Day in the Park: A Growing Success

This past September the American College of Health Care Administrators student organization held the third annual “Day in the Park” event. This event is held each spring in conjunction with the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk at Carson Park. The “Day in the Park” event began as a way for students in the health care administration program at UW-Eau Claire to volunteer their time with the elderly and have some fun outdoors. Each year elderly residents from the Eau Claire community are invited to Carson Park for an afternoon full of fun, games and food. This activity is greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the elderly residents as well as the students.

This year Dove Healthcare and Syverson Home nursing homes attended the event. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many students and faculty that generously donated their time and efforts, the event was a great success. Because of its growing popularity “Day in the Park” will continue to be held for years to come.

Written by: Matt Mauhe
Senior, Health Care Administration

Undergraduate Students Participate in Research

Six students from the health care administration program at UW-Eau Claire are currently working on research activities sponsored by CHASE, the UW-Eau Claire Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Extendicare, Beverly Health Care and Larson Allen Companies. These activities are being conducted with Dr. Douglas Olson, associate professor of allied health professions; Dr. Jennifer Johns-Artisensi, associate professor of allied health professions; and Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher, professor of nursing systems at UW-Eau Claire.

Devon Garratt, HCAD junior - “Parish Nursing in the Chippewa Valley.” A project looking at what is happening in local churches and parish nursing programs and how their value can be better communicated to the local health community. Sponsored by UW-Eau Claire Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and CHASE under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Johns-Artisensi.

“The opportunity to be involved has allowed me to explore educational opportunities that otherwise would have been non-existent.” — Wally Apland, HCAD senior

Wally Apland, HCAD senior and Hilary Pascarella, HCAD sophomore - “Resident Relocation: What are Best Practices?” A project that examines what happens when nursing homes close and residents must be relocated. This study focuses on practices of the receiving facilities. Sponsored by UW-Eau Claire Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Johns-Artisensi.

Ashley Misner, HCAD sophomore - “The Dynamic Relationship between Health and Aging Service Organizations and Schools.” A descriptive study aimed at uncovering the prevalence of health and aging service organizations’ relationships with schools and describing some of the identified best practices. This study is being sponsored by a grant from the Extendicare Foundation under the supervision of Dr. Douglas Olson.

“This study has greatly advanced my understanding of my major.” — Laura Weiss, HCAD sophomore

Laura Weiss, HCAD sophomore - “What is a Director of Nursing?” — A project that describes the challenging role of a director of nursing in the health and aging service field. The initial findings were presented nationally in the fall of 2003 at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aged in Denver, Colo., and will be presented in February 2004 at the Wisconsin Director of Nursing Council meeting in Lake Geneva. This study is being sponsored by Larson Allen Companies and the UW-Eau Claire Office of Research and Sponsored Programs under the supervision of Dr. Douglas Olson.

Catherine Hinz, HCAD freshman - “Exploring Effectiveness of the Regional Director Role.” A study describing and evaluating the driving forces of a regional director who can successfully manage and operate a multi-site health and aging service organization. This study is being sponsored by a grant from Beverly Health Care under the supervision of Dr. Douglas Olson.

Spring Banquet to be Held April 1

This year’s annual Health Care Administration Spring Banquet, “Stepping up to the Plate: Quality Leaders for Quality Care,” is scheduled for Thursday, April 1. Our featured keynote speaker is Mary Tellis-Nayak, President/CEO of the American College of Health Care Administrators. ACHCA is a non-profit membership organization that provides educational programming, certification and career development for its members.

In addition to Mary Tellis-Nayak’s discussion on quality care, three individuals will receive distinguished service awards at the 2004 spring banquet. These awards will be given to individuals based on their alumni involvement, service to the health care profession and to an exceptional student enrolled in the health care administration program.

The banquet will be held at the Plaza Hotel and Suites beginning at 6 p.m. Please mark your calendar as your presence is very important at this event. Our students look forward each year to the opportunity to interact with graduates of the program and professionals in the field. Invitations will be mailed out in March.
Dr. Kane Leads Chronic Care Panel Discussion

On Oct. 2, 2003, more than 80 UW-Eau Claire students, staff, CHASE Board members and local community health care professionals gathered at the Park Inn and Suites in Eau Claire for “Chronic Care Meets the U.S. Health Care System: Perspective and Professional Responsibility.” A forum designed for those interested in issues concerning chronic care in the United States.

