A Message from the Director

This 2012 issue of the Health Services Administration Newsletter offers some immediate evidence that the Program is well on its way to setting the standard for undergraduate health administration education. Four years ago, when the program embarked on transforming its focus and curriculum, we established a goal of increasing our student enrollment to full capacity level by 2018. Today we project that we will likely reach this goal by Fall 2013. To serve this new influx of HADM majors the HADM faculty has sought to create a culture of high standards and professional engagement across the curriculum. I am pleased to announce that our graduates have one of the highest job placement/graduate school rates at Auburn University: 93 percent.

This October we also announced the $1.5 million dollar donation from HADM Program alum Lee Spruiell. This is the single largest contribution ever received by our program. Mr. Spruiell’s gift will be used to establish the Spruiell Scholars Program which will help fund international internships for qualified HADM students (see article below). Given these challenging economic times, when all programs are guarding their economic bottom line, the Auburn University HADM faculty and student body could not be more grateful for this generous and heartfelt donation.

There’s no doubt that future issues of our newsletter will highlight additional new developments within the Program and the outstanding accomplishments of our students. I personally want to thank all of our alumni, Advisory Board, and faculty for your support and hard work in helping to make this program a leader in health administration education.

Program Donation from Lee Spruiell

Lee Spruiell, ’83 and ’87, has established the Lee Spruiell Annual Fund for Excellence in the College of Liberal Arts’ Health Services Administration Program. The fund will be used to create the Spruiell Scholars program which will provide scholarships for international internships for qualified HADM students. Starting in summer 2013, the first class of Spruiell Scholars will begin their internships at sites in and around the London area.

Spruiell recently retired as the Senior Vice President of Field Operations for XLHealth in San Antonio, TX. He also worked as General Manager and Senior Project Manager for Aetna, and as Senior Vice President for Coordinated Care Solutions.

Spruiell returned to campus in October 2012 and held a reception in honor of the students. More than 50 current health administration students came out to meet Mr. Spruiell and presented him with a gift to show their gratitude.
HHAO Student Organization

The Health and Hospital Administration Organization is a student led group for health administration majors. Monthly the officers invite professionals in the industry to speak. This is a great opportunity for students to network with their fellow classmates and professionals. Yearly, HHAO also coordinates a service project in the community. Some of their previous projects include a luau at a local nursing home, Santa to a Senior, and Operation Christmas Child. The current officers are Alexandra Badea, Matthew English, Devyn Jackson, Laura McDowell, Trenton McInnish, Meagan Moore, and Leidy Vicuna.

AUPHA Reaccreditation

The Health Services Administration Program is pleased to announce the successful completion of the program accreditation review for 2012. The program is accredited by The Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) and reaccreditation reviews are completed every 6 years. The program was awarded AUPHA’s highest reaccreditation standard and feedback. Notable areas cited in the review include:

- Addition of a business minor to the curriculum
- New internship structure
- Increased student enrollment
- Addition of a health information technology course to the curriculum
- Increased collaboration with other colleges and faculty on campus

In 2009, the program curriculum was updated and revised in order to ensure that our students receive the highest level of preparation and education. Thank you to the Advisory Council and all those who contributed countless hours and ideas for the new curriculum. These changes have assisted the HADM Program in achieving reaccreditation and program excellence. The next reaccreditation review will be in 2018.

Campus Recruitment

In 2011 and 2012, companies have visited Auburn’s campus to recruit HADM students. American Family Care based out of Birmingham, AL, and Cerner based out of Kansas City, MO, both visited classrooms or HHAO to present opportunities for internships and jobs with their company. Emory Healthcare in Atlanta, GA, spoke to students about their Operations Analyst Program, where several of our former students have obtained jobs. Cornell University is also planning to video conference with students interested in their graduate school.
Trinity 280 Tour

On September 14, 2012, Health Services Administration students, faculty, and alumni attended a lecture and tour of the new Trinity Medical Center in Birmingham, AL. The new facility is partially finished offering the unique opportunity to see the construction phases of a state of the art healthcare facility. Trinity Medical Center is owned by Community Health System (CHS) and the CEO is Keith Granger. Thank you for allowing us to tour your facility!

Students Attend Graduate School Recruitment

Over the past few years, the HADM Program has seen a one-third increase in the number of students expressing an interest in attending graduate school. This year students have the opportunity to visit University of Georgia’s Public Health Graduate Program Information Day and University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Master of Science in Health Administration Graduate School Recruitment Day. Program alumni and campus admission officers from Cornell University will also be hosting a video conference for prospective students interested in learning more about their unique program. The HADM Program has a continuous focus in attracting top graduate school recruitment at the national level. If your graduate program is hosting an event or if you would like to serve as a graduate school coach to program majors, please contact Dr. René McEldowney. Graduate school coaches assist HADM students in the application process and preparing for their interviews.

