

The Link



For Health Information Management

Winter/Spring 2008

The Way I See It...



Dr. Craig R. Jackson, Dean of Allied Health

...the School of Allied Health Professions is poised for a great future. There are a lot of things I can say attribute to our success. The first would be a faculty that is dedicated to their work and their students. I am fortunate to interact with such a determined set of individuals. Their love and enthusiasm for their work is contagious, as I'm sure you all know. These individuals have dedicated their lives to the future of this institution and for that, I can tell, our potential is endless.

Our students are another aspect of our exciting future. They have come on the Loma Linda campus poised to embark on this educational journey that you were a part of not so long ago. When I look at them, I can see the determination in their eyes. They are eager to learn and excited to see what the future holds for them. Their future is bright and I can't think of a better view from my office than the anticipation of

service that I see from the way they study, learn, and live at LLU.

One of the brightest stars in our future is you, the alumni. You make us proud! And to be quite honest, we brag about you. You are a prime example of what we think about when the word success comes to mind. Alumni are the culmination of our vision for the school. You have taught us what we need to do and how we need to do it. We can't imagine what we would be without people like you who support us in so many ways.

With such an exciting outlook on our future, we can't help but celebrate it. This newsletter that you are reading is the first of many improvements to our communication with you. We realize that what happens in your department is very important to you, so we want to keep you updated with the inside scoop. Expect to read about students, faculty, and even stories of other alumni. We want to link you to the important happenings in the school and specifically your department. So, please take the time right now to read through this newsletter and catch up on the activities of your school. This is your opportunity to share in our celebration of the School of Allied Health Professions.

The future looks extremely bright, with lots of possibilities ahead – big possibilities. Like the song says, "We've only just begun."

Sincerely,

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HIM Students Visit China

For the past six years, a select few from the Health Information Management (HIM) Department have been journeying across the world for the hands-on experience of working in a hospital setting. Two senior students are selected each year as recipients of the Audrey Shaffer Endowment Award. They travel with Ms. Shaffer to Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou, China and work in the Health Information department for two weeks during their spring break. The students who were selected for the 2007 trip were Eric Morales and Patty Hartman. They traveled to China on March 18, 2007 and were introduced into the world of hospital health information management in an environment that is both challenging and rewarding.

While at the hospital, Morales and Hart-



man worked in many different capacities including policy review, department interviews and a coding audit. "The coding audit was our biggest task and the most challenging," said Morales. "95% of the documentation was in Chinese, which was quite different from anything we had ever experienced."

The students were also able to experience a lot of Chinese culture. They visited local restaurants and area attractions such as the Six Harmony Pagoda, a seven story pagoda that was built without the use of a single nail. "The people were extremely friendly and the city of Hangzhou is just beautiful," remarked Morales. "I had a great experience and I am very glad I applied for this scholarship."

National Health Information Technology Week, November 5-10

Each year, the HIM department chooses a new theme to exclaim proudly as they celebrate National Health Information Technology week. This year they decided on, "Accuracy You Can Count on, Information You Can Trust."

To keep with tradition, the department bought goodies and giveaways for each student in an effort to show some HIM spirit. Every student in the program (Coding, Bachelors, and Certificate) received a pen and post-it pad that commemorates the theme. In addition, the classes (juniors, seniors, and coding students) had a special raffle in which they could win prizes such as totes, sport bottles, mouse pads, gym bags, a t-shirt, an umbrella, and tumblers.

To add to the excitement of the week, students were entered into a \$5 Starbucks card raffle if they wore red on Monday, and

made exempt from an assignment in one of Pauline Calla's classes if they wore blue on Tuesday. "That was definitely a good incentive for them!" said Calla.

The bulletin board was decorated with a poster, balloons, and some pictures of students in the program. "It was really neat to see the students have HIM spirit by participating," says Calla. "Everyone enjoyed the goodies and we all look forward to next year's HIM week."



1 Terri Rouse

When you walk through the halls of the School of Allied Health Professions, you can't help but return Terri Rouse's smile. Terri is a three-time graduate of Loma Linda University in dental assisting, dental hygiene and Health Information Management (HIM).

After graduating from HIM, Terri worked for two different entities holding the titles of Assistant Director of HIM and Director of HIM. Following these jobs she returned to Loma Linda to work as the manager of Health Information at the Faculty Medical Offices for four years. July 2000 marked Terri's full-time status as a faculty member in the School of Allied Health Professions. She also held the title of recruitment coordinator for the HIM department for several years.



Terri loves working for Loma Linda University because it gives her the freedom to talk about God and pray with her students. She has continuously grown by watching her students evolve from students into her peers. Terri never dreamed that teaching would be her passion. "This is exactly where I want to be," she says with an ever-present smile.

Pauline Calla

Pauline is the newest member of the HIM faculty joining the team in the summer of 2005. Holding the titles of Clinical Coordinator and Recruitment Coordinator, Pauline jumped right into her position and is hard at work to make

3 everyday meaningful for her students and colleagues. She graduated from SAHP in 2005 with her bachelor's degree from the Health Information Management program.



Pauline is currently working on her MBA in Health Administration from LLU School of Public Health. Besides her work in the department, Pauline is an active member and officer in the Inland Area Health Information Association. She enjoys spending time with friends and playing intramural volleyball, basketball and football.

Debbie Hamada

Debbie Hamada, RHIA, is the new Program Coordinator for the Coding Specialist Program in the Health Information Management (HIM) Department. Debbie started her duties in this position in 2006 and has quickly made great progress. Not only does she coordinate the coding program but she is also an active instructor in the HIM Bachelor program. Hamada has a bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Scholastica, in Duluth, MN, and is currently working on her master's degree in management at the University of Redlands.



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Marilyn Davidian

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Marilyn Davidian, PhD (c), RHIA has been the chair of the Health Information Management Department since 1993. She is no stranger to SAHP having graduated in 1984 from the Health Information Administration program and then becoming a faculty member in 1985. Marilyn holds a masters degree in education which she received in 1997 from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA. She is currently finishing her Ph.D. in higher education. Not only does Marilyn maintain the administrative duties of the department, but she is also the program director for the BS in Health Information Administration and Post Baccalaureate Certificate program as well as the Health Information Technology online program. Some of Marilyn's favorite pastimes are spending time with her two young grandchildren who live in Texas, Jonathan 4 ½ and Patrick 8 months old.

...to Health Information Management

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Loma Linda University
School of Allied Health Professions



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Have you moved lately? Changed Jobs? Received an award? Had a baby?
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Email your information and photos to <jpruehs@llu.edu> or mail them to:
Jaclyn Pruehs, Loma Linda University-SAHP, Nichol Hall Cottage 70, Loma Linda, CA 92350

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