



The Informer

An annual publication of the MCG Department of Health Informatics

Volume I, Issue I

February 2008

School of Allied Health Sciences Celebrates 40 Years of Excellence

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Medical College of Georgia's School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS). The anniversary events will take place during the annual homecoming April 24-27 at the Medical College of Georgia.

Homecoming events and details are available at http://www.mcg.edu/alumni/homecoming2008/sahsaa_schedule.html



Health Sciences Building officially opened in 2007 to the allied health and nursing programs.

Inside this issue:

HIA: History in the Making	2
iMPH: A new era in Health Informatics	2
HIA Showcase: Spotlight on HIA alumni and students	3
Where are they now? A focus on the first class of iMPH graduates	3
Meet the faculty and staff of DHI	3
List of Homecoming Events	4
Alumni Support	4

Department of Health Informatics Celebrates Four Decades of Distinguished Alumni

The Department of Health Informatics (DHI) is recognizing a distinguished alumnus from each decade. These alumni are all recognized at the state and national levels as well as being leaders in their areas of specialization.

Class of 1974—Susan Lloyd, MA, RHIA, PMP

Susan currently serves as Enterprise Systems Manager for Health Data Systems with the Veterans Health Administration Office of Information in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Class of 1980—Sandra Williams, MSA, RHIA, CPHQ

Sandra currently serves as Quality Management Director for the East Regional Health Center in Augusta, Georgia.

Class of 1999—Annecia McNeil, RHIA

Annecia currently serves as the Director of Health Information at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Georgia and will complete the Master of Public Health program at MCG in May 2008.

Class of 2005—Christine Shaffer, RHIA, CPC

Christine currently attends the University of South Carolina's School of Law and will begin employment with a local law firm in June 2008. She continues to provide HIA consultative services in the areas of billing and compliance.

Health Information Administration: History in the Making



Circa 1964



Circa 2008

The Department of Health Informatics at the Medical College of Georgia has come a long way since its humble beginning in 1962. Under the direction of Juanita Sirmans, the first class included four campus students enrolled in the baccalaureate degree program. Today, the HIA program has grown to a class capacity of approximately 30 students. The program offerings have also increased, with both the baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate certificate programs being offered on-campus and online.

In 1962, much of the student's time was spent in the hospital medical record department, with little time being spent in the classroom. Today, students experience a wide-variety of educational modalities, from hands-on-directed practice to online lectures and use of AHIMA's Virtual Lab for e-HIM simulations.

The historical changes in the HIA program have been influenced by the changes in our profession. The School of Medical Record Library Science, as it was known in 1962, transitioned to the Department of Medical Record Science (1968), the Department of Medical Record Administration (1973), the Department of Health Information Management, and currently the Department of Health Informatics.

Health Informatics is the discipline that optimizes information technology to improve health care.

iMPH: A new era in Health Informatics

In response to the demands for health care administrators and public health professionals throughout the State of Georgia, the Medical College of Georgia began the Master of Public Health in Informatics (iMPH) program the fall of 2005. The first class of six students was graduated May of 2007.

Approximately 20 students are accepted into the program each year. The program is delivered in a hybrid modality, with 75% of the coursework occurring online and 25% of the coursework occurring in the traditional face-to-face setting.

The iMPH program prepares students to manage health care organizations and health information systems in a variety of settings, including hospitals, insurance companies, clinics, public health agencies, and other health related institutions. It is designed to be a comprehensive and integrated educational experience encompassing public health, health informatics, and health administration themes. Technology has changed the way we provide health care services and how we handle health information. The iMPH program focuses on incorporating health informatics into the health care system, at all levels of the spectrum.



HIA Showcase

Congratulations to the following alumni/students of the HIA program who received awards/scholarships during the 2006/2007 academic year:

Schimanya Sullivan, RHIA (c/o 2007) - GHIMA New Graduate Award

Sherilyn Guerrero, RHIA (c/o 2004) - GHIMA Outstanding New Professional

Kim Wooten (c/o 2008) - GHIMA Scholarship

Mary White (c/o 2008) - GHIMA Scholarship and AHIMA/FORE Scholarship

Zainab Johnson (c/o 2008) - AHIMA/FORE Diversity Scholarship

Cynthia Crabtree, RHIA (c/o 2003)/Doctor's Hospital - Clinical Site Award



Health Promotion Student Association (HPSA) members volunteer during 2007 Heart Walk event in Augusta, Georgia

iMPH Graduate Showcase: Where are they now?

