



CARDWELL

Newsletter of the Health Administration Alumni/ae Association

Comments

December 2002

Briefly

Award

HAD faculty member, **Gloria Bazzoli**, has been awarded this year's A.D. Williams Prize for Excellence in research in the School of Allied Health Professions.

Visitor

On December 4, 2002, **Dr. Rosemary Stevens**, the Stanley I. Sheerr Professor Emeritus in Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, presented her lecture, "Specialty Certification, a Continuing History" at the Paul A. Gross Distinguished Lecture Series. Article on page 9.

Mark Your Calendar

1. Save the date and mark your calendars for the Paul A. Gross Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series to be held on April 17, 2003 at Richmond's Jefferson Hotel. Featured guest speaker will be **David Bernd, MHA '73**, Chair-Elect Designate of the American Hospital Association and Chief Executive Officer of Sentara Healthcare in Norfolk, Virginia. Article on page 5.

2. HAD will Participate in the ACHE 2003 Congress on Healthcare Management March, 2003. Article on page 9.

Winter Closing

The University will be closed from December 21-January 5, 2003 for winter break. HAD offices reopen Monday, January 6.

VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

The Year In Review

As 2002 comes to a close with 2003 close on its heels, it seems like a good time to review briefly the tumultuous year that we've had here in the Department of Health Administration. The good news is abundant: we have had a successful site visit by the accrediting commission for health administration programs, and we anticipate a full eight-year renewal. We've begun, and are well into, a highly acclaimed on-line Patient Safety Fellowship, with 43 participants and a first-rate national faculty, all under the leadership of Professor Karen Swisher. Already, we have filled about one-half of the slots for the second round. The Department has also established the successful Health Information Technology Certificate Program, an elective adjunct to the MHA Degree. About one-half dozen students have elected this exciting enhancement to the curriculum. The faculty are highly productive, raising the most research funding in several decades and writing over 100 articles, books, and book chapters in the last three years.

Our alumni/ae continue to distinguish themselves in all manner of ways. David Bernd (MHA'73), CEO at Sentara, is the chair-elect of the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees. Sister Pat Eck (MHA'81), is the Chair of the Catholic Health Association Board of Trustees, in addition to being Chairperson, Board of Directors, Bon Secours Health System. Bevan Baker (MHA'88) is Wisconsin's Young Healthcare Executive of the Year 2002, as well as the Health Operations Director/Chief Operating Officer of the City of Milwaukee Health Department. The list of accomplishments of alums goes on and on.

Support from alums has been solid this year, with helpful gifts from people like Skip Lamb who made a major donation of furniture to the recently renovated student lounge, as well as Bon Secours, which contributed financially to the renovation. We now have an additional Ogren Scholarship, plus newly endowed scholarships in memory of Jim Fleetwood, and in honor of Carl Fischer and Ham Flannagan. The Department is now awarding a record level of scholarship funds to worthy students. The Alumni/ae Executive Committee changed leadership from the helping hands of Warren Brennan (MHA'74) to the capable leadership of Karen Cameron (MHA'87). The Department received a most helpful curriculum review report from a newly established subcommittee of the Executive Committee. And, the new "Alumnus/a of the Year" award was established in 2002 with Richard Bracken (MHA'77), as the inaugural recipient.

(Continued on page 9)

In This Issue

Page 2-7	Alumni/ae News
Page 7-8	Program News
Page 9-10	Department News

Cardwell Comments, the alumni/ae newsletter, is a publication of the Department of Health Administration, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Editor: Amy Edwards

804/828-8662, anedwards@vcu.edu

Co-editor/Designer: Bev DeShazo

804/828-5220, bdes hazo@hsc.vcu.edu

Alumni/ae News

MCV Alumni Association Reunion Weekend April 25-27, 2003

Mark your calendars for the MCV Alumni Association of VCU (MCVAA) Reunion! Once again this year, the Department of Health Administration is pleased to be participating with MCVAA and its reunion activities. As the Reunion Weekend approaches, the Department will place important information on MCVAA Reunion activities on our website, www.had.vcu.edu, as will the MCVAA on its website, www.vcu-mcvalumni.org.

