

## CHARTING A RESEARCH ROADMAP

### HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2004

President's Message	2
Appropriations	3
Calendar	3
Leadership	4
Career Fair	4
Allied Health Week	5
Title VII	6
Available Resources	7
College News	8

For the last several months in an initiative led by ASAHP Board Member **Gary S. Neiman** (Dean, Ohio University), a *National Roadmap for Consensus on Health Research Capacity Building: Advancing Community, Discovery, and Health* is in the process of being developed and implemented. The roadmap involves the work of representatives of several national professional organizations. ASAHP provided the original impetus for these individuals to address common needs for capacity building in allied health research. The term allied health is used in a broad sense to encompass those professions recognized by the statutory language reflected in proposed *Allied Health Reinvestment Act* legislation. Moreover, priorities and plans for implementation are intended to be complementary and not competitive with those of the professional organizations involved.

The most urgent priorities are to:

- ◆ Create an effective community of interest to expand collaboration and interdisciplinary effectiveness.
- ◆ Expand scientific discovery by influencing and expanding relevant research funding and enhancing the ability of allied health investigators to access such funds.
- ◆ Improve clinical practice and the health of the public through innovative interdisciplinary clinical outcomes and evidence-based practice research and education, along with collaborative measures to speed the translation of science into stellar clinical practice.

An important step in carrying out these priorities will be the establishment of a national coordinating council. Among other tasks, the council will function specifically to reduce disciplinary and institutional barriers to research enhancement. One way of doing so will be to create alternative research experiences if inadequate postdoctoral positions are available.

Another key step will be to conduct a series of annual conferences to: build community, foster interdisciplinary leadership and scholarship, create a consensus on research enhancement strategies and actions, enhance scientific and teaching skills in the allied health professions, and encourage interdisciplinary work.



VANGUARD OF  
ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION

**Trends** is the official newsletter of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (Suite 500, 1730 M St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20036, 202-293-4848) Trends is published monthly and available as a service to Association members. Annual subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$55. For more information and/or subscriptions, contact the editor, Thomas W. Elwood, Dr.PH.

# PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By David D. Gale, ASAHP President



Time and money are two commodities that rarely seem to be available in sufficient quantities. Different interests compete with one another to obtain these items from individuals. It costs money to belong to ASAHP and it's necessary to spend time to avail oneself of the benefits offered by this Association. If the value of such benefits of membership is deemed to be at a level that is not satisfying enough, then members will seek more gratifying endeavors.

Despite an economic downturn in higher education over the past few years, our institutional membership has remained stable. That fact may be interpreted as a sign that what we have to offer justifies the payment of dues each year. Still, there can be no room for complacency because times change and new, different challenges manifest themselves regularly. A key to being a successful organization is to anticipate problems that lie ahead and prepare to address them.

Even though we are a relatively small organization and for every 10 deans there is one dean on our Board of Directors, many members feel as though their voices are not being heard. We attempted to remedy that perceived deficiency last March with the creation of the Deans' Council. In late November, we went one step further and added an open electronic forum so that deans and directors could chat with one another about issues of common interest.

Another innovation was to send an electronic survey to obtain reactions from attendees about last month's annual conference in Tampa, FL. That information will be of great assistance in planning the 2005 conference that will be held in Houston, TX. The quick and thorough response was enough to convince us that we should proceed in this fashion after every meeting instead of relying on having attendees fill out evaluation forms onsite. We've received excellent suggestions about prospective speakers for next year's conference and for soliciting abstracts for presentations in concurrent sessions and the poster session.

Another idea that was considered recently should add more strength to the process of planning meetings. Each year, new planning committees are created with perhaps one person serving as a holdover from the previous year's committee as a means of providing some continuity. That procedure has worked reasonably well, but there may be a way of improving it by having a task force that looks ahead three years regarding how such meetings might be structured more effectively. As an example, improving leadership skills of participants could be built into the annual conference in a more systematic way. New deans and directors might be one target group while a different set of activities could be developed for those who are more seasoned in the administrative realm.

Our academic periodical *The Journal of Allied Health* continues to undergo refinement. Having an electronic version increases article retrieval capabilities. The fact that it is available on the World Wide Web means that there is increased visibility. Two possibilities emerge from that development. First, the number of subscriptions may increase. Second, new browsers may wish to publish an article in the journal, which adds to its breadth and scope. Adding new authors from other countries also contributes to a subsidiary objective of creating links with researchers and practitioners so that common professional goals may be achieved on a more global basis. All these changes in recent years provide evidence that ASAHP continues to move forward in full recognition that it must be open to adaptation in order to increase the value of belonging to this organization.

