

TRENDS

Association of
Schools of
Allied Health
Professions

HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2003-
JANUARY 2004

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VANGUARD OF
ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION

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ASAHP TO MOVE ON SEVERAL NEW FRONTS

The coming months promise to be busy ones for the Association as several new endeavors are to be undertaken. The November issue of this newsletter described the rationale for making a fund development workshop a major component of the *Spring Meeting* that will occur on March 17-20 in Washington, DC. The following items are among those that will be addressed:

- Cultivation of donors and development of a culture of giving
- Identification of target audiences for fund raising for allied health programs and creation of different strategies for approaching such targets
- The use of deans, faculty, alumni, and a board of visitors to assist in fund development
- Role of deans in capital campaigns on campus
- Importance of ethics in engendering trust among donors

In addition, development officers and other interested parties from member institutions will have an opportunity to meet and discuss how to improve fund raising efforts for their own respective institutions. The rest of the *Winter Meeting Program* will deal with government relations from the standpoint of securing passage by Congress of an *Allied Health Reinvestment Act*.

Prior to the official start of the Spring Meeting, under the direction of Board Member **Gary S. Neiman** (Dean, Ohio University), a session may be held to begin planning a research consensus conference that will involve participants from several professional associations. The focus of the activity will be on topics such as recruitment of best students for doctoral programs, assurance of best research training, methods for influencing funding agencies, and development of a model for achieving such aims.

Led by Board Member **Gregory H. Frazer** (Dean, Duquesne University), an Accreditation Consensus Conference is scheduled to be held on June 25. The intent is to bring together individuals from academia, regional accrediting bodies, and specialized accrediting organizations. The 10 professions that served as a basis for the report in 1989 by the Institute of Medicine entitled *Allied Health Services: Avoiding Crises* will serve as a focal point for the discussion. Topics such as workforce challenges and the economics of accreditation are among those to be addressed. A document will be produced that identifies major issues affecting accrediting organizations.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By David D. Gale, ASAHP President



During our professional lives, we often come to the realization that for better or worse, certain topics have a considerable amount of staying power. For example, scrutiny of the race being conducted to determine who will occupy the White House next January reveals that health reform has returned to the top of the political agenda. Generally, this phenomenon tends to occur on a decennial basis.

Another old favorite that never quite seems to go away, only this time in the domain of higher education, is the topic of accreditation. The Higher Education Act of 1965 is due to be reauthorized once again by Congress and there is a movement afoot to tamper with the practice of self-regulation by academic institutions. The issue at stake is whether or not higher education through the process of accreditation will be allowed to continue to carry out its responsibility for academic quality or will the federal government be successful in shifting this duty to the federal level? Unless the educational community is successful in its efforts to stem this tide, there is the prospect that governmental authorities in Washington, DC could begin to determine conditions for transfer of credit, decide what counts as quality in distance learning, or prescribe acceptable student learning outcomes.

When the Act was reauthorized on July 23, 1992 (P.L. 102-325), it also contained a focus on accreditation. The period between enactment and the issuance of proposed rules to implement the legislation on January 24, 1995 resulted in much consternation within the academic community. By the time a final set of rules was issued on April 29 of that year, our Association and a great many other organizations submitted comments to regulators regarding the creation of a State Postsecondary Review Program. Had we not done so, academic institutions would have been saddled back then with an entity with the power to exert a harmful impact on self-regulation.

Apart from what happens in the federal arena, the whole notion of accreditation continues to be a matter of great concern to those of us who administer allied health programs in our schools. ASAHP funded a conference on accreditation that was held in St. Louis in July 1993. During an "issue identification" session, nearly 140 issues and problems related to accreditation were identified. Then in September 1995, we funded a second conference in that city to focus on site-visitor selection, education, and evaluation. Participants recognized at the time that the meeting itself represented only the first step in an ongoing project to improve the quality of site-visitor preparation.

Despite those efforts, problems and challenges remain. Under the thoughtful direction of Board Member **Gregory H. Frazer**, Dean of the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences at Duquesne University, plans are underway to have a consensus conference on accreditation that will occur later this year. Prior to that event, an effort will be made to collect data on costs, common data elements, and issues affecting at least 10 professions commonly looked upon as falling under the rubric of allied health. The meeting itself will be used as a way of reaching agreement on less controversial issues prior to tackling the kinds of problems that have eluded solutions for many years. Clearly there is room for improvement in accreditation and the proposed meeting offers a significant opportunity to move in that direction.