If you are a young alumni/ae, those in the graduating classes of 1998 through 2002, or if you are in a graduating class ending in 3 or 8, please contact Amy Edwards, anedwards@vcu.edu, or 804-828-8662, if you are interested in assisting with reunion activities specific to your class. Assistance on a reunion committee could mean something as simple as sending out a few e-mails and encouraging your classmates to attend.

The more alumni/ae who return to campus the more fun the reunion will be! We hope to see each of you back at the Grant House in the Spring! ■

Call for Nominations 2003 OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS/ALUMNA AWARD

Don't forget that between now and January 30, 2003 is your time to nominate a fellow alumnus or alumna for the Department of Health Administration Outstanding Alumnus/Alumna Award. This award recognizes an alumnus or alumna who is recognized as a leader and significant contributor to the health care field, his or her community, the Department of Health Administration and its alumni and alumnae, and professional organizations.

Selection criteria include professional accomplishments, departmental involvement, and community involvement. With your nomination please provide:

1. The name and address of the nominee.
2. A statement from the person making the nomination describing why the nominee should win the specific award. The statement should address
 - a) Professional accomplishment
 - b) Past department support
 - c) Community involvement
 - d) Potential or future department support
3. A copy of the nominee's resume/vitae or provide a description of past experiences/honors.
4. The name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the nomination.

Letters in support of the nomination are welcome but not mandatory. Please send all materials to: Amy M.E. Edwards Director of External Relations Grant House 1008 East Clay Street P.O. Box 980203 Richmond, VA 23298-0203. ■

Website Reminder—Job Postings

Are you or your company looking for someone to fill a job opportunity within your company? Are you looking for a new job? If you answered yes to either one of these questions, please visit the job board on our website, <http://www.had.vcu.edu/employment/index.jsp>.

Alumni/ae News (continued)

Alumni/ae Gathering & Benefit – Valentine Richmond History Center

On November 8, 2002, alumni/ae from the Richmond area gathered at the Valentine in Richmond, Virginia to share each other's company and to hear a department report from Dr. Stephen Mick. Alumni/ae in attendance were:

Diane Anderson (MHA '95)	Brian Jenkins (MHA/JD '97)
Kevin Barr (BS '81)	Richard Kraus (MHA '64)
Julie Beales (MSHA '02)	Elizabeth Nance (MSHA '02)
Warren Brennan (MHA '74)	Pat Randall (MHA '95)
Nathan Bushnell (MHA '51)	Thomas Ryan (MSHA '99)
Karen Cameron (MHA '87)	Jennifer Seiden (MHA '00)
Richard Camp (MHA '75)	William Tinker (MHA '01)
Amy Edwards (MHA/JD '97)	Ken White (PHD '96)
Margot Fritts (MHA '85)	Ed Williford (MHA '96)
Daniel Gardner (MHA '01)	

The Department is in the early stages of planning two additional regional alumni/ae gatherings, one in North Carolina and one in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Both of these gatherings will likely occur in the late Spring/ early Summer.

Gatherings have proven to be a great way to reconnect with fellow alumni/ae and meet new alumni/ae, as well as stay connected with what's happening at the Department. Please watch up and coming Cardwell Comments, which can be found at <http://www.had.vcu.edu/news/index.html>, for more information. ■

Alumni/ae and Friends Contributing Gifts to the Department September 23-December 9, 2002

The Department sincerely appreciates all contributions. Contributions are vital to supporting our students and improving our top 10 ranking.

*Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ciesco
Mr. Robert Dendy, Jr.
Dr. Mary Ellison
Mrs. Donna Hale
Mr. Peter Lambert
Mr. Thomas Leggett
Mr. William Moss*

*Ms. Carlene Qualls
Dr. Shantaram Rangappa
Mr. Richard Sandvos
Mrs. Cheryl Simpson
Mr. Joseph Teefey
Dr. Geoffrey Viol
Ms. Phyllis Wingate-Jones*

Organizations
*J.S. Lindsey & Company
MMR Holdings, Inc.
National Pharmaceutical Council
Norfolk Southern Foundation
Owens & Minor
St. Mary's Hospital*

Match Gifts

Don't forget that many companies match the gifts and donations that its employees make to charities and other not-for-profits, such as Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Health Administration. Does your company match gifts and donations? If yes, then your contribution is twice as important to the Department. Whether you are making a contribution to a specific scholarship fund, or just a general gift and donation to the Department, notify your company of your contribution for the match, asking them to specifically mark in the memo section of the check the specific fund designate. ■

(Alumni/ae News continued on page 4)

Alumni/ae News

Alumna Spotlight **Sheryl L. Garland, MHA '88**



Over the last seventeen years, Sheryl Garland, currently the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System (VCUHS) Vice President Community Outreach, has helped the VCUHS become the quality healthcare service provider that it is today. VCU Health System recently received, for the second year in a row, a National Research Corporation Consumer Choice Award for providing quality healthcare services, based on an independent survey of central Virginia residents.

Sheryl started her health care career with the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals (MCVH), as an Administrative Assistant in the Cost Accounting Department while still a student in the VCU Department of Health Administration (HAD) MHA Program. She served as MCVH's Administrative Resident (under the direction of Peter Rapp, then COO and Carl Fischer, CEO of the Hospital).

After her residency, Sheryl continued with MCVH in various planning and strategic development and ambulatory care roles. By September of 1995, Sheryl was well versed in what helps an urban based academic medical center survive in a competitive market and environment where outpatient services are of increasing importance and in greater demand. Starting up and heading up the MCV Hospitals & Physicians Office of Ambulatory Care Services (OACS), Sheryl provided credibility and support to the hospitals' and physicians' ambulatory clinical practices, guided the practices through accreditation reviews, and negotiated, developed and managed many outpatient based initiatives such as the management contract with the Richmond City Department of Public Health clinical services programs and case management services for uninsured patients.

With the creation of the VCUHS in July 2000, Sheryl continued and expanded upon her OACS initiatives as VCUHS's Vice President, Ambulatory Care Services, coordinating systems that support all of VCUHS's outpatient services, over 500,000 outpatient visits per year. She also developed and implemented the Virginia Coordinated Care for the Uninsured (VCC) program, a program which has enrolled and coordinated health care services for approximately 14,000 uninsured patients living in the Greater Richmond Metropolitan, and is the Principal Investigator for a \$1.1 million HRSA Community Access Program grant to support the development of a web-based patient information system.

In October 2002, Sheryl also became the VCUHS's Vice President for Community Outreach. In this role, Sheryl continues to develop and implement initiatives to support the care of uninsured and underinsured populations who access healthcare services within VCUHS. She establishes partnerships with community based agencies to enhance the outreach goals of VCU and the VCUHS, and continues to develop programs which utilize and enhance federal, state and private revenue streams for patient care activities of the VCUHS.

Sheryl's hard work has not gone unnoticed. Among numerous awards, Sheryl has been named the Richmond YMCA's Outstanding Woman of the Year, Health and Science (2000) and the American College of Healthcare Executives Regent's Early Career Healthcare Executive Award (1994).

Sheryl is a strong supporter of HAD, participating in third year oral comprehensives, hiring students and program graduates for part-time employment, and taking part in other alumni/ae events. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, Chris, and their two daughters, Christian (11) and Cameran (7). HAD is proud Sheryl is an alumna of our MHA Program, and wishes her continued career success as she tackles her new Community Outreach responsibilities. ■

(Alumni/ae News continued on page 5)

Alumni/ae News (continued)

Alumna Spotlight Janet R. Lynch, Ph.D. '88

If you want to learn about and implement quality improvement initiatives in your health care organization, you want to talk with Janet Lynch, the Chief Quality Initiatives Officer of the Virginia Health Quality Center (VHQC), a health care quality improvement organization based in Richmond, Virginia.

