Trip to Vegas Pays Off for Three Masters Program Students

From left to right: Melissa Spain, Vanessa Hanley-Watters, and Katina Goodwyn.

Three MHA masters program students, Katina T. Goodwyn, Vanessa K. Hanley-Watters and Melissa P. Spain, went to Las Vegas and won the top prize in a national health care problem-solving competition. The prize included a $2,000 scholarship for each winning team member.

The three students competed with teams from Duke and Ohio State and five other universities known for their graduate programs in health administration. The competition, April 29-May 1, was sponsored by the National Association of Health Services Executives to promote diversity in health administration.

The students admitted they also played the slot machines, but confessed they were only big winners at the competition. "We are not risk takers when it comes to gambling," Spain said, "But we are calculated risk takers when it comes to our career field."

All competitors had a month's leadtime to solve their problem. The team's problem was: Figure out how to shore up a fictitious 2,000-bed hospital that was faced with declining admissions and revenue. The team credits their success with "brainstorming" and lengthy discussions with Dr. Thomas.

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The Grant House, Circa 1857

Visit the Grant House electronically at Http://www.vcu.edu/haeweb/hae.html
Ph.D. Program News

The 1995-96 academic year was a busy one. Ten new students joined the program. The nine listed in the previous issue of Cardwell Comments were joined by Dr. Jim Rollins (MD, Creighton University; MSHA, Virginia Commonwealth University).

Four Ph.D. students joined the ranks of alumni in August and December, 1995: Jon Thompson, Associate Professor at James Madison University; Barbara Goodman, Assistant Professor, Kaiser College, Sarasota, Florida; George Stukenborg, Policy Research Associate for the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services; and Ahmad Okasha, Research Associate with Electronic Data Systems (EDS). In May, 1996, one additional student was graduated: Ken White, Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Professional Graduate Programs in our Department of Health Administration.

Major Denise McCollum, entering her third year as a doctoral student, is recipient of a 1996 School of Graduate Studies Phi Kappa Phi award of $1,000. Congratulations to Denise.

We welcomed six new students to the program this fall and we wish them a rewarding journey to the doctoral degree.

James Begun, Ph.D.
Director, Ph.D. Program

MHA Program News

Students (’97 Class) have been placed in residency sites. These residents will be completing residency requirements in ten states (60% in hospitals or integrated systems and 40% affiliated with managed care, medical practice, and consulting organizations). One-third of their preceptors are MHA or MSHA program alumni.

The department is extremely grateful to all its alumni who participate as adjunct faculty by mentoring a resident. If you are interested in serving as a preceptor, please call Dr. Dolores Clement, Director, Graduate Programs at 804/828-5217.

A list of MHA residencies and their sites for 1996-97 is included. If visiting near a residency site, please make plans to visit the preceptor and the resident. If you need more information, call Dr. Dolores Clement.

MHA Students in the News

Wes Campbell, Richard Hardy, Abby Miller, and Karen Wilson were recipients of the Stuart Ogren Scholarships. They were recognized at the spring VHHA meeting.

Executive Program News

New Technology Added

A new electronic system based on the World Wide Web was implemented with the MHA Class of ’97. We are running both the old Execunet System for the current administrative residents and the new system in tandem through next summer when all should transition to the Internet.

New Diplomas Still Available

New diplomas for the classes 1990-1993 have been sent to all who have requested their “tagged degree.” If you have not reordered yet, and still wish to do so, contact Suzanne Havasy (804/828-0719).

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Associate Director
Professional Graduate Programs Appointed

Dr. Kenneth R. White (Ph.D. ’96) was appointed to Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Professional Graduate Programs in Health Administration effective June 1, 1996. Ken is teaching health care marketing and organizational theory as well as working with Dr. Dolores Clement in directing the MHA and MSHA programs.

Dr. White has over 23 years experience in hospitals as a clinician (nursing) administrator and consultant. Thirteen years were with Mercy Health Services as a senior executive in marketing, operations, and international consulting. Dr. White is a Fellow of the ACHE and a registered nurse.

New Numbers Added to Alumni

At the Spring, 1996 commencement ceremonies, VCU graduated 29 MHA students, 23 MSHA associates, and 5 Ph.D. candidates. As of August 1996, there will be an additional 25 MSHA and 2 MHA alumni who have completed requirements for conferral of the degree.
Alumni Updates

Ph.D. Program

Sheau-Hwa (Sarah) Chen ('95) has accepted a position as Director of the Health Administration Department at the Tzu-Chi Nursing College in Taiwan... Meg Johantgen ('94) is Research Associate, Clinical Systems and Quality Assurance, HSS, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland... Janet Lynch ('88) has accepted a position as Director, Academic and State Relations, The Chamberlain Group in Richmond... Beth Merwin ('88) returned to the University of Virginia School of Nursing, as Associate Professor... John Pestian ('94) has joined the Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, as Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Outcomes and Informatics Research... Kenneth White ('96) has been appointed Associate Director, Graduate Programs, Department of Health Administration... Kyoung Yoon ('95) is a research associate with the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, Seoul, Korea.

