
🇺🇸 The TSAHP Chronicle 🇺🇸

A Publication of the Texas Society of Allied Health Professions

May, 1999



TSAHP FALL CONFERENCE

October 7-8, 1999

“Health Professions Workforce in the Next Millennium: The Texas Challenge”

The Texas Society of Allied Health Professions’ Fall Conference and Annual Meeting will be held at Southwest Texas State University October 7-8, 1999. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Central Texas Health Careers Job Fair. Please mark your calendar to attend this exciting conference. Registration information will be forthcoming.

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

The Triple Whammy: Hispanics in Allied Health Careers

Hispanics in allied health is indeed a “triple whammy.” We are under represented in the ranks of allied health practitioners (especially in our own Hispanic communities), severely under represented in the student population preparing for careers in allied health, and almost non-existent in the ranks of higher educational institutions. That’s the bad news!

The good news is that considerable momentum is developing all throughout the higher educational continuum, from community colleges to health science centers and four-year universities and colleges, to address this under representation. This momentum is largely reinforced by programs being put into motion by both public, private, and community-based organizations and professional associations such as the *Texas Society of Allied Health Professions*, the national *Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions*, and the Bureau of Health Professions of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Numerous programs funded by HRSA under the Health Careers Opportunity Program are assisting minority and disadvantaged students (e.g., those from low income families, rural areas and under represented Health Professional Service Area [HPSA’s]) interested in health professions careers to pursue these types of programs in community colleges, health science centers, universities and four-year colleges. A few of these programs are targeting students still in high school and others are targeting students in community colleges who may be interested in pursuing a four-year or more advanced degree.

Two shining examples in Texas of community-based programs targeting minority and disadvantaged students are the Center for Health Policy Development, Inc. (HCOP funded) and the Mexican American Physicians Association (privately supported). Both of these are extremely effective in grass-roots work with high school students and their parents from the *barrios* of San Antonio. What makes them unique, besides a committed and dedicated staff and corps of community volunteers, is their credibility and reputation in the community and the bilingual/bicultural (or put another way, “cultural competence to the max”) approach in working with the students, their parents, and school teachers and counselors. After providing students with a curriculum that contributes toward enhancement of self-esteem, awareness of the

ness of the various health professions careers, development of testing skills, information about financial aid, and knowledge about how to access the various health professions programs in the state, they close the loop by assisting them to pursue a college education. Both of these programs have a working relationship with the School of Health Professions at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos and have access to a rich network of other higher educational institutions in San Antonio that offer programs in the health professions, such as The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Our Lady of the Lake, San Antonio College, Palo Alto College, St. Phillips College, Alamo Community College District, and the University of the Incarnate Word. Southwest Texas State University (SWT) itself has an HCOP program that is in its fourth year of operation. The purpose of this program, under the direction of Dr. Ruth B. Welborn, Associate Dean of the School of Health Professions, is to facilitate the transfer of minority and disadvantaged students from health professions programs in community colleges to one of several baccalaureate programs in health professions offered at SWT. In particular, the allied health professions targeted by this program are respiratory care, health information management, and clinical laboratory science. SWT collaborates closely with Austin Community College, Laredo Community College, Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, Southwest Texas Junior College, St. Philip’s College and Blinn College. Eligible students are those who have completed one year at their community college. During the summer after completing their freshman year in the community college, students attend a six-week residential program at SWT and then they return to their community college for completion of their sophomore year. Participants who complete both the summer residential program at SWT and the sophomore year at their community college are guaranteed admission to the health professions program of their choice. Once again, programs such as these are successful because of the committed staff that direct them, the strong support and commitment they received from the institution’s administration, and the desire by community colleges to see their students go on to earn baccalaureate degrees in health careers that will be of benefit not only to the graduate but also to the patients and the communities they will serve.