Before joining VHQC, and after receiving her Ph.D. in Health Services Organization and Research from VCU's Department of Health Administration, Janet served as the Director of Virginia's Long-Term Care Council, Virginia Department for the Aging (VLTCC) (1990-1992); the Health Resources Development Director, Virginia Health Services Cost Review Council (VHSCRC) (1992 – 1996); and the Director of Regulatory and Academic Affairs, Managed Care Resources (1996-1997).

In her role as the Chief Quality Initiatives Officer, Janet leads the Division of Quality Improvement Projects of the VHQC in conducting all projects and studies, both clinical and financial, performed under state, federal, and private contracts. She prepares technical reports, supervises project managers, analysts and subcontractors, as well as contributes to grant applications and proposals for new business development.

The VHQC's largest contract, with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, designates the VHQC to serve as the quality improvement organization for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VHQC has held the CMS contract to provide quality improvement and Medicare beneficiary outreach services in Virginia for more than 18 years.

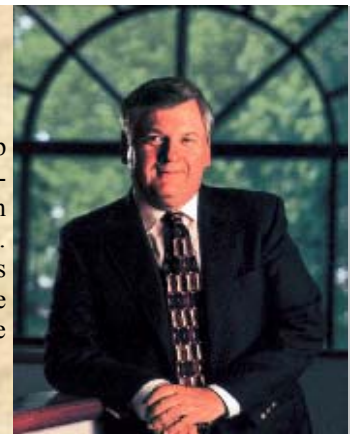
VHQC also offers services to a wide range of clients who are interested in assessing and improving the quality of health care for a variety of populations. In operation for almost 20 years, VHQC partners with Virginia's health care community to improve patient care for over 900,000 Virginia Medicare beneficiaries. This includes providing quality improvement assistance in a number of clinical topic areas to providers in various health care settings, including Virginia's acute care hospitals, physician offices, nursing homes, and home health agencies. VHQC is the recipient of the 2002 US Senate Productivity and Quality Award Plaque for Progress in Performance Excellence, the highest level award bestowed on an organization in Virginia during 2002.

Janet is an Affiliate Associate Professor for HAD. Up until recently, she served as the doctoral representative on the Alumni/ae Executive Committee for the Department. She is an active HAD supporter through various guest lectures and is on a doctoral dissertation committee. HAD is proud of her accomplishments and thanks her for her continued support of the Department and its students. ■



Save the Date, April 17, 2003, for the Paul A. Gross Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series

Save the date and mark your calendars for the Paul A. Gross Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series which will be held on April 17, 2003 at Richmond's Jefferson Hotel. Featured guest speaker will be David Bernd, MHA '73, Chair-Elect Designate of the American Hospital Association and Chief Executive Officer of Sentara Healthcare in Norfolk, Virginia. Watch our website, www.had.vcu.edu, and our Cardwell Comments for more information as the date approaches. Like last year, this special segment of the Lecture Series will include dinner and the presentation of the Department's Outstanding Alumnus/Alumna Award. We hope to see you there! ■



(Alumni/ae News continued on page 6)

Alumni/ae News (continued)