2ND SESSION OF 108TH CONGRESS EXPECTED TO BE CONTENTIOUS

The holiday season has ended and the 108th Congress reconvened on January 20 for its 2nd session, but its members are no more contented and satisfied than they were during last year's proceedings and deliberations.

Hanging like a dark cloud over the two chambers is the gloom of not having completed action on an omnibus appropriations bill that affects the operations of seven federal departments, including the Department of Health and Human Services.

The highly touted H.R. 1, *the Medicare Prescription, Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003*, was enacted on December 8 as P.L. 108-173, but here again there is much dissatisfaction. The fact that the rules were bent to enable voting in the House to remain open for more than three hours while stupendous efforts were waged by the Republican leadership to convince recalcitrant GOP members to vote aye on the bill left Democrats in a state of uproar that has not subsided. The bill itself is another source of pain to the minority party. Many of its more prominent members vow to have the legislation amended as soon as possible.

Adding to the overall feeling of discomfort is the prospect that the deficit may soar as high as a record \$500 billion this year, while the military intervention in Iraq is not drawing many rave reviews. On the domestic front, the creation of jobs lags behind more positive economic indicators, which gives the political party out of power even more of an opportunity to criticize those in power. Now add to the mix that 2004 is a Presidential election year and a lot more uncertainty has to be factored into what can be expected to transpire between now and next autumn.

The days of mutual backslapping, bonhomie, and comradeship seem to belong to a distant era. All the gerrymandering that has occurred in recent years has resulted in the production of homogeneous congressional districts. The effect has been to create hermetically sealed enclaves from the standpoint of being free of the risk of being encroached upon by the other political party. Most districts are safe either for Democrats or Republicans. The only danger that incumbents face is from challengers within the same party. The basis of the challenge often is that the incumbent has strayed too far from party orthodoxy, i.e. not being liberal enough as a Democrat or conservative enough as a Republican.

The net effect is that incumbents are required to move in a more party oriented ideological direction if they wish to remain in office. The polarization that is produced adds to the difficulty of reaching harmonious agreements in Congress. The battles continue to get nastier each year with no moderation in sight.

NEW STAFF

ASAHP's newest employee is **Jessica Marino**, a native of Massachusetts. A graduate of Stonehill College in that State with a major in communications and a minor in business, she also holds a Master of Science degree in public relations from the Boston University College of Communication. In addition, she participated in a study abroad program at the University of Westminster in England. She will provide valuable assistance in the areas of government relations and communications.

Allied Health Enrollments Revisited: How Are We Doing?

by Stephen N. Collier, Ph.D.

Director and Professor

Office of Health Professions Education and Workforce Development

School of Health Related Professions

University of Alabama at Birmingham

In the year 2000 I wrote a series of articles for *Trends* examining enrollment and graduation data for a number of allied health professions. Now, some three years later, it may be useful to compare those data with the most recent available figures to examine changes and their implications for educational programs and the U.S. health care system. Over the coming months I will present a brief summary each month of one or more allied health professions.

This month's review examines the clinical laboratory sciences, one of the professions reported by many employers to have a shortage of qualified workers. In the October 2000 issue of *Trends* ("Volatility in the Allied Health Marketplace"), the following enrollments were reported for the 1998-99 academic year. These data are compared to the most recent data from the 2001-2002 academic year.

	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>% change</u>
Clinical Laboratory Scientist/ Medical Technologist	5,117	3,625	-29%
Clinical Laboratory Technician/ Medical Laboratory Technician – Associate Degree	4,754	3,703 -	22%

As can be seen, enrollments have decreased substantially in programs at both levels. These decreases in enrollment are on top of decreases for the previous five-year period, 1993-1998, of 32% for the clinical laboratory scientist and 39% for the clinical laboratory technician. Such decreases in program enrollments are causing concern, particularly with the increased use of laboratory tests. For an expanded presentation and discussion of this issue, please go to the following link, <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=1275> at *UAB School of Health Related Professions*, and then click on "ASAHP trends articles" on the right sidebar.

INVITATION TO THE SPRING MEETING

Letters were sent to deans and directors at member institutions during the week of January 12, inviting them to attend the Association's *Spring Meeting*. Special attention was called to a *Deans' Council Meeting* from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM on March 17. Only deans and directors are invited and no substitutions will be permitted. This entity recently was conceived by the Board of Directors to ensure that the collective voice of this portion of the membership is heard loudly and clearly in the context of shaping Association policies. During the session that is scheduled, there will be ample opportunity to discuss the various ways in which the Deans' Council can improve ASAHP's effectiveness in addressing issues of importance that are identified by this key part of the Association's constituency.