Despite opportunities and successes such as the ones mentioned above, there still remains a lot of ground to cover before we can be-

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Rehabilitation Services

TSAHP STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The *Texas Society of Allied Health Professions* will award three (3) student scholarships of \$250 each at its annual meeting. The scholarships will be awarded to allied health students who have demonstrated the highest level of service to the health professions and their community, a high level of scholastic achievement, and potential as a future health professional. The scholarships are offered to students of academic institutional members of TSAHP and student members of their professional associations. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must have successfully completed at least 24 semester hours, or 50% of their professional program, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 system. Students may be full- or part-time. The scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Meeting in October, and recipients will be invited to the Annual Meeting to be honored by TSAHP. Each recipient will receive a year's membership in TSAHP, and the Annual Meeting registration will be waived. Each institutional member may nominate one student. **Completed forms must be returned by Friday, August 16, 1999 to:**

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School of Health Professions
Southwest Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, Texas 78666-4616

TSAHP FALL CONFERENCE

October 7-8, 1999

Health Professions Workforce in the Next Millennium: The Texas Challenge

in conjunction with the Central Texas Health Careers Job Fair

Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos

Call for Abstracts

The *Texas Society of Allied Health Professions* Fall Conference and Annual Meeting will be held in the LBJ Student Center at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos on October 7-8, 1999. Thursday morning, October 7, will be dedicated to a Central Texas Health Careers Job Fair to be held prior to the start of the TSAHP meeting. The Fall Conference and Annual Meeting will include keynote presentations, panel discussions, paper presentations, a focus group meeting, and a poster session.

This year's theme is *Health Professions Workforce in the Next Millennium: The Texas Challenge*.

Paper and poster presentations are solicited in the following areas:

- Workforce Supply/Demand Issues
- Geographic Distribution of Health Professionals in Medically Underserved Areas
- Recruitment and Retention of Minority and Disadvantaged Students and Students from Medically Underserved and Rural Areas
- Development of High School/Community College/University/Health Science Center Linkages
- Other higher education issues confronting allied health education programs in the state

Guide for Abstracts

Cover page

- Title of Presentation
- Author(s) full name, institution/organization, mailing address, phone number, fax number, and email address
- Visual Equipment Needed:
 - Slide Projector
 - Overhead Projector
 - Video Presentation
 - Power Point
 - Flip Chart
 - Other

Abstract (Limit to one page, camera ready, 12-font size, single spaced)

- Title of presentation
- Author(s) full name and institution or organization
- Summary of the purpose(s), methodology, and major conclusions

Time allotted for presentations is 15 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes for questions.

Submit three (3) copies of all abstract materials **no later than August 16, 1999** to:

Gale Haradon, PhD, OTR
Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy
UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78284-6243

If you have any questions regarding the abstracts, please contact Dr. Haradon at (210) 567-8880.

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gin to realize a better representation of Hispanics in the health professions.

Today, Hispanics represent about 11% of the total U.S. population but only about 4 percent of the nationwide enrollment in Health Information Management, 8 percent in Clinical Laboratory Science, and 8 percent in Respiratory Care. In Physical Therapy, less than 3 percent of the Physical Therapists in the country in 1994 were Hispanic, and the proportions in Occupational Therapy aren't much better. These statistics are only the tip of the *enchilada*. Other professions, like nutritionists, speech/language pathologists and audiologists, physician assistants, health administration, radiation therapists, dental hygienists, and long-term care administration, have such minimal representation that percentages cannot even be calculated.

It stands to reason, then, that if the representation is low in our enrollments, what will follow is under representation of Hispanic allied health practitioners in our communities and, even worse, almost no representation in the ranks of higher education. We can expect that these figures will either get worse before they get better, or at best, stabilize for a while at a level that they will seem stagnant. There are several factors behind this prediction. Court rulings, such as the Hopwood Case in Texas, will no doubt slow the momentum and make recruitment more difficult in some states of the southwest. Managed care is certainly playing havoc on both the training needed by the new cohorts in health professions (that is, a trend toward multi-skill training) and the job redistribution effects in terms of geography and type of healthcare setting for practice. Also, in recent years we have begun to see a "degree creep" phenomenon where the entry level degrees in several areas have moved from the one-year certificate to the associate degree, from the associate degree to the baccalaureate degree, from the baccalaureate degree to the masters, and from the masters to the doctorate. So, what are the implications for Hispanics in this regard? It means that fewer will get into some of these professions, at least for a few years, until there is an adjustment to the new requirements. But these are merely lumps in the *atole* (hot cereal). They are destined to dissolve, and there will eventually be a smooth serving.

Will it get better in the future? Of course it will, but it will be a very slow and gradual process and require considerable long-term commitments by state and federal agencies, institutions of higher education, allied health professional associations, accrediting bodies, AND LOTS OF INFORMATION DISSEMINATION. Most of all, I believe that it will require a different approach to recruitment modeled after what community-based organizations, like the Center for Health Policy Development, Inc. and the Mexican American Physicians Association in San Antonio, are doing. They are working with both the students and the parents at the community and middle school and high school levels.