Alumni/ae Updates

Beth Bankston (MSHA'02) and her husband, Brad, are happy to announce the arrival of their son, Benjamin Payne, on August 28, 2002...**Alicia Barfield** (MHA'02) is Continuous Improvement Analyst for Bon Secours Hampton Roads, Norfolk, Virginia...**Susan Becker** (MSHA'94) is a Senior Consultant with Managed Care Advisors, Chevy Chase, Maryland...**Stephen Blanchard** (MSHA'94) is Administrator of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa...**Robert Brinker** (MSHA'91) is a Contract Manager for Sentara Healthcare, Norfolk, Virginia...**Shirley Butler-Bayne** (MSHA'98) is Corporate Director, Systems and Outcomes Management for Diamond Healthcare-Health Services Group, Richmond, Virginia...**Philip Clayton** (MSHA'91) serves as CEO of Conway Hospital, Conway, South Carolina...**Stephen DeBiasi** (MHA'95) is Practice Administrator for Carolinas Pathology Group, P.A., Charlotte, North Carolina...**John Engle** (MSHA'93) is Medical Director for Bay Clinic, Inc., Hilo, Hawaii...**Timothy Everidge** (MSHA'99) serves as Director of Cleveland Clinic Hospital, Weston, Florida...**Eric Fitch** (MHA'02) is Assistant Administration for Life Care Center of Cleveland, Cleveland, Tennessee...**Kimberly Foster** (MHA'01) is a Planning Analyst for Inova Health System, Springfield, Virginia...**Lisa Gerhardt** (MSHA'95) serves as Manager of Practice Consulting for Ciraden, Fairfax, Virginia...**Beth Glassford** (MSHA'92) is Chief Nursing Officer for Lancaster Regional Medical Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania...**Eugene Handza** (MHA'96) is Chief of Pharmacy with the Veterans Administration, Fresno, California...**Nancy Harpst** (MSHA'92) is Principal of Matrix Advisors, Frederick, Maryland...**John Hellmann** (MSHA'94) serves as Administrator for Baptist Hospital West, Knoxville, Tennessee...**Kwangsoo Lee** (Ph.D.'01) is a Senior Researcher for Health Insurance Review Agency in Seoul, South Korea...**Dr. Guy Levy** (MSHA'92) has his own dentist practice in Newport News, Virginia...**Susan MacLaughlin** (MHA'83) is Administrator for Commonwealth Dermatology PC, Richmond, Virginia...**Allyson Armstrong Mason** (MHA'97) has been promoted to Director of Human Resources for HCA's St. Joseph's Hospital, Parkersburg, West Virginia...**Michael McAndrew** (MHA'81) is CEO of Hopkins County Memorial Hospital, Sulphur Springs, TX...**Teresa Kannan McRoberts** (MHA/JD'90) is a full time mother and seminary student...**John Morana, Jr.** (MSHA'97) is Director of Operating Room Services for Carilion Health System, Roanoke, Virginia. John recently became a Diplomate in the American College of Healthcare Executives and has had his thesis approved for advancement to Fellow...**Michael Morrical** (MHA'02) is an Assistant Administrator for Health Management Associates, Inc., Statesville, North Carolina...**Stephens Mundy** (MHA'88) is CEO/President of CVPH Medical Center, Plattsburgh, New York...**Meredyth Nelson** (MSHA'94) is Assistant Chief of Pharmacy Service for McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia. Meredyth married John Nelson on May 27, 2000...**Jonathan Perlin, MD** (MSHA'97) has been appointed Deputy Under Secretary for Health for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs...**Christopher Plyler** (MSHA'94) now serves as Chief Financial Officer for Riverside Physician Services, Inc., Newport News, Virginia...**Robert Polahar** (MHA'76) is CEO of Salt Lake Specialty Medical Center, West Valley City, Utah...**Stacy Ross Purcell** (MHA/JD'97) married Brian Purcell on October 26, 2002. Stacy is an Associate Attorney with Troutmann Sanders, Virginia Beach, Virginia...**Dennis Quagliani** (MHA'94) recently was promoted to Vice President of Contracts and Commercial Support for markets in Asia, Europe, Middle East, United States, and Canada with Elekta Oncology Systems, Inc., Norcross, Georgia. Dennis recently was elected as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the American Egyptian Childhood Cancer Association. Dennis and wife, Marcie, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Marie, on October 7, 2002...**Edna Rensing** (MSHA'94) is Project Manager for the Virginia Health Quality Center, Glen Allen, Virginia...**Warren Rhyner** (MSHA'91) is Senior Director of Support Services for the American Red Cross, Johnstown, Pennsylvania...**Susan Roggenkamp** (Ph.D.'00), effective January 2003, will become Director of the Health Care Management Program at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina...**Susan Roman** (MHA'02), Director, Management Research/Project Planning, Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Lexington, Kentucky, has an article in the November 2002 ACHE Young Healthcare Executive Newsletter. The article is titled "Early Careerist Profile"...**John Rowe** (MHA'91) serves as Vice President of Operations for Dialysis Corporation of America, Hanover, Maryland...**Joseph Sargeant, III** (MSHA'91) serves as Executive Director with Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board, Clifton Forge, Virginia...**Bill Schiff** (MHA'97) and his wife, Alicia, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Riker DuPont, on November 12, 2001...**Eric Scott** (MHA'95) serves as Administrator of Surgical Associates of Richmond, Inc., Richmond, Virginia...**Jennifer Seiden** (MHA'02) serves as Program Development Specialist for Anthem-Health Management Corporation, Richmond, Virginia...**Susan Shackelford** (MSHA'93) is Administrator of Richmond Plastic Surgeons, Inc., Richmond, Virginia...**Jie Shen** (Ph.D.'98) is an Assistant Professor with