The next day, March 18, will be devoted to government relations activities, including visits to the House and Senate to discuss the *Allied Health Reinvestment Act*. An all-day Fund Development Workshop will be offered on March 19. The event will be held in Washington, DC at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the base of Capitol Hill. Lodging fees are \$189 per night plus applicable taxes. The deadline for making hotel reservations and registering is **February 17**.

BOARD ACTIONS

The ASAHP Board of Directors had a conference call on December 16. The following actions were among those taken:

- Approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting on October 20-21.
- Unanimously approved a motion to restrict access to the findings of the *Institutional Profile Survey* to deans and directors at institutions that participated in the study, effective next Fall with the 2004 survey.
- Unanimously approved the selection of **Darryl B. Barnett** of Eastern Kentucky University as ASAHP's nominee for the *DHHS Health Care Policy Fellowship*.
- Unanimously approved the selection of **Lawrence Abrams** (ASAHP Past President and former Dean of the College of Health Professions at Thomas Jefferson University) as the *Deans' Memorial Lecturer* at a dinner on March 18 in Washington DC during the Association's Spring Meeting.

OHIO DEANS MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVE TED STRICKLAND

The following deans met with Rep. Ted Strickland (R-OH), a member of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, in Columbus on December 10 to discuss the Allied Health Reinvestment Act: ASAHP Past President **Stephen L. Wilson** (The Ohio State University), **Christopher E. Bork** (Medical University of Ohio at Toledo), **Elizabeth C. King** (University of Cincinnati), Board Member **Gary S. Neiman** (Ohio University), and **Jerome M. Sullivan** (The University of Toledo).

Mr. Strickland plans to introduce that legislation in the House of Representatives by the end of January. Subsequent plans call for having a companion bill introduced in the U.S. Senate.

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 19—Registration begins for **Spring Meeting**
- March 17 - 20, 2004 - **Spring Meeting** - Washington, D.C.
- March 2004 - **Secretary's Award** entries submitted to Deans'/Directors' Offices
- April 1, 2004 - Deadline for **Outstanding Research Award** applications.
- April 14-17, 2004 - **Session I Leadership Development Program**
- April 2004 - **Secretary's Award** entries submitted to ASAHP.
- April 15, 2004 - Deadline for **New Investigators Award** applications.
- May 15, 2004 - Deadline for **Scholarship of Excellence** applications.
- June 2004 - **Secretary's Award** winners announced
- June 1, 2004 - Deadline for **Outstanding Health Educators Award** applications.
- September - November 2004 - **Institutional Profile Survey** - <http://asahp.uams.edu>
- September 14-18, 2004 - **Session II Leadership Development Program**

TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH IN TRENDS

The Association issued a Call for Proposals for the *Journal of Allied Health*, inviting respondents to bid on a contract that combines editorial management and publication of ASAHP's quarterly periodical. Proposals also would be entertained that separate editorial management from the publishing aspect. The successful bidder would be awarded a three-year contract.

Richard E. Oliver, Director of the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Missouri-Columbia became a co-principal investigator in partnership with Pew to facilitate change in health professions education in that state. (Note: His title and the school's name were changed at a later time)

FIVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH IN TRENDS

Within a three-week period, **Vincent Rogers**, newly appointed Director of the Bureau of Health Professions, visited ASAHP's offices twice. The first occasion was to meet with Executive Director **Thomas Elwood** and the second meeting was to attend a session of the Allied Health Roundtable Group.

The Association was awarded an additional year of funding by the Bureau of Health Professions to develop an allied health data collaborative. A meeting of the collaborative in November 1999 featured a presentation by the Associate Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The overall effort was under the direction of **Lawrence Abrams** who at the time was Dean of the College of Health Professions at Thomas Jefferson University.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The deadline for nominations for the Association's 2004 election is **March 15**. The positions to be contested are: Treasurer, two slots on the Board of Directors, and three persons on the Nominations and Election Committee. The Treasurer is elected for a two-year period, Board Members for three year terms, and committee members for two years. Nominations can be sent to the ASAHP National Office or brought to the attention of ASAHP Board Member **Susan Hanrahan** (Dean of the College of Nursing & Health Professions at Arkansas State University), who serves this year as Chairperson of the Nominations and Election Committee. She can be reached at Tel: 870-972-3112.

