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JHAWK forecast

The Jayhawk Healthcare Administrators Working for Kansas student organization promotes leadership, marketability, relationships, and knowledge for students pursuing a career in health services administration through personal and professional development activities.

Speakers Lend Insight

Gebar Discusses the Academic Setting

By Dorothy Hughes

On Tuesday, October 30, MHSA students had the opportunity to hear from Shelley Gebar, RN, MPH, Chief Operating Officer for KU Physicians, Inc. (KUPI), and Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor of KU Medical Center.

Ms. Gebar began her health care career as a CNA during high school, then went on to earn her nursing degree. She worked as the Vice President of Surgery at a large urban hospital, then continued upward in leadership, eventually serving as CEO in several Pennsylvania health care organizations.

Most of Ms. Gebar's career has been spent in academic health care organizations. For her, the decision to remain in an academic setting centers around wanting to be near the best and the brightest seeking the cutting edge not only in patient care, but also in science.

In her role as COO of KUPI, Ms. Gebar is involved in operations, in consultation with the CFO and the presidents of each physician specialty foundation that make up KUPI.

Students asked excellent questions about management style, what it is like to be an executive on the East Coast versus in the Midwest, and how academic centers are different from community hospitals. ♦

Vandegeest Discusses Assertiveness

Also on October 30, students in Dr. Mary Gambino's Health Services Management class heard from Kim Vandegeest-Wallace, Ph.D., a psychologist from the KU Medical Center Office of Student Services. Dr. Vandegeest-Wallace works in Counseling and Educational Support Services, and she spoke to the class about assertiveness and how it differs from aggressiveness and passivity.

The primary point of the presentation was that being assertive is the best, most productive, and most healthy way to conduct oneself. Assertiveness is different from aggressiveness because instead of simply stating one's opinions or taking what one wants, someone who is assertive takes into consideration the feelings of others.

Dr. Vandegeest-Wallace had students fill out a self assessment to help them figure out how they behave and in what circumstances.

♦

On Policy: Thoughts from the Department Chair

By Michael Bleich, RN, Ph.D., FAAN

With the Bush administration's term nearing its end and healthcare reform efforts underway at state and national levels, it seems appropriate that the importance of leadership and policy be addressed. The Department of Health Policy and Management has a robust history of leading, and of developing leaders to influence policy development. Too often, I fear, individuals commingle policy and politics, but the two are different yet complementary. Good policy is intent- and evidence-driven, clear, and serves to give direction for some greater good. Politics and compromise enters, and sometimes what started as great policy endures a consensus-based decision-making only to become watered down in impact from what was an ideal prototype.

With health reform among the top issues surfacing the national agenda, this is a time for healthcare leaders to promote policies that reflect best practice, as all people deserve access, quality, and affordable services to optimize our societal potential.

To our students: current events and policy involvement might just be the best education you can receive about policy development and implementation. Engage!

To our graduates: exercise your best thinking to help reshape the broken system we attempt to manage.

To all: consciously examine policy beyond its place in government and notice its place in all institutional and social settings. Policy permeates our lives in many forms.

So here is my 'hat's off' to policy informers, writers, implementers, and evaluators. To policy deciders, your ethical and pragmatic moral compass is needed. Finally, let's acknowledge that we're all policy makers in some form and at some level. Policy knowledge is rightfully a central part of our department and curriculum.

Want to learn more about policy?

State Level:

www.kslegislature.org

Federal Level:

www.house.gov

www.senate.gov

www.whitehouse.gov

Updated Spring 2007 Course Schedule

Monday
HP&M 833: Health Law (Bonney)
7-10pm; 1025 Orr-Major

Tuesday
HP&M 826: Management Information Systems (Grasso)
4-7pm; 1015 Orr-Major

Wednesday
HP&M 821: Epidemiology, Evaluation, and Survey (Zimmerman/Averett)
4-7pm; 1015 Orr-Major
HP&M 872: Cost Effectiveness and Decision Analysis (Shireman)
4-7pm; 1049 School of Nursing

Thursday
HP&M 824: Applied Concepts in Healthcare Financial Management (Grasso)
4-7pm; 1015 Orr-Major

Online Offerings
HP&M 828: Human Resources Management (Murray)
HP&M 840: Strategic Management (Murray)
HP&M 845: Ethics (Averett)

By Appointment
HP&M 880: Internship
HP&M 881: Research Practicum
HP&M 890: Directed Readings

Contact Adam Keener for further information.

Electives Available Outside of HP&M

NRSG 880
Organizational Foundations for Leading Change (Bleich Kinnaman)

DSCI 705
Supply Chain Management (Edwards Campus)

NRSG 820
Organizational Communication and Program Planning (Online)

NRSG 854
Knowledge Management in Healthcare (Online)

NRSG 889
Grant Writing

PRVM 851
Public Health Policy and Law (Online)

PUAD 845
Public Management and Organizational Analysis (Edwards Campus)

PUAD 853
Policy Analysis and Evaluation (Lawrence Campus)

JHAWK BBQ at the Rohrers' House

September 29, 2007

Counterclockwise from top right: Paul Rohrer; Justin Crawford and Amy Hochman; The Suellentrops; The Dingers and Ryan Schauer; Laura Jones and The Dycks.

Upcoming Events

November 5
In-Class Speaker
Megan McElroy, "Lean Production"
7pm in 1015 Orr-Major

November 13
In-Class Speaker
Jane Murray, MD, "Integrative Medicine: A Physician Perspective"
5:30pm in 1015 Orr-Major

November 14
In-Class Speaker
Marcia Nielsen, Ph.D., MPH, Executive Director of the
Kansas Health Policy Authority
4pm in 1025 Orr-Major

December 6
JHAWK Lecture Series
Jeremy Armstrong, MHSA, CEO of St. Luke Hospital in Marion, Kansas
6:30-7:30pm, Location TBA

December 15
JHAWK Holiday Party!
Details TBA

Health Care Humor

The CEO of a large HMO dies and goes to heaven.
St. Peter shows him to a lovely villa with wonderful music, great views, a full staff of servants, gourmet meals, etc.

The CEO says, "This is terrific!"

"Don't get too comfortable," says St. Peter. "You're only approved for a three-day stay."

Alumni Happy Hour Schedule for Fall 2007

November 1 @ Dave & Busters at Village West
1843 Village West Parkway, Kansas City, KS
http://www.daveandbusters.com/Locations/Default.aspx?Loc=0049

December 6 @ Gilhouly's
39th & Bell, Kansas City, MO
http://search.cityguide.aol.com/kansascity/bars/gilhoulys/v-111826447