



Health care administration program receives national accreditation

The health care administration program at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has received accreditation from the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long-Term Care Administrators for the first time in the program's nearly 30-year history. The UW-Eau Claire program is now one of only five NAB-accredited colleges and universities in the country.

According to NAB site visit administrators, UW-Eau Claire's program "equips the learner as a decision maker and critical thinker who is knowledgeable in aging issues, government regulations and institutional residents." They also reported that graduates routinely pass the NAB National Examination with above average scores.

The NAB site visit is conducted through a committee of site visit team members, which include a practitioner and an experienced and successful faculty member from another institution. In April, the site visitors met with faculty, administrative staff, the CHASE Board of Advisors, students and others in the long-term care community during a three-day visit. While in Eau Claire, the team also observed the practicum open house event and 2005 Spring Banquet, met with alumni and friends of the program, and toured the UW-Eau Claire campus.



Health care administration faculty members Dr. Jennifer Johs-Artisensi and Dr. Douglas Olson with NAB site visitors (left to right) Philip Brown, Randy Snyder, Jim Segar and John Pratt.

Based on their visit, the NAB accreditation team found the health care administration program to be "an educationally sound program that demands the best of its students; has a strong 50-week practicum, which is comprehensive in scope; its graduates are in demand in the tri-state area; and graduates are trained decision makers and not technicians who have memorized a text. It is a program that would meet the highest standards of NAB!" In addition, the report noted that applicants to the program are fast exceeding the capacity of the current two-plus faculty members.

The committee was impressed with the educational team of Dr. Douglas Olson, Dr. Jennifer Johs-Artisensi and Dr. Gene Decker. "We strongly encourage them to share their experience of establishing the exceptional program offered at UW-Eau Claire and to assist other institutions seeking national accreditation or centers of educational excellence throughout the country."

Partnership provides dental care to senior citizens

More than 500 senior citizens who live in Eau Claire area long-term care facilities will have easier access to dental care thanks to a new partnership between UW-Eau Claire and the Chippewa Valley Technical College.



UW-Eau Claire's Center for Health and Aging Services Excellence is funding a program to provide dental care to residents in five area long-term care facilities. University students majoring in health care administration and who are completing practicums in the long-term care facilities are coordinating the program. If grant monies are realized, CVTC's dental hygiene program will provide preventative services and staff training.

"This program provides university and CVTC students with great real-world experience, and it will benefit hundreds of senior citizens," said Doug Olson, UW-Eau Claire professor of health care administration. "Older people often have very poor dental care, so it's an important benefit for them."

With private dollars and grant funds gained through CHASE, the health care administration program has been able to fund more student scholarships, student research, practicum stipends, leadership training and various initiatives, such as the dental care program for the older population.

Letter from faculty

The road less traveled ...

We have an important societal charge to fulfill within the health care administration program at UW-Eau Claire, and it is not always the easiest for a variety of reasons:

- We have a proud 30-year history of offering this degree focused in health and aging services administration. The role of a nursing home administrator has changed over the years, and we have tried to stay ahead of this curve. Our program educates people today for a vast array of opportunities available in this exciting field.
- Our society has had a long history of not celebrating aging or recognizing the wisdom of years. We live in a youth-oriented culture, which is diametrically contrasted with the reality of the demographics driving our country.
- We have a personal commitment to care for our parents, grandparents and those that are frail and less fortunate in our country. We take this responsibility very seriously.
- We need to raise the image of those

leading and staffing these health and aging service organizations today and tomorrow. We need the best and brightest to take on the challenges and opportunities ahead of us in the aging and chronic care worlds, which cross many service settings.

- Much of health care is driven by the needs of those that are aging and/or have chronic care needs; therefore we need to focus on making sure our students have a firm grasp of the importance of their roles.
- Bad news sells papers and the popular press caters to this phenomena. The fact is that the vast majority of what takes place in a health and aging services setting is a wonderful expression of love and kindness.
- We need to change – it is essential and necessary. We need to do this with an understanding that some of what we do is very good, and need to hold on to that for the future delivery of service. Yet, we need to improve a number of things we do.