NEW MEMBERS

ASAHP's newest Institutional Member is the College of Health Sciences at Marquette University. The Dean is **Jack C. Brooks**. Additional information about him and his college will appear in a future issue of this newsletter.

The newest Agency Affiliate Member is the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. The Executive Director is **Carol Moneymaker**. Additional information about her and the Bureau also will appear in an upcoming issue.

DEANS' MEMORIAL DINNER

ASAHP Past President **Lawrence Abrams**, former Dean of the College of Health Professions at Thomas Jefferson University, will present the Deans' Memorial Lecture at a dinner on March 18 during the Spring Meeting.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Health Care Professionals' Manual On Substance Abuse Prevention

A new manual from RAND outlines a ten-step process that helps health care professionals better plan, implement, and evaluate substance abuse prevention programs. The manual can be accessed on the Web at <http://www.rand.org/publications/TR/TR101/>.

Webcast On Health Care Quality Available

On January 13, The Commonwealth Fund convened a panel of experts to discuss the role of the federal government in improving the quality of health care. Speakers at the webcast were: Stephen C. Schoenbaum, M.D., Senior Vice President, The Commonwealth Fund (moderator); Robert Graham, M.D., Acting Deputy Director, Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research; Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H., President and CEO of the National Quality Forum; and Dennis S. O'Leary, M.D., President, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. PPT Slides and PDF Slides also are available. The archived webcast may be accessed at http://www.cmwf.org/programs/webcastfedrole_2ndpg.asp.

Profile Of Emergency Medical Technicians

A new workforce issue brief from the Center for the Health Professions at the University of California at San Francisco focuses on Emergency Medical Technicians with an emphasis on their involvement in providing health care in California. Information is provided about career ladders, turnover rates, and other related topics. A copy of the report may be accessed on the Web at http://www.futurehealth.ucsf.edu/pdf_files/EMT14pfdoc.pdf.

Federal Health Information Centers And Clearinghouses

The Federal Government operates many health clearinghouses and information centers that focus on specific topics. Their services include distributing publications, providing referrals, and answering inquiries. This document is compiled annually by the National Health Information Center, which is a service of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A list of clearinghouses and information centers may be accessed on the Web at <http://www.health.gov/NHIC/pubs/clearinghouses.htm>.

Where Health Personnel Work And Live

A new file released by the U.S. Census Bureau contains data on the number of persons employed in nearly 500 occupations, including several allied health professions, which are in the code series between numbers 300 and 365. Data cover gender, race, ethnicity, education, age, industry, and earnings. In addition, users may find where workers live, where they work, and how many who work in one place live somewhere else. Summary geographic levels include the nation, states, metropolitan areas, counties, and places with populations of 50,000 or more. Data may be accessed on the Web at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/eeoindex.html>.

The Uninsured: A Primer

This publication by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured reviews the basic profile of the uninsured population, how they receive care, and what options for coverage are being discussed. A copy may be accessed on the Web at <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile>.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ASAHP members will have an opportunity to participate in the *2004 Leadership Development Program* that is presented in cooperation with the Health Professions Network (HPN) and the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2). The program is funded to a major extent through a contract provided by the Bureau of Health Professions of the U.S. Public Health Service. A total of 8-10 persons will be chosen to represent ASAHP in the program. In the past, several participants subsequently either were elected to office in this Association or became deans at schools of allied health. Applicants will be notified by the middle of February. Applications were submitted by persons from the following institutions:

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Creighton University
Duquesne University
Mayo School of Health Sciences
Medical College of Georgia
Minnesota State University
Rush University
Saint Louis University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Cincinnati
University of Hartford
University of Kentucky
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of South Alabama
University of Tennessee

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

ASAHP President **David D. Gale**, Dean of the College of Health Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University, will serve for the next four years as a member of the Education Committee of the American Society of Human Genetics.

Former ASAHP Board Member **Harry Douglas** is the new President of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. During the early 1990s when he was on the ASAHP Board of Directors, he was the Dean of the College of Allied Health at Drew.

Dean **Cynthia Hughes Harris** of Florida A&M University School of Allied Health Sciences was awarded a \$6 million grant from the NIH/National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities to establish a Center for Disparities Research at the university. Research will combine multiple entities within her university with a focus on hypertension, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS and cardiovascular disease. The Harvard University School of Public Health is a partner to conduct similar research in the Roxbury section of Boston.