Dr. Rumaldo Juarez
TSAHP President

SWTelehealth Project Launched

By Lynda Harkins, Ph.D., RRT, RCP, Associate Professor, and Cade Harkins, MSHP, RRT, RCP, Associate Professor and Chair Department of Respiratory Care, Southwest Texas State University

Southwest Texas State University initiated the first phase of a three-year project designed to offer educational and medical services to rural and underserved Texas communities. The Center for SWTelehealth Network was created through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Pro-

fessions. The project addresses the needs of students and to patients in rural areas. Through the collaborative efforts of a university, a medical center, and three rural hospitals, interactive distance learning programs are offered to respiratory care students and to patients with pulmonary disease. The network is a unique blend of tele-medicine and tele-education that will bring students, faculty, professionals, and patients together in a dynamic relationship not bound by geography.

The collaborative partners participating in this banner project include Southwest Texas State University (San Marcos), Hendrick Medical Center (Abilene), Stephens Memorial Hospital (Breckenridge), and Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospitals (Gonzales and Lockhart). Connected by an interactive videoconferencing network (T1 technology), the partners will offer educational opportunities to pre-professionals that otherwise would not be possible because of geographic or economic barriers as well as pulmonary rehabilitative services to citizens of rural Texas that have not previously been available.

Students from the Abilene area are isolated from most allied health programs, including respiratory care. While numerous colleges and universities are located in Abilene, none of them offers a program in respiratory care. Students seeking a career in this specialized field must leave the area and travel a minimum of 200 miles to attend classes. If students are required to leave the Abilene area to attend school, it is possible they will not return to practice.

Currently, courses are being transmitted from Southwest Texas State University to students at Hendrick Medical Center. The remote students (those at Hendrick) attend classes at SWT via television and are expected to meet the same academic requirements as students on campus. Preceptors at the remote site assist students with curricular materials, exams, laboratory exercises, and clinical procedures.

The SWTelehealth website has been established to serve as the electronic hub for students and faculty. Course syllabi and laboratory exercises are posted on the web site for student access. Hyperlinks refer students to professional journals and other valuable sites. Also from the homepage, the SWTeleChat offers students and faculty a medium for electronic discussion and interaction.

The second phase of the SWTelehealth project (scheduled to begin in the Fall of 1999) will address the rehabilitative needs of patients suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The third leading cause of death in Texas, COPD is a long-term debilitating illness that robs patients of an active lifestyle and consumes millions of health care dollars. Diseases classified as "COPD" include emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and asthma.

Patients in rural areas with COPD experience difficulty participating in rehabilitative healthcare services and maintaining compliance with prescribed programs because they are geographically isolated from healthcare professionals. Medical visits are limited and costly because rural patients must travel great distances for assistance. Family members or friends may have to take days off from work to transport patients to town for medical evaluation and treatment. The SWTelehealth network will provide patients easy access to healthcare workers from their home or via the community (rural) hospital. The interactive videoconferencing system will "take" the healthcare professional to the patient, in full-motion and in real-time.

News from the Department of Communication Disorders, Southwest Texas State University

By Dr. Richard Mallard, Department of Communication Disorders, Southwest Texas State University

- Dr. Marsha Harris' research interests include children's development of phonological awareness abilities and evaluating the efficacy of treatment for children with language impairments. Recently, Dr. Harris completed training for Fast ForWord, an intensive computer-based intervention program for children with language-learning deficits. The addition of the program at the SWT Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic will add to the variety of services available to the community.
- Dr. Barry Clansky is continuing research in the area of auditory comprehension impairments in aphasia, specifically relating to resource allocation. Two studies focus on auditory comprehension abilities under various listening conditions; the third is an acoustic analysis of emphatically stressed stimuli. He received a University Research Enhancement Grant to investigate how intelligibility measures relate to specific acoustic characteristics in persons with dysarthria.
- Dr. Richard Mallard is involved in a 20-plus year follow-up study of stuttering clients he has treated using two intensive therapy programs. One program, Precision Fluency Shaping, was initiated in 1976 while Dr. Mallard was at Vanderbilt University. The other program, initiated at Southwest Texas State University in 1986, is family intervention for children who stutter. The results of this study will be presented this summer at the Oxford Dysfluency Conference, Oxford, England. Graduate student Christi Ehrig will also present at the same conference. Ms. Ehrig is investigating predictors of success in families of children who stutter. The goal of the family stuttering program at Southwest Texas is to teach families how to manage stuttering problems in children.