(Continued on page 7)

Alumni/ae News (continued)

Alumni/ae Updates (continued)

Governors State University, University Park, Illinois...**Ricky Shuman** (BS'80) is Administrative Director, of Bon Secours Virginia HealthSource, Richmond, Virginia...**Curtis Skolnick** (MHA'92) is a Senior Consultant with PSI Arista, Fairfax, Virginia...**Steven Smith** (MHA'94) serves as a Capital Finance Consultant with Capital Link, Cary, North Carolina...**Melissa Spain** (MHA'97) is Medicaid Outreach and Marketing Manager for Trigon Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Richmond, Virginia...**Chris Stark** (MHA'02) and his wife, Angie, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Spencer Reese, on August 12, 2002...**Nelson L. St. Clair** (MHA'61) CEO, Riverside Health Care Association, Newport News, Virginia has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia...**Linda Stump** (MSHA'94) is Senior Director with Johns Hopkins Home Care Group, Baltimore, Maryland...**Todd Swortzel** (MSHA' 97) serves as President and CEO of Baptist Homes of Western PA, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania...**Gale Tanner** (MSHA'91) is Administrator of Monroe County Hospital, Forsyth, Georgia...**Sharla Tilley** (MHA'95) is Project Manager IV for PacifiCare Health Systems, Cypress, California...**Vanessa Hanley Watters** (MHA'97) is Provider Network Manager for MedStar Health-WHC-PHO, Washington, DC...**Anne Webber** (MSHA'96) serves as Vice President of Strategic Planning for AMI Healthcare Systems Group, Richmond, Virginia...**Jennifer Weddle** (MSHA'96) is now Practice Administrator for Family Practice Associates, Richmond, Virginia...**Robert White** (MHA'78) recently became Senior Vice President of Provider Networks for MAMSI (Mid-Atlantic Medical Services, Inc., Rockville, Maryland...**Stephen Wogen** (MHA'96) is Director of Business Analysis with Medco Health, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey...**Dennis Zamojski** (MSHA'92) serves as Senior Vice President of Operations for Amsurg, Nashville, Tennessee. ■

Alumni/ae Updates

Please send you position updates and other news to Amy Edwards at VCU, P.O. Box 980203, Richmond, VA 23298-0203 or by e-mail, anedwards@hsc.vcu.edu. You may also always send information to the Department through our website, www.had.vcu.edu. Simply use the "Update Contact Information" link on the left hand bar of our home page, and fill in the comments section with your news!

Program News

Ph.D. News

Alumni/ae

George Stukenborg, (1995), returned to campus this fall as an instructor for HADM 763. George currently is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Evaluation Sciences at University of Virginia's School of Medicine. **Pei-Shu (Lydia) Ho** (1991) returned to campus this fall to teach HADM609 in the masters program. Lydia serves as a senior Researcher with Medlantic Research Institute in Washington, DC. **Debra Draper** (2000) continues to be asked to present to the Executive Fellowship in Medicaid Disease Management Program. She presented in September and has been asked to return in March for another program.

