children Radiothon for the Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH). The funds raised from the Radiothon help children and families who receive care from ACH. On April 2nd, 2016 students and faculty participated in Central Arkansas’ Walk to Defeat ALS®. ALS, referred to as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, is a progressive, fatal neuromuscular disease that slowly robs the body of its ability to walk, speak, swallow and breathe. The team raised \$620 to support people in the community with ALS and spread awareness of the urgency to find treatment and a cure.

Case Competitions

In February, UAMS MHA students competed along with 37 other teams from across the country at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) 11th Annual Case Competition. Only programs with national accreditation are allowed to take part in the event. The UAMS team consisted of three second year students. Accompanying them were two 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. Another UAMS team of MHA students shined in the first round of the 3rd Annual Cleveland Clinic case competition that also took place in February. The UAMS team placed 17th, making it the first alternate if one of the finalist teams decides to not compete. That is something to be proud of, especially in light of the fact that they competed against teams from some of the most prestigious schools in the world.



(Back Row: Chase Cooper, Rizan Mohsin, Chris Myer, Margaret Downs, Cole Pace; Front Row: Dr. Saleema Karim, Dr. Michael Morris)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Salonica Gray is a May 2014 graduate of the MHA program at UAMS. In December 2015, she began working with the UAMS Medical College Physicians Group (MCPG) as a Revenue Manager. Salonica graciously agreed to answer a few questions for the MHA Student Association:



What is your current position and what does it involve?

I am a Revenue Manager for the Cancer and Myeloma Service Lines. I report and analyze trends and resolve issues related to provider reimbursement, charge lag, denials, and outstanding A/R.

What advice do you have for students currently in the MHA program?

I strongly advise current students to take advantage of every real world healthcare experience they encounter, including internships, research projects, and meetings with people already in the field. Healthcare employers value experience – they look for it on resumes and during interviews. Also try to gather as much knowledge as possible about IT issues specific to healthcare, such as privacy concerns, types of electronic business transactions, or information sharing between patients, providers, and payors.

In retrospect, what advice would have been helpful to you during the transition from student to professional?

The practice that helped me most when I entered the field was being unafraid of starting from the bottom and learning my way up. The “little things” – getting familiar with payor websites and rules, learning how to interpret policies, creating a well-designed summary out of tons of data – seemed tedious at the time, but have served me well over the course of my career.

Congratulations MHA Graduates!

The MHA Student Association is thrilled to congratulate the graduating class of 2016! We wish you the best of luck on future endeavors.

2016 Graduates:



Christa Campo
Elizabeth Cohen
Jordan Coleman
Margaret Downs
Amberlie Jones
Kevin Keen
Jonathan Koonce
Christopher Meyer
Rizan Mohsin
Susan Parham
Hamza Qadir
Jeanne Rabalais
Jennifer Rable
Keaton Ramaker
Carlos Sepulveda
Sarah Spinks
CJ Uzick

Summer Administrative Residencies

MHA Program Director Richard Ault works arduously to place each first year student in an administrative healthcare residency for the summer between their first and second years. These residencies expose MHA students to real world scenarios designed to test the skills they have learned in the classroom. The following lists the names and workplaces of our Summer 2016 residents:

Adnan Siddique—UAMS Myeloma Institute: Operations
Chase Cooper—UAMS Myeloma Institute: Strategic Planning
Rebecca Reif—Baptist Health: Risk Management
Brielle Merchant—UAMS Center for Primary Care
Cole Pace—UAMS Myeloma Institute: Quality Management

MHA Program Updates

The MHA program is excited to announce that it has been reaccredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) for an additional seven years. Site visitors from CAHME performed their inspection during the Fall 2015 semester before reporting their findings back to CAHME. Additionally, the MHA program is excited to announce the creation of a new scholarship, the Dr. John Baker MHA Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes the program’s founder and long-time professor, Dr. John Baker, responsible for training nearly 400 graduates so far. Finally, the MHA program is proud to welcome a new addition to our outstanding faculty, Dr. Hseuh-Fen Chen. Dr. Chen is coming from the School of Public Health at the University of North Texas and will be joining the program in July 2016. Welcome to UAMS Dr. Chen!



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