News from Baylor College of Medicine

By J. David Holcomb, Ed.D., Head, Allied Health Sciences, Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine

- Dr. Michael Tristan, Medical Director, Physician Assistant Program and the Greater Houston Area Health Education Center, passed away on December 25, 1998. All who knew Mike miss his wisdom, his wonderful sense of humor, his "can do" attitude, and constant dedication to quality health care for medically underserved populations.
- Mary Byam-Smith, M.S., PA-C, joined the Physician Assistant Program faculty as an instructor in the Division of Allied Health Sciences and the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Ms. Byam-Smith serves as an academic coordinator for the first-year curriculum.
- Sarah Ann Toth, M.S., PA-C, joined the Physician Assistant Program faculty as an instructor in the Division of Allied Health Sciences.

News from the Greater Houston Area Health Education Center

- Tracei Riedel Wilson recently was named Executive Director of the Greater Houston AHEC (GHAHEC). Ms. Wilson has been with GHAHEC since 1995, serving as a Program Coordinator and as Assistant Director. From 1992-1995, Ms. Wilson was a Project Coordinator/Health Educator at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She will receive the Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration from Texas Woman's University in May 1999.

Assessing Multicultural Sensitivity

By Maria Jibaja, Ed.D., Rosemary Sebastian, M.S., PA-C, Paul

Kingery, Ph.D., and J. David Holcomb, Ed.D., Baylor College of Medicine

Does the overall curriculum for an allied health program affect the multicultural sensitivity of its students in the absence of any specific instruction on cultural competence? This question was addressed by faculty members at Baylor College of Medicine through administering the *Multicultural Sensitivity Scale* (MSS) to Physician Assistant students four times during 27 months of enrollment during 1996 to 1998. The four survey administrations were as follows:

- t1: at the beginning of the first-year curriculum,
- t2: at the end of the first-year curriculum,
- t3: at the end of the second-year, core clinical, primarily inpatient, rotations, and
- t4: at the end of the community-based, outpatient rotations.

The MSS was developed through research involving nurses and health educators (Jibaja, et al., 1994). The possible scores on the scale range from 21 (highly sensitive) to 126 (highly insensitive).

The PA Program's curriculum included a year of didactic instruction with basic and clinical science courses. The second-year clinical rotations were in inpatient settings, where the students served primarily low income, minority patients. The last component of the clinical experiences included outpatient rotations where the students served a multicultural population at community-based clinics. The curriculum did not include any activities which were specifically designed to increase students' multicultural sensitivity.

At t1, the students' mean MSS score was 48.1, which indicated some degree of sensitivity at the beginning but also revealed some biases among some students. At the end of their first year, the MSS mean score at t2 did not change significantly from the t1 mean (48.1 to 47.7). At the end of their core clinical rotations (t3), the MSS mean score was 43.1, which indicated a significant change in the students' multicultural sensitivity. Further significant change occurred between t3 and t4 (bias was reduced from a mean score of 43.1 to 40.8). Therefore, the inpatient clinical experiences involving students with multicultural and socioeconomically varied patients may have affected the students' perceptions toward these groups. This change in sensitivity was further enhanced during the students' community-based rotations.

More information about the *Multicultural Sensitivity Scale* can be obtained from Dr. Maria Jibaja at Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, Texas 77030 or at mariaj@bcm.tmc.edu. Dr. Jibaja is interested in collaborative research using the MSS with other allied health disciplines.

Reference: Jibaja ML, Kingery PM, Holcomb JD, Buckner WP, Pruitt BE. Development of a Multicultural Sensitivity Scale. *Journal of Health Education* 25(6): 350-357, Nov/Dec 1994.

News from the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, UT Southwestern Medical Center

By Dr. Eugene Jones, Chair, Department of Physician Assistant Studies, UT Southwestern Medical Center

- During the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants awards luncheon on March 12, 1999, the following announcements were made. Michel Statler, PA-C, Academic Coordinator, won PA Educator of the Year. Lee Hopkins (class of 1999) won the Carl Fasser Scholarship.

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News from UT Southwestern (continued from page 5)

Amanda McCown and Mitzi Jackson (class of 2000) won two of four TAPA Education Grants.
Marsha Frey (class of 1987) won PA of the Year.

