

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

Greetings from the Health Administration Department at MCV/VCU. I hope that this finds you doing well and enjoying this festive time of year. I am writing to give you an update on recent activities and events in the Department, and to provide a few reflections on my first four months in Richmond.

Awards and Accomplishments

* On October 14, Ed Smith, Jr. (MHA 1964) received the HAD Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award, and Karen Cameron (MHA 1987) was named HAD Alumnae of the Year at the annual Paul Gross Landmarks in Leadership event in Richmond. Over 100 alumni, faculty and students were present to offer their congratulations.

* Three of our MHA students, Joyce Posadas, Justin Coury, and Chernelle Hill, earned second place in the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) case competition held in Nashville, Tennessee. NAHSE (www.nahse.org) is a national organization that focuses primarily on minority students in health care administration. The scores were so close between the VCU team and the first place team from Georgetown that both were invited to present their cases at the Health Solutions Division of General Electric. Other teams in the top five included those from UNC, Georgia State, and the University of Minnesota.

* Kolbe Sheridan and Chad Lockhart were named the first recipients of the Class of 2009 J. Stephen Lindsey Scholarship. Each will receive \$1000.

* New HAD faculty publications include:

- "Competency Development and Validation: A Collaborative Approach Among Four Graduate Programs," in *The Journal of Health Administration Education*, co-authored by Dr. Dolores Clement
- "The Relationship Between Organizational Culture and Practice Systems in Primary Care," in *Journal of Ambulatory Care Management*, and "Medical Home Infrastructure: Effect of the Environment and Practice Characteristics on Adoption in Virginia," in *Medical Care Research & Review*, both co-authored By Dr. Stephen Mick

- "Private Reparations, " in *The Hastings Center Report*, by Larry Palmer, LL.B.
- "A Randomized Experiment of Issue Framing and Voter Support of Tax Increases For Health Insurance Expansion," in *Health Policy*, co-authored by Dr. Cindy Watts
- "The Evolving Role of Healthcare Administration in Interprofessional Practice and Education, " in *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, co-authored by Dr. Ken White

If you would like a copy of any of these articles, please contact the author.

Student Progress

* Nearly all the students in the MHA Class of 2012 have accepted residency offers and will begin their year-long experience in June.

* The admissions process for both MHA and MSHA are underway. Our applications are ahead of last year at this time, and we have begun making offers of admission.

Comings and Goings

* We are sorry to say goodbye to Bev DeShazo, Amy Edwards, and Logan Vetovec. Bev is retiring after more than 27 years of service to HAD and the PhD program; Amy is changing gears to spend more time with her family after eight years of leading our alumni relations activities; and Logan is taking a position working on diversity issues in the health sciences at VCU after four years of grant-funded work increasing the diversity of our student applicant pool.

* Larry Palmer, LL.B. announced his plans to retire at the end of this academic year. Mr. Palmer, a graduate of the Yale Law School, teaches health law for MHA and MSHA students and also teaches in the Law School at William and Mary. Mr. Palmer has been with HAD since 2009.

* Beth Ayers, M.S. joined HAD in October to take over the alumni relations function and to assist with development. Ms. Ayers has an MS from VCU and an undergraduate business degree from Belmont University in Nashville, TN. She was with VCU from 2003-2008 in the Dean's Office of the School of Allied Health Professions working in a development role. Prior to joining VCU, she owned and operated a local travel agency and spent 10 years in human resources with a local medical supply firm.

* We are recruiting for a new faculty position in the area of organizational theory and behavior. We hope to have the position filled by the beginning of the fall term 2011.

Bits and Pieces

* Our accreditation site visit will be February 2-4. Our self study document has been submitted, and we are looking forward to our multi-day conversation with the site visit team.

* Our new website is almost ready. Check out our new look at www.had.vcu.edu.

Save the Dates

* We hope to see many of you at our annual Cardwell Reception Tuesday, March 22, 6-8pm in Chicago at the ACHE meeting.

* On April 5, we will be hosting the first of what we hope will be an annual program exploring the application of different perspectives to health care administration. This event will be held at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts during the special Picasso exhibition at the Museum. We will combine a tour of the Picasso exhibit, a short program relating art and design to patient care, and a reception at the museum's cafe, AMUSE. You will receive more details and an invitation in a few months.

Communication

Over the years, the Department has published the Cardwell Comments newsletter twice a year for our alumni and friends. The publication has featured updates on the activities of faculty, students, and alumni of the Department. Our summer switch to an electronic delivery of Cardwell Comments appeared to be well received, and allows us to consider more frequent (and therefore more timely) communication. Beginning in January, we will continue the Cardwell Comments tradition by emailing you news and updates on a more regular basis during the academic year. Each Cardwell Comments will include different features along with reports of our activities. We hope you will like the new format, and encourage you to send us your thoughts, reactions, and ideas for features to include.

Reflections

The end of the year is a good time for reflection and planning for the new year. I have a few reflections after my first four months in the Grant House, and many thoughts about what the new year might bring to HAD. First and foremost, I would observe that this is an even stronger and more committed faculty than my (very high) expectations. The students are bright, inquisitive, and eager to prepare themselves for a career in health administration or research, and the staff work harder than any four people I have ever met! The friends and alumni of HAD have been warm and welcoming, and I greatly appreciate the time many of you have taken to talk with me about your connections to the Department and your hopes for the future.

While the new year will bring challenges - continued turbulence in our external environment and decreases in state funding for higher education - there are many, many opportunities. Over the next few months, the faculty and I will be charting our course for the near and mid-term. We will seek your input, keep you informed, and look forward to working with you to keep our programs at the top of the pack.

Your financial support is also critical to our success. Our sincere thanks to those of you who have already responded to my November annual fund letter. If you have not yet had a chance to respond, I encourage you to give HAD a place in your end of year giving, as 100% of our faculty have done. Our New Ventures Fund supports all of our student and alumni events, and our scholarship funds provide much needed support to our students. You can make a gift by sending a check to the Department (1008 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23298) or on-line through our website: www.had.vcu.edu.

Wishing you the comfort of friends and family this holiday season and peace, joy and success in the new year,

Cindy watts