The forum, sponsored by CHASE, was led by Robert L. Kane, M.D., professor and Minnesota Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging at the University of Minnesota. In this discussion, Dr. Kane identified the need to shift traditional thinking from acute care to chronic care due to the fact that the current healthcare system is dominated by chronic illness and disease. To accomplish this paradigm shift, providers will need to focus more on the prevention of catastrophic in a person’s health to manage problems before they arise, practice intervention to slow the rate of catastrophic in a person’s health and treat these events as episodes of care rather than incidents of care. Furthermore, providers will need to form a partnership with patients to help them manage their own health.

The forum included panelists who represented various local organizations and viewpoints on chronic care. Panelists included Dennis Pope, vice president of operations and administration at Luther Memorial-Mayo Health System, who discussed the steps taken and obstacles presented to provide chronic care in an acute care environment. Paul Cook, program director at Community Health Partnership, highlighted the need for advocates to push the current healthcare system toward chronic care as baby boomers retire and enter the healthcare system. Jim Diegnan, CEO of Dove Healthcare, focused on chronic care from both a provider and patient’s perspective as a result of his work and his extended family’s experiences. To wrap up the panel discussion, Dianne Rhein, regional planner/program consultant for AgeAdvantage Area Agency on Aging, spoke on chronic care from a consumer’s perspective.

The forum was one of the events being offered by CHASE aimed at serving as a greater resource to UW-Eau Claire students and the regional health care community. This initiative was jointly sponsored by the health care administration program and economics department at UW-Eau Claire.

CHASE Co-Sponsor of 2003-04 Aging Lecture Series

The Center for Health and Aging Services Excellence and the Advisors on Gerontological Education, along with UW-Stout and Red Cedar Medical Center in Menomonie, are offering the second annual Gerontology Lecture Series. The 2003-04 series is designed to explore timely topics related to the field of gerontology with faculty, students, practitioners and consumers. The remaining sessions in the series include:

- April 21: “Geriatric Sexual Rehabilitation for the Older Person” by Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher, Prof. Emeritus, UW-Marquette.
- May 5: “Geriatric Mental Health” by Randy Krentz, UW-La Crosse.
- June 2: “Long-Term Care and Aging” by Mike Kittleson, UW-Eau Claire.

Join us for one or all of these sessions as an opportunity to explore topics related to aging in the region. For more information, contact Meredith Wolf at (715) 836-3543 or wolfm@uwec.edu.

UW-Eau Claire to Offer New Certificate Program

The certificate program in Health and Aging Services Administration will focus on developing program graduates who are prepared to be leaders in the modules of re-source management (Wipfli Ulrich Bertelson, LLP), quality services (Pathway Health Services, Inc.), human resources management (Marquette University) and health services leadership (Zimmerman Communi-Care Network, Inc.).

This unique program will complement the existing health care administration undergraduate program and will help meet the future management needs of the profession.

Please look forward to official announcements in the spring about this exciting new opportunity.

For enrollment information contact Meredith Wolf at (715) 836-3543 or wolfm@uwec.edu.

CHASE Board of Advisors

Chase is an annual, national conference on issues related to the aging process. The event brings together professionals from diverse fields to share ideas and best practices in aging services. The 2003-04 Board of Advisors is comprised of experts from various fields, including health care, social services, and education.

Mike Metcalf, Western Region Director, Marshfield Clinic Systems, Eau Claire, Wis.
Martin Metten, Vice President, Heyde Companies, Chippewa Falls, Wis.
David Mills, Vice President, Beverly Health Care.
Douglas Olson, PH.D., CHASE Director, Assistant Professor of Allied Health Professions, UW-Eau Claire.
Rick Parker, Vice President of Human Resources—Training and Development, Extendicare, UW-Madison.
Mike Krentz, President, Clement Manor, Greenfield, Wis.
Karen Robinson (UW-Eau Claire ’84), Administrator, Chippewa Falls Retirement Community, Chippewa Falls, Wis.
Craig Ubaldicche (UW-Eau Claire ’92), CEO and President, Loving Homes of Oshkosh, Oshkosh, Wis.
Robert Von Haden, Partner, Wipfli Ulrich Bertelson, LLP, Eau Claire, Wis.
Natalie Zeleznikar, (UW-Eau Claire ’90), Administrator, Keystone Bluffs, Duluth, Minn.
Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher, Ph.D., professor of nursing systems, UW-Eau Claire.