The fact of the matter is that all of these reasons make it a difficult task to inspire hope

and optimism in the future of the health and aging services administration field. Difficult is not a good enough reason to not strive onward and forward. We have embraced this challenge at UW-Eau Claire with the formation of the Center for Health and Aging Services Excellence. We know we cannot solve this problem alone, so the Center and our faculty have worked hard to forge many new partnerships. We will continue to travel this road less traveled and invite you to join us.



*Chair, Public Health Professions
Associate Professor, Health Care
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CHASE sponsors 2005 Spring Banquet

A record-breaking 175 people gathered to attend the annual Health Care Administration/CHASE Spring Banquet, "All Aboard the Success Express," April 7 at the Plaza Inn & Suites in Eau Claire. We were pleased to welcome our keynote speaker, Steve Chies, chair of the American Health Care Association and senior vice president of facility operations at Benedictine Health System. The following individuals received distinguished service awards at the 2005 Spring Banquet.

David Mills received the distinguished alumni award, recognizing his distinguished service to the field in a way that brings credit to him and the UW-Eau Claire. A graduate of the health care administration program, he is the Midwest Area Vice President for Beverly Healthcare. Mr. Mills has been a leader in health care associations and has served as an advocate for leadership development within Beverly Healthcare, an organization which holds several practicum placements for health care administration students. He also is an active member of the CHASE board of advisors.

Robert VonHaden was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to the advancement of the health care administration program at UW-Eau Claire. Mr. VonHaden was a chief advocate in helping to steer the creation of the Center for Health and Aging Services Excellence and is a charter member of the CHASE board of advisors. He has served as a guest



2005 Spring Banquet Keynote Speaker, Steve Chies, with Executive Director of the Wisconsin Health Care Association, Tom Moore.

lecturer for the health care administration program, and has fostered a strong relationship between the HCAD program and the private sector, including Wipfli. Robert VonHaden continues to model the importance of community involvement with his current role as city council member in Eau Claire.



Distinguished student award recipient, Matthew Mauthe with parents Ron and Julie Mauthe at the banquet.

Matthew Mauthe, senior health care administration major on practicum at Marquardt Village in Watertown, received the Distinguished Student Award which recognizes his exceptional performance

and contributions to the health care administration program. Matt has been involved in the student organization, and has served as chair for the Day in the Park event in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Memory Walk.

Many scholarships were awarded at this year's spring banquet. **Shannon Engel**, a health care administration junior was the recipient of the Gene Decker Scholarship Award and **Laura Weiss**, a health care administration student currently on practicum at Presbyterian Homes of Arden Hills, was awarded the Charles and Isabel Ihle Scholarship. Recipients of the John and Mary Gerberich Scholarship were **Alesha Gillitzer**, **Ashley Misner**, **Morgan Peters**, **Lydia Waldera** and **Sara Williamson**. The winners of this year's Extendicare Scholarships were **Kendall Duffy** and **Christine Gamaldi**. The Beverly Healthcare Scholarships were awarded to **Jayme LeJeune** and **Britanny Peterson**. **Klare Gibson** was the first recipient of the Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging Scholarship, and **Catherine Hinz** and **Stefanie Ojibway** received the newly created Wisconsin Health Care Association Scholarships.

Please mark your calendars for the 2006 Spring Banquet, scheduled for April 20 at the Plaza Inn and Suites in Eau Claire. Robyn Stone, Dr. P.H., executive director of the Institute for the Future of Aging Services at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, will deliver the keynote address.

Special thanks to our 2005 Spring Banquet sponsors!

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Support the CHASE Advancement Fund

The Center for Health and Aging Services Excellence welcomes and invites your support. Private gifts and grants from individuals, organizations and foundations are welcome as CHASE pursues its goals to enhance learning opportunities for UW-Eau Claire health care administration students. Additionally, this fund encourages an applied research agenda, markets the health and aging services field as a noble profession, promotes alternative regional educational programs for adult learners, and bridges the gap between associations and university programs.

Your contribution to the CHASE Advancement Fund will be gratefully accepted by the UW-Eau Claire Foundation. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes and be recognized in the Foundation's annual honor roll of donors. Most important, your gift will enable the department to continue to build upon its reputation for excellence and to provide future generations the same quality education you received.

Please use this form to send in your contribution and know that you are making a difference in the future of health and aging services.

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