## CONGRESS ABLE TO PRODUCE SPENDING BILLS



Although it took a lame duck session following the recent election for Congress to do it, they were able to bundle nine different appropriations bills into a single omnibus appropriations piece of legislation. The huge Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) bill was one of the nine components. Unlike the last two years, legislators were able to pass spending bills in the same chronological year that the new fiscal year began, albeit nearly two months too late.

All programs under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act were level-funded, with the exception of an 8.6 percent increase for the primary care medicine and dental programs, a 14.8 percent increase for the nurse education, practice and retention program and a 17.8 percent boost for the nurse loan repayment and scholarship program. The *Section 755 Allied Health & Other Disciplines Grant Program* will receive approximately \$11.7 million. Less than \$5 million will be for allied health while the rest will be distributed among chiropractic, clinical psychology, and podiatric medicine. Part of the allied health money will be used to support a leadership development program that ASAHP offers in conjunction with four other organizations.

### 2005– 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 17, 2005-** Deadline for Applications for Coalition of Allied Health Leadership Program.

**March 4, 2005-** Secretary's Award entries submitted to ASAHP.

**March 12-14, 2005 -** Career Fair for Allied Health & Nursing Students - Orlando, FL

**March 17-19, 2005-** Spring Meeting- Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC

**April 20-23, 2005-** Coalition of Allied Health Leadership Program- Washington, DC

**May 15, 2005-** Deadline for Scholarship of Excellence applications.

**June 2005-** Secretary's Award winners announced.

**September 27-October 1, 2005-** Coalition of Allied Health Leadership Program- Washington, DC

**October 2005-** Scholarship of Excellence winners announced.

**October 19-22, 2005-** Annual Conference- The Intercontinental Houston, Houston, TX

**October 18-21, 2006 -** Annual Conference– Millennium Knickerbocker, Chicago, IL

### 2005 ASAHP SPRING MEETING

The Association's Spring Meeting will take place on March 17-19 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. A principal focus will be on government relations with the intent of having Congress pass an *Allied Health Reinvestment Act*. Another major segment of the program will deal with the topic of accreditation.

## COALITION FOR ALLIED HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Supported by a contract from the Bureau of Health Professions, for the seventh year in a row, the Association is offering an opportunity to develop future and emerging allied health leaders within member institutions. ASAHP is sponsoring the *Coalition for Allied Health Leadership* (CAHL) with the American Association of Community Colleges, the Health Professions Network, the National Society of Allied Health, and the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges. Previous graduates from ASAHP member institutions have found the program to be a valuable experience.

“You will be engaged and supported in meaningful leadership development, and will feel connected with the Allied Health Community. It is a very worthwhile experience!”

**Victoria Roche, Creighton University (2004 CAHL Graduate)**

“I gained an appreciation for the federal budgeting process, lobbying parameters, the need to develop and utilize leadership skills, and the significance of the human dynamic in academic administration.”

**Gregory Frazer, Dean at Duquesne University & ASAHP Board Member (1998 CAHL Graduate)**

“The time spent in Washington is well worth the trip. I would encourage those who aspire to become leaders in allied health professions to apply early in their careers.”

**William Frey, University of Tennessee Health Science Center (2004 CAHL Graduate)**

The focus of the program is on: legislative and regulatory issues facing the allied health professions, leadership qualities, and decision-making skills. ASAHP is accepting applications until **January 17, 2005**. For more information, go to **www.asahp.org** on the Web.

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## CAREER FAIR FOR STUDENTS

ASAHP, along with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and CampusCareerCenters.com will sponsor a Career Fair on March 12-14, 2005 in Orlando, FL at the Coronado Springs Resort Hotel. The purpose is to enable students from member institutions who will be graduating in the Spring to meet with major health care recruiters. Workshops will focus on topics such as interviewing skills, understanding expectations of employers, continuing professional development, and selecting a best practice environment. Dean **Denise Heinemann** of Florida Gulf Coast University and **Tina Gelpi**, Chairperson of Occupational Therapy and Community Health at the same institution are among the presenters.

## OVERVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

*An Overview of Higher Education in the United States* describes the major characteristics of American higher education, noting its essential philosophical underpinnings as well as important issues that currently challenge it. This publication provides snapshots of how most colleges and universities are governed and financed, their students and faculty, the nature of the curriculum and student life, and the effects of the marketplace on colleges and universities.

The document may be accessed at [http://www.acenet.edu/bookstore/pdf/2004\\_higher\\_ed\\_overview.pdf](http://www.acenet.edu/bookstore/pdf/2004_higher_ed_overview.pdf) on the Web .