The inaugural class of MPH graduates received their diplomas in May 2007.

- An assistant professor with the Medical College of Georgia, Department of Health Informatics is pursuing a Doctorate of Public Health Degree
- A physician employed by a private physician practice in Michigan
- A first-year medical student at the Medical College of Georgia
- A graduate student in the PhD in Epidemiology program at USC
- An employee of a pharmaceutical firm specializing in vaccine development
- A research associate with the Medical College of Georgia

Congratulations

**Annecia McNeil ,
RHIA**

(Class of 1999 HIA

and

2008 MPH)

**recipient of the Care
Communications,
Inc. Scholarship
(AHIMA/FORE)**

Department Showcase

- Dr. Carol Campbell was appointed Associate Dean of Academic and Business Affairs for the School of Allied Health Sciences.
- Dr. Amanda C. Barefield was appointed Chairperson of the Department of Health Informatics.
- Jim Condon, MSA, RHIA, CTR was appointed Program Director for the HIA Programs.
- Dr. Yoon Ho Seol is co-investigator on an AHRQ* grant funded for \$1.2 million. The grant (Using an Electronic Personal Health Record to Empower Patients with Hypertension) includes collaboration between MCG and MCG Health, Inc. faculty/staff.
- Dr. Vibha Kumar, MD joined the Department of Health Informatics in December 2007. She completed a Public Health Informatics fellowship with the CDC and a Post-Doctoral Medical Informatics fellowship with MIT/Harvard-Boston UMC.



*Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH
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Got Email??? Visit the alumni Website and update your information (http://www.oacs.mcg.edu/sah/alumni/alumni_entry.aspx). To keep you informed of all the activities in DHI, future newsletters and department updates will be sent via email.

Homecoming Events

Health Informatics Luncheon and Research Poster Presentations Friday, April 25, 2008

Health Informatics Building, noon to 2 p.m. Students, faculty, staff and alumni invited. Contact Amanda Barefield at 706-721-3436 for more information.

School of Allied Health Sciences 40th Anniversary Banquet and Distinguished Alumnus Presentation Saturday, April 26, 2008

Marriott Hotel and Suites, 6 p.m. Honorees will include 2008 Distinguished Alumna Robinette Amaker (Occupational Therapy, '84 and '91), scholarship recipients, new alumni association lifetime members and graduates from the 1970's, 1980's, 1990's and 2000's. Dress: semi-formal (Cost \$40)

Alumni: The Source for Scholarships/Awards

Each year, thanks to the generous donations of our alumni, the Department of Health Informatics presents students with scholarships and awards .

The Juanita Sirmans Award—established in memory of the program's founder and first Chair. The award is for outstanding achievement by a HIA student in the Baccalaureate Program.

Charlotte Johnston's Memorial Scholarship—established in memory of Dr. Johnston, Program Chair from 1989-1998. This scholarship is awarded to a rising senior HIA student.

The Carmen Reyes Scholarship—established in memory of Carmen Reyes, a 1998 graduate of the HIA program. The scholarship provides financial aid to a single parent enrolled in the Baccalaureate HIA program.

Please continue to support the program and the future HIA professions by making a donation today.

Visit our Website!
www.mcg.edu/sah/dhi

I would like to make a contribution to the following fund(s):

- \$ _____ #7827 Department of Health Informatics (funds the Juanita Sirmans Award and annual events, such as the Advisory Board Meeting and Health Information and Technology (HI&T) Week celebration for students)
- \$ _____ #7594 Charlotte Johnston's Memorial Scholarship
- \$ _____ #8039 Carmen Reyes Scholarship

Don't forget to detach this slip and place in the enclosed envelope with a check made payable to the **MCG Foundation, Inc.**

MCG Foundation, Inc., Alumni Center, FI-1000, Augusta, GA 30912, 1-800-869-1113