The South Central Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Physician Assistants was held in Little Rock, Arkansas on March 20, 1999. This region consists of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Teams of students representing PA programs within these states competed in a Jeopardy-like contest called the Medical Challenge Bowl. Defeating all comers was the UT Southwestern team of Ann Teal, Bill Butler, and Kelley Wilson (class of 1999). This automatically qualifies them to compete in the national Medical Challenge Bowl to be held in Atlanta in May.

News from UT Medical Branch at Galveston

By Dr. Vicki Freeman, Chair, Department of Clinical Laboratory Science, UT Medical Branch at Galveston

Clinical laboratory technicians, lab assistants, practicing professionals in rural communities, and students with related degrees now can take a giant **LEAP** forward in their Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) baccalaureate education without stepping too far outside their home community.

Thanks to the Laboratory Education and Advancement Project (LEAP) grant awarded to the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Department at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, students can earn their degree through courses delivered by electronic media, such as interactive video-teleconferencing, computer-based

lessons and the Internet. Students will participate in special courses and practical experiences to make them more aware of the nature of rural health practices and the importance of their roles in rural patient care. Once completed, these students will provide vital medical health care services for the under-served, rural population in Texas.

The first site available for students to take advantage of this educational opportunity was at Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas in the Fall of 1998. Additional sites at Waco and Nacogdoches, Texas will be available in the Fall of 1999.

The CLS program in the School of Allied Health Sciences is a 2+2 program, with students entering in their junior year of undergraduate study. During this year, the curriculum focuses on basic laboratory sciences, interdisciplinary, and research courses. The senior year consists of advanced laboratory sciences and management classes, as well as application of skills and knowledge in affiliated community and/or UTMB hospitals. Students work with pathologists, clinical laboratory scientists, and all other laboratory personnel. Upon completion, the student graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, with a strong background in research, teaching, and management.

For information regarding this important educational opportunity, please contact Toby Smith, the LEAP Grant project manager, at (409) 772-3022 or tsmith@utmb.edu.

Health Informatics – A Career for Health Professionals

By Doris L. Ross, Ph.D., Dean Pro Tem, UT-Houston School of Allied Health Sciences

What is health informatics and why are health professionals interested?
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TSAHP RESEARCH AWARDS

The Texas Society of Allied Health Professions announces the availability of two (2) research grants of \$600 each for 1999. These grants are available to institutional and individual members of TSAHP and are intended to support allied health scholarly activity in the areas of health care quality, education, procedures, and techniques (geared towards outcomes).

Proposals should include an abstract, background (with significance to allied health directly addressed), methods, and budget (travel limited to 20% of total award and must be used to present research findings at the 2000 TSAHP meeting). Criteria used to evaluate proposals will include justification for project (25%), design (40%), budget/logistics (25%), and clarity (10%).

Please submit three (3) copies of your proposal to the TSAHP Grants Evaluation Committee, in care of:

*Dr. Rumaldo Juarez
Southwest Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, Texas 78666-4616*

Deadline for submissions is August 16, 1999. Awardees will be announced at the October 1999 meeting (notification by mail will follow soon). Please phone Stan Hartgraves at (210) 567-8762 or Lynn Verret at (409) 772-3090 for more details.

The electronic and communication age now has invaded most of health care. It is moving the health care industry along at an amazing pace. Health informatics is the use of electronic means to obtain, store, and access data, to provide decision-making tools, and to analyze the outcomes of different interventions in health care. It is not computers, but the use of computers to improve what health professionals know and think as they provide care to others.

To assist health professionals to gain knowledge in health informatics, a new Master of Science degree program has been established at The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center. The first class of students is comprised of physicians, nurses, graduate biomedical scientists, allied health and public health professionals, and students enrolled in professional schools on the campus. An applicant to the program expressed very clearly his reason for entering this program:

"I seek to acquire and apply knowledge and skills in health informatics to improve clinical decision making, evidence-based medical practice, healthcare cost-effectiveness, healthcare efficiency, healthcare quality and ultimately, health outcomes for populations. I believe that these improvements are dependent upon strategic acquisition, storage and management of health data for populations. I further believe that the healthcare sector lags far behind other sectors of our economy and society in its adoption and usage of information technology."

What positions will one have after learning health informatics?

It is expected that most health professionals who complete this program will resume their professional practice but in a more influential or effective capacity. In most hospitals, large clinics, managed care corporations, and health agencies, there are information technology departments or divisions who need individuals with health care and informatics knowledge.

What kind of program is available in Texas?