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## ALLIED HEALTH WEEK CELEBRATIONS

**Chicago area allied health leaders** gathered for a luncheon at Rush University Medical Center on Friday, November 12, to celebrate *Allied Health Professions Week*. Joining host **Jack Trufant** (Dean, College of Health Sciences, Rush University) were **Olive Kimball** (Executive Director, National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences), **Beverly Mitchell** (American Dietetic Association), **Dennis Paulson** (Dean, College of Health Sciences, Midwestern University), **Meredith Davison** (Physician Assistant Program Director, Midwestern University), **Judy Jondahl** (Director of Accreditation, Curriculum Review Board of the American Association of Medical Assistants Endowment), **Annette Valenta** (Department Head, Biomedical and Health Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago) and **Herb Miller** (Chairman, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Rush University). All expressed interest in arranging another meeting, which is now being planned, and gathering each year to recognize Allied Health Professions Week in early November.

In honor of the current and future healthcare workers at **Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP)** of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, the college celebrated Allied Health Professions Week November 8-12 with a wide variety of activities, including faculty and student appreciation days and public education events to appreciate faculty, students, and alumni for their hard work and dedication to the allied health professions. A student snack break was held Monday, November 8. Free soft pretzels and sodas were sponsored by the JCHP Alumni Association. The Career Development center arranged for a variety of Jefferson Alums to stop by to mix, mingle, and discuss their careers with current Jefferson students.

Tuesday, November 9 marked "Lunch with the President." Hoagies, snacks, and desserts were served while special guest **Robert L. Barchi**, President of Thomas Jefferson University, addressed students, faculty, and staff about current issues at and future plans for Jefferson. JCHP students, faculty and staff, representing each academic department participated in Allied Health Professions Day at Market East train station on Wednesday, November 10. Healthy living fact sheets and granola bars were distributed in the morning and afternoon to everyone who passed.

Thursday, November 11 was Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day. Gourmet coffees and sweet treats were available to everyone who stopped by. Student Appreciation Day ended Allied Health Professions Week on Friday, November 12. Every student received a JCHP gift and candy. Each day, prizes, including a pair of 76er tickets and many gift certificates from local vendors were raffled off to the JCHP community.



TJU President Robert Barchi was a luncheon guest at the College of Health Professions.

## ELECTRONIC CHAT ROOM ESTABLISHED

As a result of a request made during the recent Deans' Council Meeting in Tampa, FL at the 2004 ASAHP Annual Conference, an electronic chat room function was created to enable deans and directors belonging to ASAHP member institutions to communicate with one another about matters pertaining to allied health education. This service was provided during the last week in November.

Several deans and directors already have signed up to participate in this open forum. Each participant will be able to post messages and have access to messages posted by all members of the forum. The site offers an opportunity for deans and directors to converse with one another about topics of mutual interest prior to the next face-to-face meeting in March. Recognizing that certain information is of a more confidential nature, ASAHP e-mail will serve as an alternative conduit for members who wish to seek assistance regarding sensitive matters from fellow deans and directors without being identified. The process also works in reverse for respondents who wish to reply without having their views broadcasted to a wider audience.

## 2006 ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A contract was signed to conduct the *2006 ASAHP Annual Conference* at the Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago. Located just off Michigan Avenue in the heart of the city, this attractive venue should meet the Association's needs in every way. The conference is scheduled to occur on October 18-21. Please note these dates on personal calendars.

## TITLE VII REAUTHORIZATION

The views of the Association regarding Title VII of the Public Health Service Act will be expressed by Executive Director **Thomas W. Elwood** at a meeting at the Association of American Medical Colleges on January 12 in Washington, DC. Title VII is scheduled to be reauthorized by Congress. One component of this legislation is the *Section 755 Allied Health Reinvestment Act*. The purpose of the reauthorization is to: (1) Improve the national supply of certain health professionals, (2) Improve the geographic distribution of health professionals in certain urban and rural areas, and (3) Increase minority representation by the pool of practicing health professionals.

The Section 755 program addresses these concerns, but only in a limited way, primarily due to the modest amount of federal funding each year. As a result of declining enrollments in certain professions in schools of allied health and existing workforce shortages, ASAHP has led an effort in the past year to have an *Allied Health Reinvestment Act* passed by Congress. Ideally, legislation of this nature will be enacted apart from the reauthorization of Title VII.

Recognizing that legislators may prefer to bundle allied health issues, along with those of other health professions into a single reauthorization package, then the aim will be to ensure that the upgraded version contains all the elements that are expressed in the proposed stand-alone allied health bills. The authority for Title VII expired at the end of 2002. Theoretically, unauthorized programs should not be funded, but appropriators have continued to support these activities through the end of fiscal year 2005. Allied health receives less than \$5 million. The Administration's budget proposal for the past two years recommended eliminating all but two Title VII programs (Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students and Workforce Analysis and Development). Fortunately, legislators have ignored the Presidents' request.