Internship Opportunities

Over the past few years, the HADM Program has established at least 16 new internship sites both in- and out-of-state. There were 17 students interning in Summer 2012 in Nashville, Birmingham, Montgomery, Auburn/Opelika, and Mobile with hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and government agencies. We are proud to report that our students are interning at top healthcare companies including: Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, Johns Hopkins, East Alabama Medical Center, Baptist Health, Trinity Medical Center and Emory Clark-Holder Clinic. In addition, through the generous donations from program alums, the HADM Program was able to send Jennifer Johnson to Kansas City, MO, to meet with campus recruiters at Cerner World Headquarters. We are excited to announce that Cerner and their partners at IT Works will be hosting our students in the near future!
Student Accomplishments

Capstone Project of the Year Award

The Spring 2012 Capstone Award went to the Stepping Stones Pediatric Home Health, LLC group members: Carley Bailey, Alex Harvey-Smith, Caroline Day, Alexis Blankenship, Laura Sullivan. These students created an excellent pediatric home health facility that offered state of the art technology and medical innovation. Great Job!

HADM Honorary Society

Congratulations to our 18 new inductees to Episilon Phi Delta, the Health Services Administration Honorary Society. Since our chapter began in 2004, we have inducted over 50 students.

Scholarships Awarded

In 2012, the Burns-AUHAAO Scholarship was awarded to Alexandra Badea and the HA/Health Professions Scholarship was awarded to Leidy Vicuna. Both are outstanding students and worthy candidates. Congratulations!

Most Outstanding Intern Award

The Most Outstanding Intern Award, Spring 2012, was awarded to Chase Roberts. He completed his internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. Upon completion of his degree at Auburn, he moved to Baltimore to continue working with Johns Hopkins.

The Most Outstanding Intern Award, Summer 2012, recipient was Dan Hartman. He completed his internship with The Orthopaedic Clinic in Opelika, AL. Dan’s project for the facility included a cost-benefit analysis and proposal for strategic changes in services provided. Post-graduation Dan has continued to work for The Orthopaedic Clinic.

Academic Achievement Award

The Advisory Board Academic Achievement Award for 2012 was awarded to Laura Katherine Clark. This award is given to the student with the highest overall GPA in the program. Laura is now attending graduate school at Cornell University.

Leadership Award

The Leadership Award for 2012 was awarded to Sarah Lynn Dantzler. As HHAO president from 2011-2012, Sarah Lynn was a role model to her peers and an excellent leader in the program.
Alumni Contributions

The HADM faculty would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed financially to the success of this Program. Thank You!

Ms. Ansley Langley Averett
Mr. Jason Banks
Mr. Brian Groves Bardwell
Mrs. Elizabeth Baun
Dr. Paula E. Bobrowski
Ms. Melissa Britton
Mr. Robert G. Brooks
Mr. Travis Christopher Broome
Dr. Mark T. Burns
Mrs. Susan Gazaway D’Antoni
Mr. Conan Quinn Dickson
Mrs. Kristina G. Dickson
Mr. Mark Dalton Didier
Mrs. Paulette I. Didier
Mrs. Alexa M. Donovan-Bowers
Dr. Cathleen Owens Erwin
Mr. Remington Coleman Foss
Ms. Rebecca Lynn Hall
Mrs. Heather Yori Ingold
Mr. Terrell Trent Jackson
Mrs. Jennifer Hindmon Johnson
Mr. James Swanner Lipscomb
Mr. John D. Livingston II
Dr. Rene’ P. McEldowney
Mrs. Alison Gumm Nadeau
Mr. Stephen A. Nadeau
Ms. Shilpa Patel
Ms. Becky Patterson
Ms. Rebecca Petersen
Mr. C. Robert Stanley, Jr.
Mr. Lee Spruill
Ms. Kimberly L. Stewart
Mrs. Stephanie C. Swanson
Mr. David Allen Vinson
Mr. James David Zwald

Get Involved!

Graduates, friends, and current students can find many ways to support the Health Services Administration Program and be an active part of the HADM family throughout their lives.

Join us on campus as a guest speaker or lecturer.
Offer valuable internship opportunities to current students.
Support program development and current students through designated giving to the Health Services Administration Program.
Mentor our current students as they prepare for graduate school.
Sponsor student awards and contribute to scholarship funds.
Network with program graduates in your area or in your field of work.

Donate through https://fp.auburn.edu/giving/ to help keep this program strong and competitive.

For more information on how to get involved with the HADM Program, please contact:

Dr. René McEldowney, Program Director
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mceldrp@auburn.edu

Visit our new, updated Web site at www.auburn.edu/ha
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Alums check out our Facebook group at Auburn University Health Services Administration Program.