Jie (Jay) Shen (1998) received a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to study racial disparities in hospital care.

Program graduate, **Susan Roggenkamp**, and current student, **Mark Diana**, won the Best Poster Award at the AUPHA Annual Meeting this past summer. The title of the poster was "Caught by the Web: How Health Administration Programs Use the Internet for Marketing and Promotions." ■

(Program News continued on page 8)



Program News (continued)

MSHA On-Campus Session

MSHA associates returned to the Grant House for the Dec. 12 -19 on-campus session to end one semester and begin the next. We kept them very busy and they left ready to enjoy their time off for the holidays.

Four new MSHA associates joined the Program, beginning their coursework with the second semester courses. Their brief biographies follow.

Sandy Lee Chung (Sterling, Virginia) is a member of the physician staff at Fairfax Pediatric Associates, P.C. She is also a clinical instructor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Virginia. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia in 1993 and holds a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, awarded in 1997.

Marilyn B. Mayo (Richmond, Virginia) is a Quality Management Nurse at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia.

Lisa D. Seay (Fredericksburg, Virginia) is the administrator of the Surgi-Center of Central Virginia, a part of United Surgical Partners International. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.

Susan B. Whiteside (Richmond, Virginia) is the Community Education Coordinator and Medical Social Worker for Home Care Connection, Inc., Midlothian, Virginia. She has a Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina.

MSHA Information Sessions

This fall, the Department held an information session in October in Charlottesville at Martha Jefferson Health Services of Forest Lake. Our thanks go to Marijo Lecker, MSHA 1993 for providing the site for the session and to Michael Ashby, MSHA 2003, Jeff Hetmanski, MSHA 2003, Susan Wenzel, MSHA 2003, and Robert Bethke, MHA 1992 for all their help in making arrangements and attending the session to share their insights about the Department and the Program.

We also held a session in the Grant House in November. We are grateful to Carlos Brown, MSHA 2002, Melissa Hunt, MSHA 2004 and Donna Moore, MSHA 2004 for attending this session.

We are continually looking for opportunities to let people know about the Program. If you have suggestions about holding information sessions, please let us know. ■

Executive Fellowship in Patient Safety

The Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Health Administration is pleased to announce and accept applications for its second Executive Fellowship in Patient Safety. The fellowship program is a year long distance learning program which starts June 11, 2003.

The first fellowship class currently in session has been quite successful and is comprised of 43 fellows from 17 states. Current fellows come from diverse health care professions, inclusive of quality assurance directors, medical directors, administrators, physicians, pharmacists, nurse managers, risk managers, and other health care professionals who are involved with patient safety.

A brief description of the fellowship is available directly from this link: <http://www.had.vcu.edu/files/AdForPtSafety.pdf> (this is a 72 KB pdf file--Adobe Acrobat reader is required--see <http://www.adobe.com/> for a free copy). Please take a moment to review this introductory information for yourself or for someone you know who is involved in patient safety and who would benefit from participating in this innovative fellowship opportunity.

To learn more about the Patient Safety Fellowship, please visit our website, <http://www.had.vcu.edu/>, and click on the "Patient Safety Fellowship Link" to download an application and to view the curriculum. You may also directly contact Karen N. Swisher, JD, Director, Executive Fellowship in Patient Safety, kswisher@hsc.vcu.edu or 804-828-5460. ■

The Year In Review (continued)

The students also continue to distinguish themselves in their course work, in external venues as shown by their competitiveness in third-year residencies for the MHAs, in prizes, and in other forms of recognition. Enrollments are strong, and demand seems to be very good as admissions processes are underway. A new student chapter of the Medical Group Management Association has been established, as well as one for the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. The student chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives has, once again, been named one of the outstanding chapters in the United States.