The masters program in Houston is an interdisciplinary program that facilitates a team approach among the individuals with varied backgrounds enrolled in the program. Admission into the masters degree program is based on a point system that includes backgrounds in health care, management information science, computer science and work experience, GRE or MAT score, and economic hardship, among other items. An interview with an admissions committee also is required. There are no specific course requirements.

The student's admission committee advises a student in the program throughout the program. A curriculum is chosen from among three categories of courses according to the student's interest. These categories are basic informatics courses, advanced informatics courses, and research courses. In addition, a practicum is taken. At the end of the program, the student prepares a "State of the Science" paper related to the area of interest in informatics.

Is there a doctoral program?

Is there a doctoral program?

A proposal for a Ph.D. program in Health Informatics is being submitted now to The University of Texas System and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. It is anticipated that the admission of students to this program, should it be approved, will be around September 2002. URL: www.129.106.31.13/copy_of_doctoral/index.htm

Is there a web-based Masters program?

A web-based Masters degree program is being considered. This would allow students to take the courses at their convenience without having to locate in Houston.

How can I get more information?

Information regarding these programs may be found on the web: www.uth.tmc.edu/schools/sahs, or by contacting Ms. Debbie Todd, 7000 Fannin Street, Suite 600, Houston, TX 77030, (715) 500-3903, email: Deborah.A.Todd@uth.tmc.edu

News from the SWT Health Information Management Program

By Sue Biedermann, Associate Professor and Program Chair, Health Information Management Program, Southwest Texas State University.

Two faculty from the Health Information Management Program at SWT will be serving on the Board of Directors of the Texas Health Information management Association for the 1999-00 year. Sue Biedermann, Associate Professor and Program Chair, will return to the TxHIMA Board as Past President, Director, and editor of the TxHIMA Journal. Linda Thomas, Associate Professor, will begin a term as Legislation Director with the primary responsibility to monitor legislative activity related to the health information management profession and disseminate information to the membership.

The HIM Program held its annual HIM Winter Conference on January 14, 1999 on the SWT campus and was able to provide the opportunity for HIM professionals to earn 6.5 hours of continuing education. Topics and speakers during day-long conference included: "True Colors: Understanding Our Differences and Creating Unity," by Dr. Janet Bezner, SWT Physical Therapy Department; "Managing a Multiple-Hospital HIM Department," by Karen Robey, Director of HIM for the three Medical Center MHS facilities in San Antonio; "Implementing an Automated Medical Record System," by Donald Bonacci, Jr., Deputy Chief Information Officer of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio; and "Are You Ready for Y2K?," by Barbara Hewitt, Lecturer, SWT HIM Program. The final session of the day included a panel of HIM professionals who now are employed in non-traditional HIM positions. All of the panel members also were SWT HIM Program graduates. The four panelists were DeAnne Rais, Regional Clinical Research Monitor; Cynthia Vowell, Consultant; Lovell White, Training Team Supervisor; and Christina Wright, Clinical Systems Analyst. The next HIM Winter Conference will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2000 in the LBJ Student Center on the SWT campus in San Marcos.

Save the Date!

**TSAHP FALL CONFERENCE
AND ANNUAL MEETING
October 7-8, 1999**

**“Health Professions Workforce in the
Next Millennium:
The Texas Challenge”**

**Southwest Texas State University
San Marcos, Texas**

Watch for Registration Information

Texas Society of Allied Health Professions

MISSION

The Texas Society of Allied Health Professions is a professional organization, dedicated to enhancing and promoting education, research, and clinical practice of allied health professionals within the state.

GOALS

To serve as a unified voice for allied health in the state.

To represent mutual interests of allied health educators, practitioners, and students in legislative, professional, health planning, and consumer affairs.

To promote multidisciplinary liaison and cooperation in allied health fields.

To serve as a forum/platform for discussion of issues and trends for allied health fields.

To provide an opportunity for educational institutions, professions, organizations, practitioners, students, and others concerned with allied health to exchange ideas on matters of mutual concern.

To advance public awareness and marketability of allied health care.

To offer venues for exchange of information and collaborative enterprise among allied health professionals and programs within the state.

To develop leaders in allied health for the 21st century.

The TSAHP Chronicle

**Ms. Lynn Verret, Executive Director
Texas Society of Allied Health Professions
Office of Admissions
UT School of Allied Health Sciences
301 University Blvd.
Galveston, TX 77555-1028**

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