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## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

### Women's Health USA 2004

HRSA's third annual survey of women's health – *Women's Health USA 2004* – is now available to the public. A set of slides highlights the impact of physical activity, diet and nutrition, overweight, and obesity on women's health. It also examines racial and ethnic disparities for 56 health measures. The slides may be accessed on the World Wide Web at [http://128.248.232.90/archives/mchb/director/mchcom/september2004/accessible\\_files/frame.htm](http://128.248.232.90/archives/mchb/director/mchcom/september2004/accessible_files/frame.htm)

### America's Health: State Health Rankings

A new report entitled, *America's Health: State Health Rankings* is intended to provide useful information for creating the environments necessary for optimal health status. The annual report uses 18 measures that include prevalence of smoking, high school graduation rates, infant mortality rates, premature death, and per capita public health spending to produce a composite assessment of each state's health. The document may be accessed at <http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/shr2004/index.html> on the Web.

### Long-Term Care Strategic Initiative

The Commonwealth Fund and AcademyHealth launched *Building Bridges: Making a Difference in Long-Term Care* with the first annual colloquium on June 5. The initiative brought together policy leaders, providers, consumer representatives, researchers, and funders around critical issues in long-term care. Presentations and slides may be accessed on the Web at <http://academyhealth.org/ltc/2004/summary.htm> .

### Building a 21st Century Community Health Care System in Rural America

Rural America is a vital component of American society. Representing nearly 20 percent of the population, rural communities, like urban landscapes, are rich in cultural diversity. However, the smaller, poorer, and more isolated a rural community is, the more difficult it is to ensure the availability of high-quality health services. The Institute of Medicine report, *Quality Through Collaboration: The Future of Rural Health* examines the quality of health care in rural America. The report may be accessed on the Web at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309094399/html/> .

### 2003 North Carolina Health Professions Data System

The electronic version of the 2003 North Carolina Health Professions Data System is available on the Web. These data are used widely by state officials, researchers, and professionals in the health care industry as the official source of health professions statistics in North Carolina. The website includes county, state, and regional level statistics from health professions licensing boards as well as demographic and health-related information. The data can be accessed on the Web at <http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/hp>

### AARP International Opinion Leader Study On Global Aging

Opinion leaders in the G7 seven countries were surveyed in an effort to foster dialogue and greater understanding of: How global aging has an impact on the economics of the G7 nations (France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, United States and Canada) and How the seven countries compare to each other regarding preparation for the aging of their populations. The results were presented at a conference held in London on November 17-19. They offer insights into thematic and directional information obtained from respondents. The document may be accessed on the Web at [http://research.aarp.org/general/intl\\_ols.pdf](http://research.aarp.org/general/intl_ols.pdf) .

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## NEWS FROM THE COLLEGES



**Lori Stewart Gonzalez** a newly elected member of the ASAHP Board of Directors who is the associate dean for academic affairs and professor of communication disorders at the University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences, has been named dean. The appointment, subject to approval by the UK Board of Trustees, was announced by Michael T. Nietzel, UK Provost, and is effective Jan. 1, 2005.

She succeeds **Thomas C. Robinson**, who is stepping down after 20 years of leadership to return as a faculty member in the college's Clinical Leadership and Management Program. Gonzalez was selected for the appointment after a national search that yielded several strong candidates. A native of Kentucky, she received a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology with high distinction from UK in 1979, a master's degree in communication disorders from Eastern Kentucky University in 1981, and a doctoral degree in communication disorders from the University of Florida in 1989.

Gonzalez was one of 36 Fellows chosen for the Class of 2002-2003 from the American Council on Education. In 1999 she accepted another national honor when she was one of eight participants from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions for the Coalition for Allied Health Leadership.

## AWARD WINNERS

The following individuals were presented with ASAHP awards on October 22 at the Annual Conference:

*Distinguished Service and Achievement Award:* **Rep. Ted Strickland** (D-OH).

*Board of Directors Award to an Outstanding Member:* **Christopher E. Bork** (Medical College of Ohio at Toledo).

*Darrell Mase Presidential Citation:* **Olive Kimball** (National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences).

*ASAHP Fellows Award:*

**Estela S. Estapé** (University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus)

**Sondra A. Flemming** (El Centro College)

**P. Kevin Rudeen** (University of Missouri, Columbia)

**Cheryl T. Samuels** (Texas Women's University)

*Poster Awards:*

**Hon K. Yuen, Maralynne, D. Mitcham, and Larissa I. Morgan** (Medical University of South Carolina) in the category of Research.

**Sandra Salloway and Judith Stoecker** (Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago) in the category of Education.

**Wendy Rheault, Roberta Henderson, and Judith Stoecker** (Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago) in the category of Practice.