This good news is clouded by the dire financial difficulties of the Commonwealth of Virginia that have been pressed down to the university level and to the Department. We have experienced an approximate 15 percent drop in our state budget in the present fiscal year, and we anticipate another 7-8 percent decrease in the upcoming fiscal year. The future depends heavily on the actions of the state legislature, which will meet after the New Year. The Department could well lose faculty and may even have to consider shutting down some of its operations, in the worst case scenario.

But, we have solutions, too. The enterprise of the faculty has led to a steady stream of non-state revenues that derive from our continuing education efforts, special fees, and research dollars. Support from alumni and alumnae has also been helpful. For the most part, the Department has been able to absorb the “give backs” to the state. Given the active effort of our faculty, I am confident that we can weather the worst of the storm. New initiatives, new programs, new ways of supporting faculty can provide us with the wherewithal even to improve the stature and strength of the Department, and this is our objective. In the end, the Department may experience some changes, but all may count on the VCU Department of Health Administration continuing its relentless drive toward being the top program in the country and being seen as the best training ground for new leaders in health care management in America.

Stephen S. Mick, Ph.D.

Arthur Graham Glasgow Professor and Chair
Department of Health Administration

Department News

HAD Goes to Medical Group Management Association

October 27-30, 2002, the Department of Health Administration (HAD) displayed at Booth #1150 the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) 2002 Annual Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada. This provided an excellent opportunity for the Department to catch up with alumni/ae. Jess Judy (MHA '77), Pat Randall (MHA '95), Austin Kirkland (MHA '95), Alan McMurray (MSHA '93), Lucien Roberts (MHA '87), Jim Perkins (MHA '79), and Sara Larch (MSHA '92) were among the many alumni/ae and friends of the Department who stopped by the Department's booth. The Department was represented by Amy Edwards, Director of External Relations, and Michelle Rogers (MHA'04), the President of the MGMA Student Chapter at VCU's HAD.

Attendance at this Conference afforded the Department important recruiting opportunities. Some physician group practice managers stopped by the booth to learn more about our residency program for our MHA students. The Department has already heard from three new physician practice groups interested in sponsoring a residency placement. In addition, many non-alumni/ae attendees came to our booth to learn more about VCU and our MSHA On-line Program, as well as the School of Allied Health's Distance Learning Ph.D. Program.

Many thanks to Sara Larch (MSHA '92), Board Chair of MGMA, who was able to get the MGMA Exhibitor booth fee waived for the Department to display at this event. This is just one more example of the innumerable creative ways our alumni/ae can and have made an important contribution to the Department, particularly helpful during the Commonwealth of Virginia's budget crisis. ■

HAD Will Participate in the ACHE 2003 Congress on Healthcare Management

Save the date and mark your calendar for the Department's Cardwell Reception which will be held at the ACHE 2003 Congress in Chicago, Illinois on the evening of March 18, 2003. The department will have a booth during the March 17-20, 2003 conference. Watch our website (www.had.vcu.edu) for further information as the date gets closer. We look forward to seeing you there. ■

Dr. Rosemary Stevens—Lecturer for the Paul A. Gross Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series

The Department of Health Administration was pleased that Rosemary Stevens, Ph.D., the Stanley I. Sheerr Professor Emeritus in Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, came to the Grant House December 3-5, 2002 to be the guest lecturer at the Paul A. Gross Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series. During her three day stay, Dr. Stevens met with faculty, doctoral students, and invited guests, and presented her lecture entitled “Specialty Certification, a Continuing History.”

Dr. Stevens is a member of the Department of History and Sociology of Science and is a senior fellow emeritus at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. She holds an MPH degree in health services administration and policy, and a Ph.D. in epidemiology, both from Yale University.

The Department thanks Dr. Stevens for her visit, and are honored that she came to Richmond to share her expertise. ■



Seasons Greetings

The faculty and staff of the Department of Health Administration wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

