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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.

ACHE: A Beneficial Experience for Students

By Marty Baumbach

I recently attended the ACHE annual congress as my first professional development event as a new graduate student. In one sense I attended because I didn't want to miss anything, rather than in hopes of learning any one thing in particular.

It was my first trip to Chicago in some time, I had family in the area I wanted to visit, and I thought it might look good to immerse myself as early as possible into this community of health care administrators. So I was pleased when I learned a few things that will allow me to serve my organizations better in the future. From health care application of the Toyota Production System to what type of suit I should wear to my next interview, I was received unexpected benefits from the comprehensive curriculum.

The student lectures and luncheons were equally beneficial. One young professional motivated us to achieve greatness as he rehashed his quick ascent to organizational leadership. After copious notes during his presentation and some good luck we all undoubtedly hope to follow in his footsteps sooner rather than later. So please know, I actually did learn something. I mention that first because if I touted what I saw as the real meat and potatoes benefits of attending congress, one might wonder what value the registration fee had.

Truth be told, my favorite and most meaningful moments in Chicago were not spent in a lecture hall nor did they have a credit hour value associated with them.

Starting on Monday morning, day one, I attended a speed-networking event. Because of that event I have a bona-fide CEO mentor in a foreign health system. On Monday evening I attended a mixer and met a Jayhawk who had relocated to Wisconsin. We spoke briefly and I e-mailed him a couple of times. This ACHE official works for the University of Wisconsin's

health system but mentioned he'd be rooting for his old alma mater if Wisconsin made it past Davidson in the NCAA tournament. He obviously didn't have to root against Wisconsin.

Two days ago I e-mailed him a Jayhawk Final Four Rap song that was produced locally so he could blare it at work. Tonight there will be at least one person in Wisconsin cheering on the Crimson and Blue in the national championship.

Tuesday evening at our student organization mixer I met several KUMC Alumni at a great Chicago bar called Kincaid's. The Jayhawk flag apparently waives proudly there all year long. It was great to see how this program has been used competitively by experienced grads in a variety of intriguing aspects of health care.

Wednesday and Thursday I met several US Navy health care administrators at their breakout session known as LEAP Symposium. This was ideal for me as I am in the Health Services Collegiate Program and will commission as a Navy HCA officer upon graduation. I actually had a chance to discuss my first Navy assignment with officials there!

Wednesday night at my sister's home in Somonauk, Illinois and a Wednesday lunch with my brother at a great Chicago pizza joint were just icing on the cake. Not to mention being holed up in the Comfort Inn and Suites with a couple other struggling grad students trying to save a buck!

All week long, in addition to excellent formal instruction and professional advice, I networked and dialogued with professionals who were truly interested in helping a "young careerist" out. New relationships were built and old ones were fostered. So, as usual, the industry's most valuable resource served to provide the greatest benefit. People made the real difference at ACHE.

Student Experiences at ACHE Congress

By Jim Bloom

Healthcare organizations have entered a new era, one that Donald M. Berwick calls a strategic era of improvement in patient care.

Berwick, president and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, spoke March 11 at the American College of Healthcare Executives Congress in Chicago.

The physician and patient safety advocate said that while progress is being made, healthcare leaders need to position their organizations to enter this new era by working toward the "triple aim of improvement."

Berwick urged those in attendance to lead their organizations toward the triple aim – to provide better care, to strive toward greater health for the population and

to lower healthcare costs.

"All of us want the triple aim," Berwick said. "Hospitals should seek to be empty."

Berwick said achieving the triple aim will require building teamwork, establishing reliability and rooting-out overuse of resources.

It also will require changing the U.S. system to make primary care the mainstay of healthcare and to offer financial incentives for preventive care.

Healthcare executives have their work cut out for them, Berwick said.

He urged leaders to make change, not stabilization, a part of their organizational culture; to treat transparency as an asset; and to make cooperation the norm.

Berwick also encouraged healthcare leaders to remove waste and to cease investment in over-

use. Most of all, he said healthcare executives who guide their organizations to empower patients should find the most success during this strategic era of improvement.



Student attendees:

Neha Sharma, Marty Baumbach, Danielle Forbis, Ali Starks, Erica Kloehn, Jim Bloom, Angela Tallent, and Rohit Chander.

By Neha Sharma

Attending ACHE was a very rewarding experience. Being able to be in the limelight of important discussions in healthcare opened my perspective about the issues surrounding healthcare.

Unfortunately, I was only able to make it for three days limiting my scope of sessions I could attend. Even though the student track was highly beneficial a couple of the sessions were helpful for future jobs, rather than current internship opportunities. My favorite session was "Seeking Perfection in Healthcare: Applying the Toyota Production System to Medicine." Linda Hebish and James Spienza provided great insight into how Virginia Mason Medical Center has applied the Toyota Production System and how it has contributed to the overall benefit of an established organization.

I highly recommend attending ACHE to network amongst individuals from various aspects of the country and to gain a different knowledge base about what we have been learning in class and how to apply it.

For example, in the session "The Marriage of Quality and Financial Health: Moving from Theory to Impact" Liz Sweeny and Steven Wood discussed the meaning of clinical performance and how that is applied to capital access.

By understanding the importance of bond ratings and what entails in the process helped me synthesize the material Dr. Grasso discusses in Finance and be able to see how the application of bond ratings is used in organizations.

