

HCAD ALUMNI

notes & news



• **Kristi Vater** (December 2001) Kristi recently earned her Master of Long-Term Care Administration from the University of Southern California in May 2006. She is the Administrator of the Howard Lake Good Samaritan Center in Howard Lake, Minn.

• **Rhonda (Johnson) Flynn** (December 1994) For the past five years Rhonda has been working part-time at Medalist Golf Club in Hobe Sound, Fla. as an Assistant Controller.

Rhonda is married and has two children, ages 3 and 5.

• **Timothy Nelson** (August 1999) Timothy saw his picture in Spring 2006 edition of "CHASE NEWS" and contacted us. Tim is the Business Manager for the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office. He manages all functions related to accounting, records management and computer hardware and software systems. Tim married Jenny Kolb of Whitefish Bay this past summer and they

reside in Glendale.

• **Kelly Amundsen** (August 2006) Kelly is a Community Coordinator for the Memory Care Community at Presbyterian Homes in Bloomington, Minn.

• **Lindsey Arnold** (August 2005) Lindsey recently accepted a position as the Quality Assurance Specialist with the Wisconsin Functional Screen, through MetaStar in Madison.

HCAD sees tremendous program and practicum site growth

The Health Care Administration program at UW-Eau Claire has undergone tremendous growth in recent years. From 2001 to the present, we have increased the number of undergraduate health care administration majors from 50 students to 125. We have been requiring an increasingly higher GPA for prospective students (2.75), and enroll many students with higher GPAs than the minimum. This spring, we will begin implementing a new admissions process to the major, which will require prospective students to complete an application, write an essay and submit proof of academic achievement and a proposed degree plan before faculty will make selections and offer acceptances into the program. We currently have more than 40 students in the field, completing their practicum experiences in health and aging services organizations across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Upper Michigan. Additionally, we are happy to report that our program is one of the few in health and aging services administration that is growing in size and scope. We are hopeful, especially as we transition to our new home in the College of Business, that our program will continue to be adequately resourced, with both internal and external funds, so that we may continue to be positioned for growth into the future.



May 2006 HCAD graduating class

Bottom row (left to right): Devon Garratt, Lindsey Arnold, Abigail Howard, Stacy Lobner, Sara Sterling and Ericca Schmitt. Middle row: Lydia Waldera, Julie Wanner, Sara Dzienkowski, Ashley Misner, Morgan Peters, Julie Bindl, Laura Weiss and Andrea Halleen. Top row: Alyssa Rasmussen, Logan Geist, Dr. Douglas Olson, Brandon Thorsness and Jordon Bruce. Not pictured: Andrea Kramer.

Stay in touch!

Are you

working at a new job?
getting married?
having a baby?
retiring?
traveling?
moving?
receiving an award?
enjoying life?

Then share your news – and photos – with other HCAD Blugold alumni. Contact Meredith Wolf at wolfm@uwec.edu.

Student leadership representatives attend national ACHCA conference

Networking experience of a lifetime

by Laura Hudack and Bryan Bee

This past spring, we (as officers of the ACHCA student organization at UW-Eau Claire) were given an amazing opportunity. We were invited to attend the ACHCA Annual Conference at the Nevele Grande Resort in Ellenville, N.Y. ACHCA holds national educational meetings yearly, which provide opportunities for long-term care administrators to improve their professional skills and earn continuing education credits. Annually, this conference is their largest educational event.

We met administrators from all over the country and from all different types of health care facilities. It was truly amazing how friendly and inviting everyone was to us. They had nothing but positive things to say about the health care administration profession and were extremely interested in and impressed with our program at UW-Eau Claire. The administrators attending the conference offered much firsthand advice and information they have learned throughout their numerous years in the field.

We felt extremely fortunate to be the only undergraduate students attending the conference. Besides three graduate students, the rest of the attendees were CEOs, directors, administrators and other various upper-level positions. We saw this as a terrific opportunity to learn as much as we could and to network with as many people as possible. We went to 11 educational sessions, each providing information about different topics relevant to health care administrators today. We chose to attend a variety of sessions in order to hear about many of the topics and issues we will be experiencing ourselves in our future careers as administrators. The sessions presented everything from hiring strategies, successful leadership, monitoring quality and overcoming resistance to change, insurance, finding a balance between work and personal life, preventing survey citations and much more.



Left to right: Bryan Bee, Stephanie Letzt and Laura Hudack.

We both feel tremendously fortunate that we participated in the ACHCA Conference. It was great to be able to experience firsthand the kind of continuing education that we will be receiving yearly in our future careers. We both became more confident and more comfortable in approaching, talking with and asking questions of the professionals who were there. We would definitely take advantage of a similar opportunity again, and we would like to give CHASE a huge thanks for giving us this opportunity.

Graduate Certificate in Health and Aging Services Administration update

The Graduate Certificate in Health and Aging Services Administration will not be offered this academic year due to market demand, the need to explore new delivery options and the availability of faculty effort. This decision also is influenced by the fact that the Health Care Administration program is exploring the option of offering a health care emphasis within the College of Business MBA program. We are gathering feedback and considering a new delivery model for the certificate in the future. We value the relationships with our educational partners and look forward to their continued counsel and support. We will continue to create a list of people who want more information about this program as we continue to redevelop the HASA certificate.

Laura Hudack and Bryan Bee wrote this article following their trip to New York for the 2006 ACHCA Conference. These student leaders were able to attend the national conference thanks to a fund established by Tom and Kay Schanke in recognition of their son Mike Schanke's Distinguished Alumni Award. Mike, owner and administrator of Oakridge Gardens and Grandview Assisted Living in Menasha, received the UW-Eau Claire award at the Spring Banquet.