MHA Program

Warren Brennan ('74) joined MED3000 as senior Vice President Brad Daniel ('96) received the Hill-Rom Essay Award presented at the ACHE Congress on Administration, March 1996. Brad's essay, "Venturing Into New Territory—Health Systems as Medicare Risk CONTRACTORS" was published in the August '96 issue of H&HSA... Ron Galonsky, Jr. ('92) received the ACHE Regents Early Career Healthcare Executive Award. Nominated by Dr. Ken White, Ron received this award from Mr. Edward Pattensky, ACHE Regent for Virginia (Area B) at the Spring Meeting of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association... Victoria Godwin Hines ('87) was appointed associate dean for administration and finance and instructor of clinical nursing at the University of Rochester, School of Nursing. In this expanded role, Hines also serves as senior administrator for the School of Nursing... William C. Lueck ('96) received the Cardwell Leadership Award... Edward Smith, Jr. ('64) received the newly formed award created by the Class of '96, the Thomas C. Barker Award for an Outstanding Preceptor... John B. Sylvia ('96) received the Herman L. Mullins Award for Outstanding Management Study... The A.D. Williams Award for Scholarship was awarded to: Stephen E. Wagen ('96) and Yolla H. Zaitoun ('96). The following MHA alumni were recognized for advancing to Fellow status in the ACHE: W. Scott Burnette ('83), William B. Downey ('85), A. Hugh Greene ('84), Stephen C. McCary ('85), and Paul G. Sherwood ('81).

Executive Program News

(Continued from Page 2)

Reaccreditation Site Visit of the Executive Program

Three ACEHSA representatives reviewed the Program in a week-long site visit. Evaluation of the Program on the ACEHSA criteria resulted in an excellent summary conference for the Department. The surveyors included Drs. Mary Stefl (Trinity University), Tom Getzen (Temple University), and Noble A. W. Maseru (Morehouse School of Medicine). The official report has been received and responded to prior to the Fall 1996 ACEHSA meeting where a decision will be made. Dr. Jan Clement chaired the reaccreditation committee and we are grateful for her countless hours of work. Thanks, Jan!

Executive Fellowship in Health Systems Program Added

Using the technology of computerized asynchronous distance learning, the Department expanded its programs to include an international Executive Fellowship in Health Systems Program sponsored by a global pharmaceutical company. This six-month Certificate Program consists of two (on-campus) sessions and five monthly seminars conducted via the World Wide Web. During early June, the Program was inaugurated with 10 students, representing Australia, Taiwan, Japan, South Africa, Israel, Hungary, The Netherlands, Canada, Spain, and England.

Executive Students in the News

Congratulations to Dr. Jamey Nocks, a first year Associate, who was Medical Staff Director at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital in Coatsville, Pennsylvania. He has been promoted to be the Network Director for the Veteran's Integrated Systems Network (VISN). He is only one of five in the nation.

HCM Program

Mr. David Hassenpflug ('81) was elected Chair of the Board for the Virginia Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging during their spring conference. David is the Administrator of the Newport News Baptist Retirement Community.

Paul Gross Appointed Professor Emeritus

It is with pleasure that the Department announces Virginia Commonwealth University's Board of Visitors' decision to approve the appointment of Paul Gross, FACHE (MHA '64) as Professor Emeritus of Health Administration.

The Department with deep gratitude thanks Professor Gross for his contributions over the years and for his conscientious concern and loyalty to the Department and its students. The students miss his wisdom in the classroom. Paul served as executive-in-resident from 1992 to 1995...
International Scholars Visit the Department
The first delegation from the Czech Republic visited the University on January 7-15, 1996 as part of the partnership with VCU to develop educational curricula in health services management and policy at J. Palacky University (JPU), Olomouc, Czech Republic.

President, Kaohsiung Medical College, Taiwan Visits the Department
Dr. & Mrs. Juei-Hsiung Tsai were visitors here on August 5-6, 1996. They meet with departmental faculty; Dr. John Jones, Vice President for Health Sciences; Dr. Grace Harris, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; and with various chairs throughout the University.

Faculty Updates
James W. Begun was appointed to a three-year term on the Accrediting Commission for Education in Health Services Administration... Dr. Begun also addressed the 1996 annual meeting of the Virginia Physical Therapy Association in April, 1996... Dolores G. Clement received the Jerry L. Norville Award from the MHA Class of '95 and the MHA Class of '96... Michael McCue will serve as a mentor for three Department of Veteran Affairs Managers. The training program is a joint training program between VA and the Association of University Programs in Health Administration... Dr. Louis F. Rossiter was appointed to the Virginia Health Quality Center Board in December as a public-sector representative...

Thomas Wan and Chuck Shasky (Ph.D. student) presented a paper on May 21 entitled “Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities in Health Status and Health Services Use” at the first congress of the International Health Economics Association, Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Wan will give the Margaret C. Cummings, RN Memorial Lecture titled, “Hip Fracture and Subacute Services Utilization in the United States” at the first Alumni Society Meeting of the Anderson Clinic Post-Graduate Medical Education Foundation... Kenneth White was a keynote speaker at the annual Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing. The topic of his presentation was “Altering Nursing’s Dominant Logic: Implications for Acute Care Nurse Practitioners.” Dr. White received the 1996 Academy of MEDSURG Nursing Writer’s Award and continues to serve on the ACHE Regent’s Advisory Council.

Williamson Institute
The Williamson Institute welcomes two alumni as associate members Dr. Peter Olden (’94), Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health Administration, University of Scranton, and Dr. George Stuckenborg (’96), Policy Research Associate at the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services.

Trip to Vegas Pays Off for Three Masters Program Students
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Wan, Department Chair, and, Dr. Robert E. Hurley, faculty member. The MHA students’ plan was unique among the eight competing teams in that it proposed restructuring the hospital by closing units, and thus decreasing beds. To boost revenue, the plan called for more extensive outpatient services with heavy emphasis on ambulatory clinics offering everything from same-day surgery to primary care.

Tracy Thomas, an official with the sponsoring association said, “What made them stand out the most was that they identified viable strategies that addressed the current health care market.” Thomas added, “Their presentation style was very professional.”

All three students are now in their residencies.