By Danielle Forbis

This was my first year attending the annual ACHE Congress in Chicago. The ACHE 2008 Congress was a valuable experience and a great opportunity to network with other students and health care professionals. After spending three exhausting, but very beneficial days in Chicago, I have some recommendations for anyone considering next year's ACHE Congress.

1. Do not try to cram your entire Congress experience into 3 days. In an attempt to save money on lodging, some of us chose to attend Congress for only 3 days. This made the days very long since we started sessions at 7 a.m. and did not finish until 6 or 7 p.m. This left us with very little "tourist" time to explore Chicago.

2. Try to attend sessions beyond just those available in the "Student Track" options. Again, as a result of only attending for 3 days, we were limited to primarily student sessions. Several of these sessions contained helpful information for entering the health care arena after graduation. However, there was a significant overlap in material between some of the sessions. Just be sure to read the session titles and descriptions carefully to avoid repetitive material. If you attend for the entire week, more options are available to you outside the "Student Track" sessions.

3. Networking does not have to be a formal and intimidating process. The best connections I made at ACHE started with friendly conversations unrelated to healthcare. These conversations almost always led to an opening for me to discuss my current studies and my plans for a future in health care. Finally, do not ignore the benefits of networking with other students. They are in similar positions and we can always benefit from and offer support to fellow students.

Finally, I just want to extend many thanks to Dr. Grasso for representing us at ACHE. As a student, it meant a lot to have a faculty member there at ACHE with us offering support. I hope that many more of you will join us next year!

HIMSS Half Day Meeting

By Paul Rohrer

On Thursday, April 17th, 2008 the Heart of America Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (www.hoahimss.org) held their half-day chapter meeting at the Kauffman Foundation building.

The day started with an introduction from HOA Chapter President, Sean Roberts, Director of Information Technology at the University of Kansas Hospital. The presentation format began with the first keynote speaker, followed by two breakout sessions, lunch, and then a concluding keynote speaker.

Judith Warren, PhD, Director of Nursing Informatics and Professor at KUMC was the first keynote speaker. Dr. Warren discussed creating a patient safety culture through the use of clinical informatics, standardization and evidence based medicine. Breakout session 1 was directed towards trends affecting storage and data center efficiency, and included presentations from Charles Hockenbarger, Global Solutions Architect with EMC Corporation and Curt Ringgenberg, Enterprise Account Manager with Hewlett-Packard.

Breakout session 2 was directed towards usage of electronic health information. There was a presentation about Microsoft HealthVault which allows users to store, share, and search for issues relative to their health status. Since Microsoft is not a provider or payer, they do not fall under the scrutiny of HIPAA and health information is not shared by them with anyone who is not

given permission. The second presentation was by Debe Gash, VP and CIO at Saint Luke's Health System. She discussed the problems associated with linking electronic health records to physician offices and the solution sought through the implementation of Saint Luke's Care Link, which is a branded version of the Relay Health product from McKesson. This system is based on quality standards and participating physician offices must have privileges to Saint Luke's Care, a distinct entity which requires physicians to practice evidence-based standards. In addition to being on staff at Saint Luke's Care, physician groups must have 100% participation in their groups to utilize the Saint Luke's Care Link product.

The final presentation was from Torri Behnke-Spiegelhalter, AT&T Homeland Security Director. She discussed the use of capabilities-based planning in emergency situations. Disaster Recovery is an important issue affecting hospitals and health systems, and the ability to prepare, prevent, respond and restore services in a disaster is absolutely critical. One thing health care organizations can do is utilize the National Communication System to establish an elevated priority of service for restoring communication services.

The biggest take-home lesson that I had was the challenge of standardization. With so many disparate systems operating in our environment, it will be important to develop standards so that electronic health records can interface with each other. This is a critical part of meeting President Bush's vision

for an EHR for all Americans by 2014. This is also a factor that will contribute to the success of RHIO's.

Want to get involved:

HIMSS Calendar of Events

2009 HIMSS HOA Board Elections
Monday, June 2nd

HIMSS 7th Annual Advocacy Day
June 10, 2008 Washington DC

HIMSS Summit Advancing Healthcare
Leadership Through IT
June 9-10, 2008

National Health IT Week
June 9-13, 2008

HOA HIMSS 2009 board year begins
Tuesday, July 1st

17th Annual Physician-Computer Connection Symposium
July 16-18, 2008

HIMSS_09
Chicago, IL April 4-8, 2009

For more information:
www.hoahimss.org
www.himss.org

JHAWK Intramural Volleyball

By Paul Rohrer

The JHAWK intramural volleyball team, Unprotected Sets, had a season full of ups and downs. We were able to essentially field two teams and ended with a 6-24 record overall.

The season started off strong with 14 members signing up to play and an impressive 3-0 victory over the Dragon Meds. "We went out there, executed a game plan of bump-set-spike, and came away victoriously. There is no 'I' in 'Team'" said standout player Ryan Schauer.

Shortly after our inaugural victory, we were forced to overcome adversity from group project commitments and injuries directly related to the Jayhawk March Madness that became an epidemic on the KUMC campus this spring.

Overall, it was a fun season. Stay tuned for more JHAWK intramural activities.



Dr. Grasso's Annual BBQ



JHAWK BOWLING!



Upcoming Events

May 8
Last Day of Classes



Alumni:

Don't forget to check out the HP&M website from time to time. You can even update your own information through this website:

<http://www.kumc.edu/hpm/alumni.html>

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www.jayhawkhealth.com